

English Bridge

April 2007

£2.50 (No charge to EBU members)



**Proud to
be holding
the Junior
Camrose
trophy**

– story page 21

**What members
say in a huge
response to
our survey**

– pages 3, 5, 7

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

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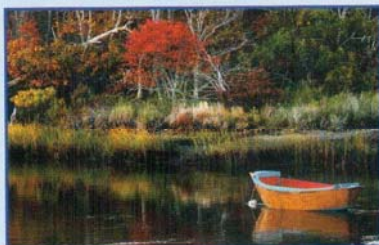
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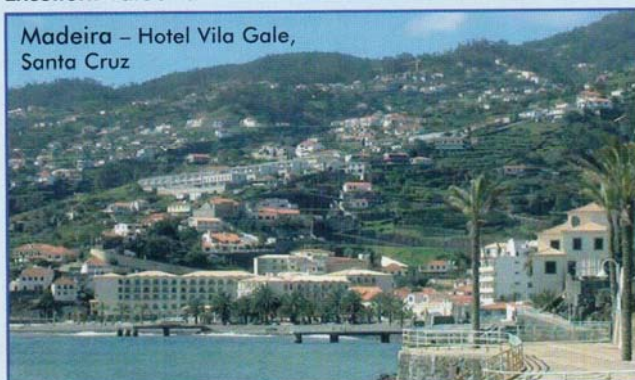
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Where you see this flash is
where you will find instructional
material in *English Bridge*

How your answers will help us to help you

By Sally Bugden

THANK you, each and every one of the almost 5,000 of you who completed the first membership survey the English Bridge Union has undertaken.

For the EBU this is step one on the road to be truly representative of the majority of our members, so that we can provide the type of services required to make bridge in England enjoyable at every level.

So why did we decide to undertake such a huge task? Well, in order to ensure that we invest in the right activities it is necessary to be aware of all your likes and dislikes about the bridge service you currently receive.

We wanted to know your playing habits, so that the right balance can be struck in terms of the number of competitions that are organised.

We wanted to know your preferences in English Bridge, so that the magazine contains the items you want to read and to which you react and interact with.



We wanted to know what makes bridge a great game for you, so that we can concentrate on improving these areas and remove those that you find unpalatable. This will also help us recruit new players to the game, because what attracted you is likely to attract others and what puts you off is likely to put off others.

We wanted to know how you would like us to communicate with you so that we can ensure you know what is happening in the bridge world.

We also wanted to know a little demographic information about you so that we are aware who we are talking to, where you come from, how old you are and what you do. This will help us to identify markets that we can target for new bridge players and members and assist us with

commercial matters such as advertising sales and possible sponsorship deals.

And finally we wanted to ensure that our membership had the opportunity to take part in further consultation exercises on our ideas and activities.

Our analysis took longer than we expected as only 45% of those who took part in the survey completed it online. This, of course, meant that we had to manually input 55% of the results, which was time consuming and interesting in that our survey shows that 75% of you have access to the Internet at home.

Turn to pages 5 and 7 for detail of the findings.

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No penalties this year folks

THE EBU Laws and Ethics Committee met recently to consider player reaction following changes made and published in the new *Orange Book* in 2006. The reaction has been mixed, in particular to announcements and to the reduction in high-level alerts, and the committee decided to revisit these topics at its meeting in May to see if adjustments will bring a better experience for players. It will also be undertaking a consultation exercise on these issues among a small number of clubs and then the wider membership, which will be completed by September 2007. In the meantime the period when no penalties will be applied will be extended for a further year.

A large and mostly unfavourable correspondence has been received on the topic of what the minimum values

are for an artificial two-level opening and it was decided to make some changes to this area to assist those players who are finding that they cannot open 2♣ or 2♦ on distributional hands that they consider strong.

The case for restricting what can be opened as an artificial two is the difficulty of defending against it when you don't know the suit. If relatively weak hands in terms of high card points are allowed then it is more likely that the opposition will want to intervene.

Most players confronted with, say, a natural strong 2♥ opener who have 15+ points with short hearts, will make a take-out double, but it is a lot less clear as to what to do if the opening bid is 2♣. Some protection for players is considered necessary by the L&E, but there was also acceptance that the minimum strength for a two-level opener may not have been set correctly.

The revised rule will apply to artificial two-

By Jeremy Dhondy



level openings and strong one-level openers such as a Precision Club.

To open an artificial bid of this sort you will need to satisfy ONE of the conditions that follow:

- A minimum of 16 high card points or
- A hand that conforms to the rule of 25 (you add your high card points to your two longest suits to see if you satisfy this condition) or
- The hand contains as a minimum the normal high card strength associated with a one-level opening bid and has a minimum of eight clear-cut tricks.

This change will come into force on August 1, as the L&E has committed to introduce changes to the *Orange Book* only once each year.

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27-4 May	JERSEY	St. Brelades Bay Hotel	£755 hb†

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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

10-12/13	nr NOTTINGHAM	Eastwood Hall Hotel	£179/£239 hb
19-22	LAVENHAM	The Swan Hotel	£285 hb
25-28 (Bank Holiday)	WORTHING	Berkeley Hotel	£239 hb
31-2/3 Sept	WINDSOR	Beaumont House	£189/£255 hb

SEPTEMBER

9-16	NICE, COTE D'AZUR	Hotel Park	£995 hb†
		<i>includes flights from Gatwick (other airports available on request)</i>	
28-30/1 Oct	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb
29-8 Oct	JERSEY	St. Brelades Bay Hotel	£855 hb†

inc excursions & flights from Gatwick (other airports available on request)

October – December Worthing, Eastbourne, North Cotswolds, Cambridge, Chester and Wolverhampton (Christmas and New Year - Madeira and Worthing)

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July	13-16 Novices	16-19 Improvers	£199hb

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Susan Levene (01273-734305) or Philip Dunn (01902-717761)

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What the survey revealed

CLUB membership: Of the members who responded to the EBU survey 54% indicated that you belong to two or three bridge clubs and 34% to one club, with Master Points issued by 95% of the clubs. The majority of you, 56%, play at your clubs two or three times a week. Only 12% play online bridge, with Bridge Club Live and Bridge Base Online having an equal split of players.

Tournament play: We were extremely pleased to note that 68% of those who responded play in tournaments, with 44% of the tournament players taking part in one to five county events a year and another 41% playing in national EBU tournaments one to five times a year. National knockout tournaments are less popular, with only 20% competing in these. However, 46% of you contest local knockouts and league events.

National simultaneous pairs showed 55% participation and local sim pairs 45%.

Enjoyment of bridge: An impressive 90% rated their enjoyment of duplicate pairs 'high' or 'very high', with Swiss teams in second place at 54%. Only 10% of you gave a high rating to rubber bridge and Chicago bridge.

More than 90% rate their enjoyment of duplicate bridge 'high' or 'very high'

The vast majority like bridge for its intellectual challenge, sociability and competitiveness

Bridge breaks/holidays at home and overseas are taken by nearly half of the respondents, and nearly a quarter sail away on bridge cruises each year.

Your likes and dislikes: Intellectual challenge is what the vast majority rate the most important attraction of bridge - 95% of you giving this aspect your vote. The opportunity to keep on learning is also high on your list, with 83% ticking the 'important' or 'very important' boxes.

As for your dislikes 96% go for bad behaviour as the number one in this category, with unwelcoming ambience also receiving a big thumbs down at 86%.

English Bridge: Not surprisingly, 97% of those who responded read *English Bridge*, the EBU members' magazine. But what do they make of the content? Well, David Bird's Beat Today's Experts is rated most popular at 49%, with readers' letters a close second on 46%. Your least favourite items are book reviews with 12%, Prize Play with 18% and results with 20%.

Of the respondents 65% read other

bridge magazines, with *Bridge* from Mr Bridge rated highest at 42%.

Communications: The majority of you still wish to receive *English Bridge* in hard copy, with only 20% stating they would like to receive the magazine electronically if it came with a discounted membership subscription. Only 22% would prefer an electronic newsletter to *English Bridge* if this, too, gave you a discount on membership payment.

We were told by 80% of you that you do not want to receive information about your tournament preferences by email.

Our thanks go to the 60% of you who want to take part in further research. We will be consulting you in the very near future!

About You: Of those who completed the survey 63% are retired, with 35% under the age of 61 and 65% over that age. It was interesting to see that 6% of the respondents were over 80 and only 2% under the age of 40.

Your occupation, including that of those of you who are retired, shows education to be highest, closely followed by accountancy and finance.

Another interesting – and surprising – statistic is that 61% of respondents are male, against 39% female: surprising in that we know from our club research that the male/female ratio in clubs is the exact opposite.

There was also a question about new faces in the game and 60% of you think that there are not enough of them.

And how do you like measuring your achievements? According to your answers 65% say you do it by collecting Master Points.

Lady Milne team

THE England line-up for the Lady Milne Trophy five nations women's championship, to be played in Wales over the weekend of April 13-15, is: Susan Stockdale, Bryony Youngs, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Sarah Teshome and Catherine Jagger. Reserves are Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield, with Martin Jones as npc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ 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 19 pairs final, **London**
- 11-13 BGB Spring sim pairs, **clubs**
- 13-15 Devon County Congress, **Torquay**
- 13-15 Norfolk Congress, **Kings Lynn**
- 13-15 Lady Milne Trophy, **Wales**
- 21-22 National pairs final, **Kettering**
- 21-22 Shrewsbury Congress, **Shrewsbury**

■ May

- 4-6 Cheltenham Congress, **Cheltenham**
- 4-8 Schapiro Spring Foursomes, **Stratford-upon-Avon**
- 9-10 EBU Spring sim pairs, **clubs**
- 12 One day events, **Lancashire/Cheshire, Northamptonshire, Sussex**
- 12-13 Crockfords Cup final, **Kettering**
- 13 One day events, **Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Lancashire/Merseyside, Warwickshire**

- 19 Garden Cities Trophy regional finals, **Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond**
- 26-28 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, **Bournemouth**

■ June

- 1-2 Worldwide sim pairs, **clubs**
- 1-3 Yorkshire Congress, **Harrogate**
- 2-3 Corwen Trophy, **Kettering**
- 9-10 Pachabo Cup, **Kettering**
- 16 One day events, **Gloucestershire/Herefordshire, Norfolk/Suffolk**
- 16-July 1 European Open Championships pairs and teams, **Antalya**
- 17 One day events, **Berks & Bucks, Dorset, Gloucestershire/Herefordshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, Norfolk/Suffolk**
- 22-24 Northern Seniors' Congress, **Harrogate**
- 23 Garden Cities Trophy final, **Kettering**
- 23-24 Oxfordshire Congress, **Benson**
- 29-July 1 English Riviera Congress, **Torquay**

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♦ 12-14th October 2007 ♦

♠ 23-25th November 2007 ♠

Chicago & Rubber Bridge Weekend

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♣ 26-28th October 2007 ♣

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June 15-17 £186 (2 nights)

August 5-10 (5 nights) £470 October 26-28 (2 nights) £190

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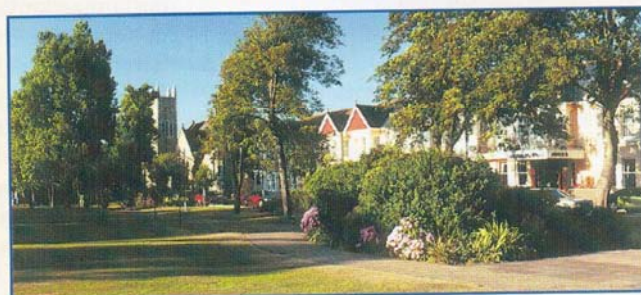
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Date	Half Board
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Date	B & B
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Your comments - our response

IN the comments section of the survey 15% of you decided to give us your views about aspects of our operations. Understandably these comments were varied and wide ranging and as such were in some cases difficult to analyse.

However, the majority of those comments were against Master Points, with a 50-50 split between them being irrelevant or too expensive. The EBU itself came in for criticism, but this was balanced by a similar amount of you complimenting us.

Substantial concern was voiced about announcements and alerts. We received more criticism than praise for our tournaments. Some of you commented on the EBU's perceived elitist attitudes to the detriment of 'ordinary players', while others mentioned the need to get young people involved.

What next? First, in response to your concerns on announcements and alerts, we have spoken with the laws and ethics committee and you will see from the item on page three that we will be delaying the implementation of penalties with reference to the new announcing and alert regulations and in the summer will be consulting you via another online survey to obtain your views on this subject so that we can resolve your worries.

Players who do not behave properly at our congresses will be dealt with firmly – our TDs will be issuing penalties for infringements of the Best Behaviour at

Great bridge shop

THE EBU Bridge Shop and its discounts are recognised by 89% of members. In a separate survey undertaken among clubs last year those who use it find the service and product range excellent.

Panel delivers reprimand

AN EBU Disciplinary Panel recently considered the imposition of sanctions against Michael Byrne, following a complaint from Sarah Teshome. This related to comments made by the operator Mr Byrne during the course of a BBO Vugraph commentary.

Mr Byrne had been charged by the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee with making insulting and offensive remarks, judged to be conduct or behaviour falling below the standards required of EBU members.

The panel took into account Mr Byrne's prompt admission of the charge and written apology to Ms Teshome; also his previously impressive and unblemished record in the service of the game – to which a number of players had drawn attention in writing. It considered that the only sanction imposed should be a formal admonition, such to stand on the record as a warning regarding future conduct. However, the panel also recognised that Mr Byrne's inappropriate words and behaviour had caused Ms Teshome considerable offence and distress. It took the view, therefore, that a published statement on the matter was imperative in order to re-emphasise Ms Teshome's acknowledged standing as a player and person of integrity.

Who filled in the forms?

A LARGE percentage of those who responded to the survey are retired (63%) and of these 11% are retired from education. Interestingly most common occupation of the remainder is education (4%) and least common is customer service (0.19%).

Bridge (BB@B) code. If you feel you have been a victim of bad behaviour please call the director and tell him that the people at your table are spoiling your enjoyment of the game.

BB@B is now on the training courses for our club tournament directors, so that we can instil confidence in these important individuals to ensure the eradication of bad behaviour in our clubs. We must remove the minority who spoil the game for the majority.

There will be open days at Aylesbury, so those of you who are interested in our operations can come along and find out for yourselves what we do on a daily basis and meet our hard-working staff. Keep your eyes on the website for further information.

Hinckley is the new venue for many of our national tournaments, replacing Kettering. This is already receiving good feedback, but we will not rest on our laurels. The tournament committee has started a review of all its operations to ensure it is meeting our players' needs.

New faces in the game are reliant on good teachers, welcoming clubs and accessible tournaments. I would like to mention our Partner Teacher initiative again. We hope to increase the number of new players to bridge clubs through this method of teaching *Bridge for All*. We still have places on our residential course at Hinckley on April 13-15 and on our non-residential course in Brighton on August 13-14. Go to

the website and click on Education then Partner Teachers for further details. Existing EBUTA teachers can attend part of the course to convert to Partner Teacher status if they wish.

Membership development activities include addressing the types of services we offer to our clubs and individual members. Publicity and communications within the realms of our membership and externally in the media will also be on our agenda.

Many of you have mentioned that you would like a national ranking scheme. This is a possibility and involves the development of software that will allow us to analyse all the results from our clubs and competitions. It is something for the future, but we are currently exploring its application.

As a national bridge organisation it is our duty to develop bridge in this country at every level and for every age group and that is something the EBU is passionate about. We are committed to making bridge playing in England more welcoming and user friendly.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Bridge Overseas for offering its £500 bridge holiday voucher as an incentive for you to complete the survey and leave you with this comment from Mrs J Whelen, who was one of our survey respondents: 'Bridge is a great game, the best. I just feel sorry for those who never had the chance to learn.'

The EBU is here to give people that chance.



The percentages in this survey have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number to ensure ease of reading.

4,600 members completed the survey. Due to copy date requirements for *English Bridge* the survey statistics given here are based on 4,293 returns.

Want to be involved?

If you would like to be involved in national, county or local bridge activities contact Barry Capal, the EBU's general manager, at Barry@ebu.co.uk or at the address on the inside page at the front of the magazine.

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England beat all the other countries - but not the Holders!

Colin Simpson's Camrose report

THE second and final weekend of the 2007 Camrose Trophy was hosted by the Northern District of the Scottish Bridge Union at the Thistle Hotel at Aberdeen Airport. A good number of spectators turned up for each of the sessions of play, whether to sit with the players in the open room or watch in the Vugraph Theatre. Also Bridge Base Online showed the action online.

England was represented by an entirely different team from the first Weekend: Tom Townsend and David Gold, Martin Jones and Neil Rosen, David Bakhshi and David Price, with Colin Simpson npc.

The last two pairs, although experienced Camrose campaigners, had not played before in the competition in these partnerships. It was also the npc's first, and many would say should be his only time as captain.

We started on Friday evening about half-a-match behind the Holders ie the Republic of Ireland, who most unfortunately had suffered withdrawals from their team due to family illness and the wife of one of the players producing a premature, but very healthy baby.

The first of five 32-board matches was against the auld enemy Scotland and in many ways set the tone for the whole weekend. All three pairs played well, but lacked a little sparkle. Neil Rosen produced a game swing by some enterprising bidding on the following exhibit:

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

As dealer South Neil opened 1♠; not a bid to be recommended to children or those of a nervous disposition. After spade interference and some game – forcing bidding from partner he wisely suppressed his heart tolerance and ended in the ever popular 3NT. West naively led a spade and that wrapped up the contract.

The second and crucial encounter was against the Holders. We started in desperate fashion, conceding big swings in the first two boards, and it must be admitted

none of the three pairs played their A game.

After this serious reverse everyone picked up their performance and we won the three remaining matches against Wales, the Republic of Ireland (remember as the Holders they had two teams to balance the numbers) and Northern Ireland. David Gold produced some fine card play to produce a slam swing against Northern Ireland.



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

With no interference the auction was 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♣ (game force) – 3♥ – 3♠ – 4♦ (cue bid) – 4NT(RKCB) – 5♥ – 6♣ (club control?) – 6♥ (No).

A diamond was led and declarer found the bad news in trumps, eventually giving West the fourth round. West returned another diamond and declarer took

stock. Superficially the Law of Vacant Spaces would indicate that East would be more likely to hold the ♠Q as he had only one heart to his partner's four. However, East had been discarding diamonds with abandon and also to play East for the critical card he would have to hold Q, Q x or Q x x.

The important extra chance was that West could have any of these holdings, but also Q x x x. Gold backed his judgement and gained a big swing.

The victory banquet and prize giving produced the anomaly that England won all the cups for the head-to-head matches over the two weekends against the other four countries but the Holders (Republic of Ireland) retained the Camrose Trophy for the third year running, a tremendous victory considering their severely reduced team.

Final standings: Holders 199vps, England 171vps, Wales 155vps Scotland 131vps, Republic of Ireland 127vps and Northern Ireland 109vps.

Team-up for the Spring Foursomes

FIVE days of the Schapiro Spring Foursomes at Stratford-upon-Avon is a treat to look forward to, whether player or onlooker. Top teams will be in action, but you don't have to be one of the very best to take part. If you fancy your chances and the experience, then have a go – May 4-8. More details on www.ebu.co.uk

Cyprus was 'the best'

THE EBU's overseas congresses continue to be hugely popular and the Cyprus Congress in February was no exception if the comment of Geoff White is anything to go by. Geoff was one of a contingent of players from Devon who enjoyed the Cyprus experience. He told *English Bridge*: 'I would like to compliment the EBU on the way in which it organised and ran the congress – quite easily the best I have attended. The hotel was first class and the playing conditions outstanding and comfortable. I believe the vast majority of the 200 players were as appreciative as we were. There was hardly a call for a director and smiles seemed to be the order of the day.'

Geoff was one of the prize winners and you can find all of them of the EBU website at www.ebu.co.uk

Next congress is the autumn one in Rhodes (October 11-16) and the one after that is the Baker Tilly Lanzarote Congress (February 1-6). Full information about Lanzarote and the latest on Rhodes will feature in the June edition of *English Bridge*. And there is always help at hand from Peter Jordan on 01296 317200.



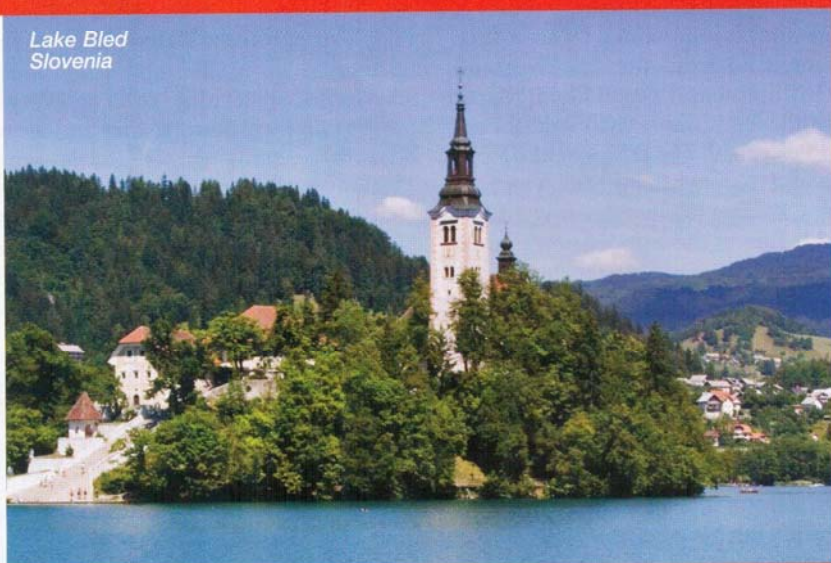
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24 Jun-10 nts Kliczkow Castle, Poland
26 Aug-12 nts Hotel Landhaus Marion, Black Forest
05 Sep-14 nts Golf Hotel, Slovenia
06 Sep-14 nts Vineyard Hotel, South Africa

15 Sep Hotel Viagale Ampalius, Portugal
30 Sept-7 nts Riviera Highlights Cruise
01 Oct-4 nts Carbis Bay Hotel, St. Ives
03 Oct-10 nts Lake Hotel, Kilarney
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19 Oct-14 nts Hotel Aguamarina Golf, Tenerife
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The Tollemache ours at last

By Patrick Shields

GLOUCESTERSHIRE had its first success in the Tollemache competition this year. It was a long wait – six of the 10 players also competed in Gloucestershire's first appearance in the final, back in 1991, and some of them played in qualifying rounds in the 1960s!

The team performed with remarkable consistency throughout, winning each match by at least 40 imps, before losing the last round to Middlesex. The biggest single gain came from collecting penalties at all four tables, and amounted to 41 imps. Next best were the four plus scores we obtained against Manchester on this hand:

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

All four tables played in spades – three of them in 4♠ and one Gloucestershire pair in 2♠. The auction usually started with a 1♣ opener from East and when the club lead drew the king against Joe Angseesing, he won, drew one trump and then led a heart. The ♦10 return was won by the king and by using the three dummy entries to lead up to the ♦A and to take two heart ruffs, Joe came to 10 tricks.

Where the opening lead was the ♦Q



there were not as many entries available. Declarer won the king and played a heart, but when he used the ♠K entry to play clubs, he ended up leading the ♦A from his own hand and when that was ruffed he could not recover. Both of our defenders collected four tricks against 4♠.

Another 4♠ contract, this time against Surrey, also offered scope to both defenders and declarer:

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

One of the opponents put forward the North cards – first in hand at favourable vulnerability – as a 1NT opener, purporting to show 9-11 points. The result was that Richard Butland got to play in 2♠. He was favoured by a diamond lead and

The successful Gloucestershire team, from left: John Rookwood, John Atthey, Joe Angseesing (at the back), Graham Sadie, Richard Chamberlain, Judy Sanis (npc), Patrick Shields (at the back), Paul Denning, Richard Butland, Derek Rue and Anne Swannell (scorer). Team member Andrew Kambites could not be present for the photograph

wrapped up 12 tricks. The weak opener had backfired. Richard's +230 was a very useful score as, with North silent, all the other East-Westes ended up in 4♠ going down!

Against all three tables in 4♠ the lead was ♥J. Declarer won the king each time and played back a heart to the ♥9 and ♥A, and then ducked the diamond return to South's king. A second diamond left him in hand and he tried spades. North won the ♠K and led a club to South's king and that was one off. Three times!

The successful team was Joe Angseesing and Graham Sadie, John Atthey and Richard Butland, Richard Chamberlain and Andrew Kambites, Paul Denning and Patrick Shields, John Rookwood and Derek Rue, with Judy Sanis as npc and Anne Swannell as our faithful scorer. Keith Stanley was instrumental in helping us qualify, but could not play in the final.

Next trials for England places

THE EBU selection committee has agreed a programme of trials for the Camrose Trophy, Lady Milne Trophy and the open and women's events in the 2008 European Championships as follows:

The open trials are for teams of four. Up to 12 teams will be selected, of which up to four will be exempted to stage two. Stage one will be on September 15-16 at West Midlands Bridge Club.

Eight teams, including the exempted teams, will contest stage two, which will be over two weekends, October 27-28 at Young Chelsea BC and November 10-11 at West Midlands BC, with the top four qualifying for a knockout weekend. At this stage the teams for the Camrose Trophy will be selected, with the top qualifiers guaranteed at least one match.

A single long weekend, February 23-25 at Young Chelsea BC, will be devoted to the semi-finals and final, with the winning team to represent England in the 2008 European

Championships, along with a third pair to be selected from among bona fide applicants to the trials.

Teams wishing to take part are invited to apply to Sandra Claridge at Aylesbury or by email to claridge31@tiscali.co.uk by June 30.

The women's contest for England places will comprise a pairs trial over two weekends, with no exemptions and the possibility of dropping some pairs after the first weekend. Otherwise scores over the two weekends will be cumulative, cross-imped. The first weekend will be January 5-6 (venue to be confirmed) and the second one February 16-18 at Young Chelsea BC.

The top two pairs will be selected for the Lady Milne Trophy, but no guarantees are made in regard to the European Championships.

Pairs wishing to play should send their entry to Sandra Claridge as above by October 31.



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A "cruise without flights" from Harwich to Aarhus (Denmark), Helsinki (Finland), 2 days in St Petersburg (Russia), Tallinn (Estonia), Gdansk (Poland), Warnemunde (for Berlin) (Germany), & Copenhagen (Denmark).

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Corfu

21st September 2007 - 14 nights

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From £1279 including flights, cruise, gratuities & all inclusive drinks package (Operated by Clare Travel ATOL3298)

Kefalonia

14th October 2007 - 14 nights

Our 11th visit to what is our favourite seaside hotel on this, the island that is home to Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

£825 half-board (Operated by Clare Travel ATOL3298)

Caribbean Panoramas

3rd November 2007 - 16 nights

A Caribbean fly-cruise (with scheduled flights) aboard the Norwegian Jewel from Miami to Mexico, Grand Cayman, Dominican Republic, Virgin Islands, Antigua, Barbados & St Lucia.

from £1289 including cruise and flights (Payments to Clare Travel ABTA19308, agents for Norwegian Cruise Lines ATOL2752)

Benidorm

12th January 2008 - 14 nights

By popular demand, our 11th visit to the Poseidon Palace Hotel, set in the most popular resort on the Costa Blanca.

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Paphos, Cyprus

23rd January 2008 - 14 nights

Our 2007 holiday to the Imperial Beach Hotel went so well that we have immediately booked a return visit.

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SANDRA LANDY

STANDARD ENGLISH

Using the takeout double

LAST issue we discussed the sort of hand that could make an overcall. A simple overcall might be made on a strong hand, but often it will be a hand that would not open the bidding. If it's a weaker hand it shows at least a five-card suit with good high cards. The fewer the points, the better the suit should be.

This means that when your partner opens the bidding and the next hand overcalls, your right hand opponent may have made the bid with the intention of interfering in your auction. Sometimes you have a hand that can still make its natural response, but sometimes the overcall cuts out the bid you wanted to make. For example:

♠ 8 5 4 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ Q 9 7 3

Partner opens 1♦ and you plan a response of 1NT to show your 6-9 HCP without a four-card major. But what should you do when your right hand opponent (RHO) overcalls 1♠? This has not stopped you making a bid, since you were not planning to respond 1♥. But should it change your 1NT response?

You could now pass, since partner must get another chance to bid. But with eight HCP you would like to say something. Even if partner has a minimum 13 HCP your side has more than half of the points.

You could bid 1NT, but it is unattractive when you know you are going to get a spade lead through partner's spade strength (if any) and coming up to your weak holding.

You could bid 2♣, showing the values for a two-level response and at least four clubs. But eight HCP is poor for a two-level response and the club suit is too weak to compensate for the lack of high cards.

You could raise partner to 2♦, normally showing four-card support and 6-9 points. Despite being one diamond short, this is now the best response. Partner should be aware that the overcall might have altered your response.

On the next hands the overcall of partner's 1♦ has definitely taken away your natural bid.

♠ 8 5 ♥ K 10 9 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ Q 9 7 3

You were planning to respond 1♥, when RHO's 1♠ overcall stopped you.

You could still respond 2♦, but now you have an alternative. A double of an overcall is for takeout. It shows the values for a response and at least two places to play. You will have one, usually both, unbid majors. So you can double 1♠ and partner will know you definitely have four hearts and somewhere else the hand can be played. If partner responds 1NT, 2♣, 2♦ or 2♥ you will pass. But you have enough to raise 3♥ to 4♥ or 2NT to 3NT.

♠ Q 9 7 3 ♥ K 10 9 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 8 5

You would have responded 1♥ to 1♦, but RHO overcalls 2♣. Now you can make your takeout double, which normally shows four cards in each major. If partner just rebids 2♣, 2♥ or 2♠ you will pass. But you have just enough to raise a response of 3♥ or 3♠ to game.

♠ A Q 8 3 ♥ K 10 9 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 8 5

You were planning to respond 1♥ when RHO's 1♠ overcall stopped you. So you double to show your hearts and partner responds 2♣. What now? You could put partner back to 2♦, but with 12 HCP and spades well stopped, you are strong enough to bid 2NT. With the ♥Q instead of the ♥4 you could bid 3NT.

Partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♥. What do you bid with the following?

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

Double – Shows four spades, plus another place to play. Pass if 2♣ is partner's rebid

(b) ♠ Q J 10 3 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ K 8 6 2 ♣ 6 4

Bid 1♠ – Shows five spades, since double would show four

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

Double – Shows four spades. Raise clubs if partner rebids them

(d) ♠ A Q J 10 6 ♥ 4 ♦ A J 10 ♣ K Q 6 4

Bid 2♠ – A jump in a new suit is game forcing; slam is possible

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

Bid 1NT – Stronger over 1♥; say 7-10 HCP and hearts well stopped

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

Bid 5♣ – You have lots of tricks, but not much defence

Here are some hands my students played. In each case West opened and RHO overcalled 1♠:

♠ A Q 8 ♥ 8 6 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ A Q J 7 4	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ 5 ♥ Q J 9 7 ♦ A 10 9 6 ♣ K 6 3 2	
Linda 1♣ 1NT Pass	RHO 1♠ Pass	Brenda Dbl 3NT Pass	LHO Pass Pass

Brenda doubled with her four hearts and when Linda showed 15-16 points with her 1NT rebid, she went to game.

♠ 8 ♥ A 8 6 2 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ A Q J 7 4	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ A 10 9 6 ♣ K 6	
Janet 1♣ 2♥ Pass	RHO 1♠ Pass Pass	John Dbl 4♥ Pass	LHO Pass Pass

Janet could only bid 2♥ over the double, as she would have if John had responded 1♥. But John had extra points for his double and could bid game.

♠ 8 ♥ A K 8 6 ♦ J 5 ♣ A Q J 7 4 3	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ A 10 9 6 ♣ K 6	
Robert 1♣ 4♥	RHO 1♠ Pass	Eddie Dbl Pass	LHO Pass Pass

When Eddie doubled, Robert, with strong playing strength and only five losers, bid 4♥.

♠ 2 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ A Q J 10 4	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ K Q 9 8 7 6 ♥ Q 7 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ K 6	
Margaret 1♣ Dbl	RHO 1♣ Pass	Peter Pass Pass	LHO Pass Pass

If you want to make a penalty double of the overcall, you can't! Double is for takeout, so what you must do is pass and wait for partner to reopen with a takeout double. Peter argued about this, but in the end he passed and Margaret reopened with a takeout double. Peter led the ♠K, Margaret played her ♣A and led her ♠2. Declarer was unlucky that dummy had no points and only one spade, but the penalty conceded was 800. Overcalling isn't always profitable!



DAVID BIRD

Beat today's experts



1. E-W game, dealer West

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

West	East
Armstrong	Holland
Pass	1♦
1♣	2♥
3♦	3♣
3NT	6♦

WE start with a deal from the first Camrose weekend, with England facing Scotland. What should you open on that big East hand? With strong Acoll two bids gradually vanishing into the

mists of history, the choice lies between a simple 1♦ and a full-blooded 2♣.

Holland opted for a one bid and conjured a force on the next round by reversing into his three-card heart suit. 2NT by responder would have been artificial now, covering all weak hands (a method known as Blackout). Armstrong's actual 3♦ was therefore forcing. Over the value-showing 3♣ Armstrong had an obvious 3NT bid with his powerful stopper in the unbid suit.

Was the action over? Not at all! Holding excellent trumps and a wealth of controls, Holland went all the way to the excellent 6♦ at his next turn. Well bid.

At the other table Walker, for Scotland, opened 2NT on the East cards. What do

you make of that choice? I don't like the look of it. It is not so much the singleton club that offends me, but the huge playing strength. If partner sees fit to bid opposite a 2NT opening, he will usually respond to a 1♦ opening, so you are not gaining much by opening with the stronger bid. West went through the fit-finding machinery before ending lamely in 3NT. Eleven tricks were made and England picked up a well-deserved 12imps. After the second weekend's play, they eventually finished second to the strong team from the Irish Republic (heading for the Bermuda Bowl), which was a big improvement on previous years.

■ Awards: 6♦ – 10, games – 6, 6NT – 4.

2. Love all, dealer West

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

West	East
Imakura	Ino
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♦
2♥	4♥

This deal comes from an encounter between Japan and China in the 2006 Pacific-Asian championships, held in Shanghai. East's 2♦ was the new 'minor forcing' convention, similar to our use of

2♣ as Crowhurst over here. It asked for further information about the opener's hand. When Imakura showed his heart support, Ino took a surprisingly pessimistic view of his two doubleton queens, signing off in game.

What East needed to do was to pass the message 'I have strong hearts and there is a chance of a slam.' A few decades ago this would have been simply achieved via an original jump shift to 2♥. A few players would still make a jump shift, even nowadays, on that East hand.

Even if the strong jump shift is not part of your methods, you can issue the same message with a jump to 3♥ over the 1NT rebid. Since you would employ 2♣ or 2♦ to

look for a three-card fit for your five-card major, a jump to the three level shows a hand more like that held by East here.

Once there is a sniff of a slam in the air oxen and wainropes would not keep West from the six level. He has heart support, a hand rich in controls and a ruffing value.

Aided by a substantial swing on this board, China eventually won the open championship, with Japan in second place. In the women's event China started as a heavy favourite, but New Zealand finished first, just ahead of Australia.

■ Awards: 6♥/6NT(E) – 10, 6NT(W) – 9, games – 5, grands – 3.

3. Love all, dealer North

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

West	North	East	South
Kuo	Zhong	Sun	Jie
3♣	3♥	Pass	Pass
	Pass	3NT	

This is another deal from the 2006 PABF championship, with China facing Chinese Taipei. The two East players took greatly different views of the potential of their hand.

Fu Zhong opened 3♥ for Chinese Taipei and the Chinese East had nothing sensible to bid over this. What should East do, however, when his partner protects with 3♣? Jess Sun looked at his impressive double stopper in hearts and thought '3NT might be a good idea here.' Unfortunately, Zhao Jie (South for China) looked at his six clubs to the ace-10 and thought 'A club lead might be a good idea here.'

North was not averse to a lead of that suit and 3NT went three down.

The time to risk 3NT, when you have support for partner's long major, is when you think that there might be nine tricks available, but not 10. East had sufficient support for spades here to expect at least 10 tricks to be available in 4♠. There was no need to bid 3NT, risking the club situation.

At the other table, after the same start Yang (East for China) cue-bid 4♥ over 3♣, to suggest a spade slam. His partner signed off in 4♠ and 11 tricks were made.

■ Awards: 4♠ – 10, 5♠ – 6, 5♦/3NT – 3, 6♠ – 1.

4. N-S game, dealer East

<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ A 9 4 3 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ 10 4 3 2</p>			
<p>♠ K J 10 7 5 ♥ Q ♦ A 9 7 6 2 ♣ Q 5</p>	<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 10 ♣ A J 9 8 7 6</p>	
<p>♠ 6 2 ♥ K J 10 7 6 5 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ K</p>			
West Tundal	North Saetre	East Grotheim	South Oversen
2♣	3♥	2♣	2♥
4NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣		5♣	Pass

We move next to the Norwegian Premier League, with two strong teams in opposition. Grotheim's 2♣ opening was natural and Tundal spurned a negative double, deeming it more important to show his five-card spade suit. How should he react when partner gives him a game raise in spades?

It was possible that East held the four missing key cards in the black suits. Since he had chosen to bid 4♣ instead of 4♥, it was also quite likely that East held a useful singleton diamond. Taking a rosy view of the prospects, Tundal opted for RKCB. When he heard of two aces and the trump queen opposite, he duly bid 6♣. It was a very poor slam. North cashed a heart trick and switched to a trump. Declarer drew

trumps and ran the ♣Q to the singleton king, ending two down. (He needed six club tricks to provide four diamond discards, so dropping the singleton king of clubs would not have been good enough.)

Who should we blame for straying so high? Had East bid 4♥ instead of 4♣, West might have diagnosed the duplication in hearts. Still, I assign most of the blame to West. He was guilty of hoping that partner held the perfect cards. At the very most West should have suggested a slam with a cue-bid of 5♦. A continuation of 5♥ - 5♣ might have brought the auction to a slightly safer halt.

■ Awards: 4♣ - 10, 5♣ - 7, 5♣ - 6, slams - 3.

5. Game all, dealer North

<p>♠ 10 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A K 8 6 5 4 ♣ Q 9 2</p>			
<p>♠ K J 4 3 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ 10 9 7 2 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ A Q J 8 6 ♦ 3 ♣ A K 10 8</p>	
<p>♠ 9 8 7 6 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ Q J ♣ J 5 4 3</p>			
West Dubinin	North Bertens	East Gromov	South Bakkeren
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♣	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
		6♥	

The Netherlands faced a team containing Polish and Russian players in the final of the 12th NEC Cup contested in Yokohama.

Bertens, for the Netherlands, opened 2♣ on the North cards. This could be either very strong, as in Acrol, or a weak two bid in diamonds. The Russian East, Gromov, passed for the moment.

When the 2♦ response was passed by North he knew that he was competing against a weak two bid.

Gromov doubled for take-out and the bidding continued as it would have done after a more normal start of 2♦ - Dbl. What interpretation should be put on 3♦? You hear players saying 'it shows a very strong raise of spades'.

With such a hand you could raise to 4♣

or perhaps cue-bid 4♦. The 3♦ bid should indicate a very strong hand that does not include primary spade support.

When Gromov subsequently bid 4♥, Dubinin noted that his partner had not made this call on the previous round and therefore must hold a very strong hand. His raise to 5♥ was a finely judged effort and allowed Gromov to raise to the slam. It had been an impressive auction.

At the other table the Dutch East-West, Jacobs and Schollard, had a clear run. They stopped in 4♥, nevertheless, and had to enter minus 13imps on their scorecard.

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

6. N-S game, dealer East

<p>♠ K J 9 ♥ A K 7 3 ♦ J 7 6 4 3 ♣ J</p>			
<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 10 ♦ K Q 10 9 2 ♣ A 8 7</p>		
West Rasmussen	East Charlsen		
1♥	1♠		
2♣	2♦		
3♦	3♣		
4♣	4NT		
5♦	6♦		

We end our round-the-world trip at the final of the 2007 Bergen Grand Tournament, with the Norwegians Rasmussen and Charlsen facing

Popov and Nenov of Bulgaria.

After a straightforward start to the auction Rasmussen uses 'fourth suit forcing' on the second round to inject some pace into the auction. Holding a useful five-loser hand, Charlsen prefers to rebid his diamonds, rather than bid a sterile 2NT. West's 3♦ continuation is forcing via the fourth suit. Had he bid 3♦ on the previous round, this would have been a limit bid in many systems (including Acrol, although not Standard American).

East cue-bids the spade ace and West shows his important club control. This is enough to persuade East to bid the slam via Blackwood to complete an excellent auction!

■ Awards: 6♦ - 10, 5♠/5♦/4♣ - 5, 6♣ - 4, 3NT - 3.

OUR experts finish strongly, with two 10s, scoring a respectable 46 out of 60. Let's look for some worthwhile tips.

Tips to remember

- Do not hope that partner will hold 'perfect cards'. This is rarely the case.
- When you follow a take-out double with a cue bid this denies a primary fit for partner's major suit.
- Support by responder at the three level, for either of the opener's suits, is a limit bid. To show a stronger hand with good support, bid fourth-suit forcing on the way.

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BRIAN SENIOR

ALL ABOUT TRUMPS

The coup en passant



ONE of our main aims in the auction is to locate our side's best trump fit, so it may seem strange that sometimes during the play we find we have too many trumps and need to shorten them. It happens surprisingly often and occurs when an opponent has an awkward trump holding that cannot be picked up by straightforward play. Once the situation is recognised, it is time to see if there is a possible play to resolve the problem via a trump coup.

Perhaps the most straightforward of the trump reduction plays occurs when declarer attempts a coup en passant. The fancy name hides a pretty simple technique. Declarer attempts to make his small trumps by leading a side suit through an opponent who has a bigger trump than the one with which declarer hopes to ruff. Take this example:

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

South plays in 4♥ and West leads out the three top spades. Declarer ruffs and cashes the ace, king and queen of trumps. An even break would have provided 10 tricks, but the four-two break creates a small problem. No matter, declarer continues by cashing two top clubs then the three diamond winners. Next he leads dummy's fourth diamond. Though East has the high trump there is nothing he can do to prevent declarer from making his small trump en passant. If East ruffs high, declarer discards and makes his small heart later, while if East discards declarer ruffs the diamond.

Note the importance of cashing the top clubs before playing out the diamonds. If declarer fails to do this, East can throw a club on the fourth diamond and is now in a position to ruff the second club winner, leaving declarer a trick short.

The coup en passant (in passing) is a special kind of trump coup. The play normally covered by that term sees declarer with a tenace over a defender's holding, but no trump opposite to lead for the finesse.

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

South plays in 4♣ after West has over-called 2♣. West cashes the top three hearts, then switches to the ♠K, won in dummy.

If declarer plays a spade to the queen at trick five, then a spade to the ace, he has just gone down in a cold contract. For a successful trump coup he would need to be able to shorten his trumps twice to come down to the same length as East, then get to dummy a third time after cashing his winners to lead through East at trick 12. Alas, there is only one entry remaining in dummy. Good technique would be to ruff a club at trick five, just in case. Now play the ♠A and a spade to the queen. A second club ruff completes the trump reduction and now declarer can cash the diamonds, ending in dummy. A heart or a club at trick 12 completes the trump coup.

If at trick 12 declarer has ♠K 10 sitting over East's ♠J 9, any lead from dummy will allow him to pick up the spades without loss. But give declarer ♠K 10 7 and he is forced to ruff whatever is led from dummy at trick eleven, so can no longer pick up East's trump holding. That is the point of the trump reduction play.

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

After the ♦Q lead, 7♠ is an excellent contract - until West shows out on the second spade. But there is still the

possibility of a trump coup if declarer can shorten his trumps sufficiently and lead from dummy at trick 12.

Declarer will need to ruff twice if the coup is to succeed. He cashes the second top diamond then plays two club winners, discarding his remaining diamond. A diamond ruff is followed by a heart to dummy and a club ruff. Now a second heart is led to dummy and declarer plays the winning club. If East ruffs, there is no further problem. If East discards, declarer pitches the ♥A and plays anything from dummy. Again, East's trump holding is nullified.

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

South plays the excellent contract of 6♣ and West leads two top spades. Declarer ruffs the second spade, cashes two top clubs and scowls when West shows out on the second round. All is not lost, however, though some good fortune will be required.

If declarer could come down to nothing but the ♣Q10 and have the lead in dummy at trick 12, it would not matter what suit he now led from dummy. The effect would be to take the necessary finesse against East's ♠J.

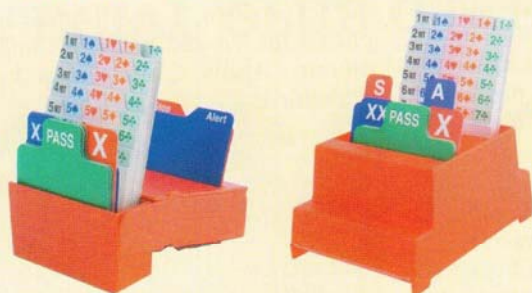
Prospects are not that good, as declarer needs East to have just the right shape for the coup to succeed. He needs three rounds of each red suit to stand up. After seeing the awkward trump split, declarer plays three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. If East turns up with four diamonds, he will have to be 2-3-4-4 for declarer to succeed. Declarer now ruffs the fourth diamond, plays three rounds of hearts, ending in dummy, and leads a spade at trick 12 to coup his opponent. If East turns up with only three diamonds, declarer needs him to be 3-3-3-4 shape. Now the winning play is to ruff a spade before playing the hearts, again ending in dummy.

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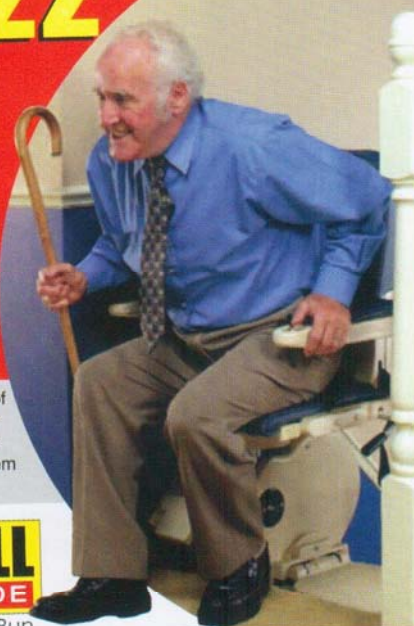
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PRACTICAL NO TRUMP BIDDING: Clarity after Stayman and transfers

THE common themes to almost all our responses to 1NT are Stayman and red suit transfers. We all have our own opinions about how the 2♣ and 2NT responses should be used. My intention in this article is not to interfere on these private matters, but to ensure that your partnership has clarity after Stayman and transfers.

How do you interpret the 4NT bid in each of these sequences?

(1)	West	East	(2)	West	East
	1NT	2♥		1NT	2♣
	2♣	4NT		2♥	4NT

If you play that 4NT is always Blackwood you will have no problem. Equally if you play that 4♣ is always Gerber then presumably 4NT are natural, quantitative bids here. However, the rest of us need to know if our partnership is not to hit the rocks.

Red suit transfer bids in one-suited hands

How do you play 4♦ and 4♥ opposite a 1NT opening? In particular 4♦ seems to have no particular meaning. Why not play them as red suit transfers? Now, if partner opens 1NT and you jump to 4♦ you are telling partner you definitely want to play in hearts. He must bid 4♥. He cannot break the transfer. You can pass this, or bid on towards a slam.

(3)	West	East	(4)	West	East
	1NT	4♦		1NT	4♦
	4♥	4NT		4♥	5♣

Therefore in (3), 4NT is whatever sort of Blackwood you play. You no longer need 4NT as Blackwood in auction (1) so there it is quantitative. In (4) 5♣ is a cue bid.

Now consider the implications of hands that start with a two-level transfer. You have removed two hand types from the equation: those that want to play in 4♥/♠ whatever opener has and those that want to force agreement and move on beyond 4♥/♠. So how about sequence (5)?

(5)	West	East
	1NT	2♦
	2♥	4♥

I would suggest that this should be a mild slam try with no singleton or void. Since East must have six hearts the shape must be exactly 3-6-2-2.

So how about these next sequences?

(6)	West	East	(7)	West	East
	1NT	2♦		1NT	2♦
	2♥	3♦		2♥	4♦

(6) is a totally natural auction. 3♦ is a new suit at the three level (because 2♦ was a transfer) and is game forcing. Responder has five hearts and at least four diamonds.

In (7) 4♦ is clearly a cue bid agreeing hearts (new suit at the four level). However, since there is only one hand shape with six hearts that doesn't have a singleton (3-6-2-2) and that shape has already been well dealt with, then 4♦ should be a splinter bid, showing a singleton diamond. This can allow you to reach a slam by diagnosing no wasted values, as in hand (a) where West is aware that there are no wasted values in diamonds.

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

Two-suited hands

What do you think 4♥ means in auction (8)?

(8)	West	East	(9)	West	East
	1NT	2♥		1NT	2♥
	2♠	4♥		2♠	3♥
				3NT	4♥

You can easily show a major two-suiter (at least 5-5 shape) by bidding slower, as in (9), so there is no need to depart from our principle that a new suit at the four level is a cue bid (in this case forcing spades as trumps). But look at these next two hands.

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

With (b) you simply want to play in game. With (c) you equally want to show 5-5 shape, but are worth a slam try. Since it may take you to the four level to show your 5-5 shape how can you distinguish? The answer lies in auction (10).

(10)	West	East
	1NT	2♣
	2♦	4♥

East starts by using Stayman. If that uncovers a 5-4 major fit then the problem is solved. If the response to 2♣ is 2♥ responder jumps to 4♥ to show 5-5 shape. I play that auction (10) shows a hand that just wants to play in game, whereas (9) is a mild slam try.

All this is certainly a great improvement, but beware. Your partner opens 1NT and you hold 13 HCP and six hearts. You dreamily bid 2♦ and then realise that your intended next bid will be an unwanted slam try. I am not a great believer in great complexity, but this system does satisfy all the necessary criteria for a really good conventional idea. It is theoretically excellent and comes up quite frequently.

Stayman

I still haven't answered the question of whether the 4NT in auction (2) is Blackwood or not. It might depend on other parts of your system, for example if you play a 2♣ response to 1NT as including balanced hands worth a slam try then 4NT has no use as Blackwood. However, if it is not clear in your system consider auctions (11) and (12).

(11)	West	East	(12)	West	East
	1NT	2♣		1NT	2♣
	2♥	3♣		2♥	4♣

In (11) 3♣ should be natural and forcing. Yes, I know that traditionally 3♣ was a sign off, but that is rarely played nowadays. You need a way to investigate a 4-4 major fit and show good clubs if no major fit is found. In (12) 4♣ is a cue bid agreeing hearts (new suit at the four level). If you want to agree hearts you can always start with such a cue bid and bid Blackwood later. Therefore 4NT in (2) should be natural.

I hope that by now you agree with the view I stated in previous articles that 1NT is a very helpful start to the auction. It is possible to bid very accurately over a 1NT opening bid.

I have just one titbit to finish with. It is normal to abandon Stayman and transfers if opponents double your no trump, because the priority shifts from constructive bidding to being able to sign off in any suit.

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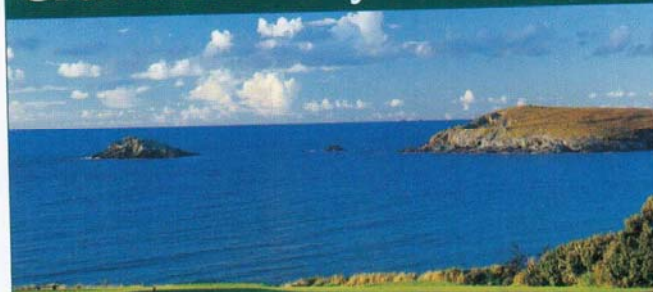
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Some slam troubles, but England's excellent young players win through

By Michael Byrne

THIS year the annual competition between the home nations for the under 20s (Peggy Bayer) and the under 25s (Junior Camrose) was held in Shannon in the Republic of Ireland.

Although in theory the countries take it in turns to host the event Ireland seems to hold it more often than once every five years (the last time was in 2004) and everyone is all the more grateful for that, since the hospitality is always top notch.

This year was no exception and everyone was welcomed with open arms.

If only the quality of the bridge was as good as the hospitality – but sadly the England under 20s seemed to misinterpret my instruction of 'be great ambassadors for your country' into 'ship loads of imps the way of the opposition'.

This overly generous attitude was particularly evident on slam deals, of which there were eight over the course of the weekend.

Here are a few of the more interesting ones:

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

Our boys bid: 2♣ (game forcing) - 2♦ (negative); 2♠ (good start) - 3♠ (positive); 4♣ (cue bid) - 4♥ (cue bid); 4♠

At this point North thought his partner had denied a control in diamonds and passed, but of course South would only cue bid 5♦ (going past game) with extra playing strength. North should clearly have bid on, although it's not that clear with what, since the hand was unsuitable for Blackwood with so many top losers. Oh well, another victim for the cue-bidding roundabout.

Terence Reese once famously said he would rather have an ocean liner than a rusty tug boat. He was referring, of course, to having a long strong suit as trumps rather than a straggly one with lots of holes in it. That maxim would have been useful on this hand:

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

England under 20s bid to 6♥, a fair contract requiring trumps 3-2. When trumps were 4-1 the contract soon went four off on a diamond lead.

South might have given thought to play-

ing in his ocean liner (spades), because the quality of the trump pips means that you can cope with a variety of 4-1 breaks, and even on the actual hand, where clubs and hearts broke badly and the spade finesse was wrong, 6♠ would make on most defences.

This hand was one of the few bid to a slam, but when dummy went down it appeared to be almost hopeless:

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

With South the dealer the sequence was: 1♠ - 2♣; 2♥ - 3♠ (slam try in their methods); 4♥ (cue bid) - 4NT; 5♣ - 6♣.

South's cue bid of 4♥ should have alerted North to the fact that he had no control in the minors, (even a singleton would have been a cue bid if he had held one) and thus North should have applied the brakes and passed. Oh no, making up for a good slam missed (see two hands earlier) North powered his way to 6♣.

If this contract looked terrible that's because it was, but declarer had a think and set about it. He won the diamond lead and drew two rounds of trumps with the aid of the finesse. He then cashed four hearts tricks, throwing two diamonds from dummy, and ruffed a diamond with

dummy's last trump. He returned to his hand via the ♣A and drew the last trump, giving up a club.

A contract has little chance that requires the spade finesse to work, spades to break 3-2 and the hand with the third spade to hold four hearts, but at least Ben Paske managed to keep his nerve and find the winning line.

This hand occurred in the crucial match against Scotland, who had led throughout, and with one match to go England crushed them by 39 imps to reach the top of the table.

A steady performance in the final match against the home nation meant that England retained the trophy.

In the Junior Camrose the England under 25s started well and led the way until two matches from the end, when they were beaten by Scotland. However, they too took control with a steady win in their final match to lift the trophy.

It was nice to see also that 10 of the 12 players sent out had never played in a Junior Camrose event before and for some of them it was their last chance.

Although it's easy to be critical of some of the mistakes made at the bridge table, we must not forget that behaviour is far more important, and from the moment the plane touched down until the moment the competition ended, every member of the under 20 and under 25 teams was a credit to English bridge and behaved in a manner befitting young international players.

England under 20s: Liam Jones (17), Mark Dessain (16), Rob Myers (16), Daniel McIntosh (16), Ben Paske (18), Tom Paske (16) and npc Michael Byrne.

England under 25s: Susan Stockdale, Dave Cropper, Alex Foley, David Hodge, Mark Reeve, David Collier and npc Steve Eginton.



England under 25 npc Steve Eginton, left, with his winning Junior Camrose players, from left: Mark Reeve, David Hodge, Alex Foley, Susan Stockdale, David Cropper and David Collier



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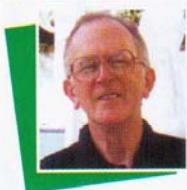
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GET EVEN WITH THE ODDS

A 2% edge is not always worth having

♠ A Q
♥ A J 3
♦ A J 10 2
♣ A 8 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ 7 5
♣ 10 6 2

WEST opened 2NT and declared 3NT.

The lead of ♠J round to his queen gave declarer his eighth trick, but he had to look somewhere for a ninth. Playing for a three-three club break was a possibility, but he knew the odds of this were low, at around 36%. Moreover, East had played the ♠8 on the opening lead to show an even number, suggesting that spades were five-two.

In that case it would not be possible to set up a long club before the defence had five tricks. No, playing on clubs did not look attractive.

Turning his attention to diamonds declarer observed the possibility of a double finesse. At about 75% this offered an excellent chance, and there were the two necessary entries in dummy.

However, to do this would mean overtaking the ♥J and there would then be only three certain heart tricks, unless that suit broke three-three. Declarer calculated the odds of this line succeeding:

A three-three heart break at 36%, together with a double diamond finesse at

75% gave a combined chance of 36% x 75% = 27%. Not very good.

Was there a better line? How about first playing the ♦J from hand, before finessing the 10 on the second round? That line needed only one heart entry in dummy, so that four heart tricks could be guaranteed. Unfortunately, for that to work South would need to hold both diamond honours, otherwise South could win the first diamond, with North winning the second.

As the chance of South holding both diamond honours was only 25% this play looked slightly inferior to the previous one.

Yet it was the line declarer took, as he had spotted a significant extra chance.

It had occurred to him that North might be tempted to go up with the queen if he started with ♦Q x x: he shouldn't, of course, but defenders sometimes err.

More cogent, though, was the thought that North might have started with a doubleton honour. It would take a really good defender to duck the jack when holding Q x, or even K x.

Overall then, declarer believed this to be a superior line, although one could not attach precise odds. He was duly rewarded when the full hand turned out to be:

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Ethics code works

ABOUT five years ago we became increasingly aware of how much emotion and intensity goes into every hand. We worked with some of our members from several different countries to evolve a code of conduct and an ethics code that would do two things:

1. Give clear guidelines of the expectations we have of all our members (club rules) and show what to do in specific situations.

2. Show clearly the action the club ethics administrators would take if the rules were broken and outline what members should then do.

Our club rules cover rudeness, quitting (whether deliberate or accidental), psyching, the use of unauthorised information and score adjustments where appropriate.

Then we set up a reporting system that the members use to register complaints. This is administered by dedicated personnel who can forward bridge and ethics issues to top tournament directors or apply the rules for good behaviour. Every incident is researched carefully and emails will be sent to any member who has caused a problem. So far, more than 3,200 reports have been handled in this way.

Of course, this is done with great care and never assumes guilt without proof. We give the benefit of the doubt wherever

possible, because, after all, everyone simply wants to play bridge in a friendly and secure club, not get into a protracted dialogue over something trivial.

We want our guests to be comfortable and our members to know that accidents can happen, but repeated 'fortuitous' accidents are looked upon with scepticism.

This unique and personal approach gives our members the confidence to let us know of any problems and to be secure in the knowledge that we expect and maintain high standards from all players in Bridge Club Live.

When – and sadly it happens – players refuse to accept the club rulings (we may have asked for an apology or a pledge towards future behaviour) we do our best to persuade them to change their minds. But if that fails, we cannot accept their membership and we part ways.

The result of this vigilance is that the club is growing a solid centre of friendliness and ethical behaviour. The competitions schedule, packed with activity is attracting sometimes a 50% increase in participants. The beginners and improvers who now have their own competitions, as well as supervised practice sessions, are gaining in confidence and our guest rooms are buzzing.

Fran Bramzel,
Manager, Bridge Club Live

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

♠ A Q
♥ A J 3
♦ A J 10 2
♣ A 8 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ 7 5
♣ 10 6 2

♠ 8 4
♥ 10 8
♦ K 9 8 6 3
♣ Q 9 7 5

North had indeed started with five spades and both clubs and hearts broke the expected 4-2.

The diamond honours were split, but North did have the hoped-for doubleton honour and, as predicted, could not resist taking his queen when the jack was played. Even had he ducked, he would have had to do this smoothly, otherwise declarer could get the position right.

Sometimes it is worth sacrificing a small statistical edge in favour of exerting pressure on the opponents – or even simply hoping that they will go wrong!

Here the sacrifice was a mere 2%, so it was really no contest.

It should have been all 13 tricks

I WAS interested to read Peter Carbutt's letter in the last issue, which referred to a massive hand on which one declarer tabled his cards, claimed his 6NT contract and then had his amended claim for 13 tricks rejected by the defenders.

This was the hand: ♠A K Q 2 ♥A K Q ♦A K ♣A K Q J. The cards put down by dummy included four spades to the jack.

It seems to me that with 13 tricks so clearly guaranteed declarer should have been credited with them all.

Surely it is for the director and not opponents to decide the outcome.

Under law 71c (implausible concession) the director should cancel the concession of a trick that could not be lost by any normal play of the cards, as was obviously the case here.

– *Jeremy Child, Exeter*

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.

John Cattanach 'fa to make his case'

HAVING belonged to both tennis and bridge clubs in France I can confirm that John Cattanach (*English Bridge* February 2007) is correct in citing the French practice of automatic affiliation to national federations of all humble club members.

But he fails to make the case for extending the practice to this country. He seems to forget that tennis and bridge are games in the public domain, which we are all free to play. No need for any governing body.

I belong to a tennis club in the UK, which is not affiliated to the LTA. We play for fun; we play competitively; and we stick to the rules.

Similarly I also belong to a very informal, and non-affiliated, bridge club. We can play duplicate bridge up to three times a week; we enjoy it.

We play for fun; we play competitively; and we stick to the rules.

And that's what games and sports are for. The rules are well known and anybody can play.

I don't encounter either in bridge or in tennis, either the tampering with the rules, or the bad behaviour that John Cattanach seems to imply is an inevitable product of non-affiliation. In fact I venture to suggest the latter affiliation might be more characteristic of the more serious, affiliated clubs.

As for the international team argument, what has that to do with us? We play tennis for fun; we don't necessarily associate ourselves with the exploits of the professionals playing Davis Cup.

I don't go to the LTA to buy tennis shoes; equally I can buy bidding boxes from several commercial sources. So EBU for equipment either.

Thus I find Mr Cattanach's argument unconvincing.

All this being the case, why then do EBU? John Cattanach provides just reason. I get a bridge magazine delivered for a very reasonable price.

– *Richard Ackland, Kenley, Surrey*

With John, I

I WRITE in response to John Cattanach's February edition of *English Bridge*.

I am chairman of an unaffiliated club, and I was Bugden when she put her report together. I want more people to join the EBU, of which I am chairman. Like John, I recognise the importance of supporting the rules and the growing membership of the EBU. I and I was totally with John until he left the unaffiliated club.

The club to which he refers is not, in my view, representative of the vast majority of such clubs. We do not see any advantage accruing to our club. We have a prospective attendance, congenial atmosphere, good steady standards, and we stick to the rules (in a way that is correct!) so what do we do that we don't do?

If you want to see individuals to become club members, you need to make it worth their while. Our club we have 18 EBU members. We can therefore get a discount at the EBU shop at d

Don't li

I AGREE with Borja's convention card is split into three parts on the same page. It is a bad. We had many 'old' EBU 20 cards that broke, why fix it?

The late Harold's dictums before commencing opponents' basic

Time to abandon the STOP card?

IT was holiday bridge and I was paired with a man of about my own (elderly) age. We were joined by our two lady opponents and at just about the same time the boards were placed on our table with instructions to deal and play.

On the first hand the ladies had the bidding all to themselves and it went 1♦ - 1♠; 2♦ - 3♠; 4♣ - 4♠; 6♠ - Pass.

There seemed nothing untoward about the bidding except that the West lady, who had opened, became very agitated, fidgeting increasingly as the auction progressed and emitting sounds of distress.

My partner turned out to be a kindly and considerate man and he asked the lady what was wrong. The gist of her babbled reply was that she was concerned that her partner had

not used the STOP card before her bid of 3♠, nor produced the ALERT card after the 4♣ Gerber bid.

My partner pointed out that players do sometimes forget the STOP card and that it was now no longer necessary to alert bids above the three level.

The lady went on to explain that her partner's failure to use the STOP card had made her unsure that she actually had a jump bid in spades and the failure to alert Gerber made her unsure that her partner understood the bid. Also, her partner's 4♠ was confusing in that she thought it might be simply a repeat of her suit or it might possibly be a Gerber response showing two aces.

She finished by saying that in all the confusion she was guessing when

she made her final bid of 6♠. We were speechless, especially on learning that the ladies were one of only two pairs to bid and make the slam.

This all makes for an amusing, if wry tale, but it does confirm my long-held opinion that more than a few players, albeit subconsciously, were using the STOP and ALERT cards to pass and receive information, confirming to each other that that they understood each other's bidding and that they were both 'on the same page'.

The new limited use of the ALERT card will go some way to knocking this process on the head, but I do feel that it would be even better if we were to abandon the STOP card and do away with the abuse completely.

– *J Connolly, Norwich*

ils

NOW YOU HAVE YOUR SAY



Give us Benji and 5-card majors

LOTS of bridge players now play Benjamin Acoll and five-card majors, but we never see any articles on these systems in your illustrious pages. All we get are Acoll retreads of things that we learned at our bridge teacher's knee many moons ago.

I would also like to see articles on different conventions and systems (we know Stayman and transfers) such as Michaels, Crowhurst, the multi and other more esoteric systems; when to use them, how to use them and, most important, how to defend against them.

Waiting hopefully, but feeling sadly neglected. – *Anne Lloyd, Norwich*

Editor's note: Not entirely true, Anne. Andrew Kambites has had quite a bit to say about Crowhurst in recent issues, and Michaels and the multi have not been entirely neglected. However, as ever, we will try to do better.

Use rubout pen on travellers

I REFER to the recent comments from George Pilcher of Deal who, as a frequent scorer of duplicate sessions, detailed some of the many errors made by players when filling in the travellers. I use a 'replay' pen, which enables me to rub out any mistakes and correct them. After a certain length of time the ink becomes permanent. There are other semi-permanent pens available everywhere.

Of course that doesn't correct my mistakes in playing South instead of North when I don't look at the boards properly before bidding! – *Carolyn Smith, Dorking*

But not all the way

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through one of these memberships. We don't want to issue Master Points – the affiliated clubs down the road offer them. We just want to have an enjoyable evening in pleasant company, with some mental stimulation on offer against opponents of a common standard.

I am always happy to advertise the EBU to my members and have held qualifying events for EBU-sponsored events, but at the end of the day you can lead your members to the water's edge, but you can't push them in! – *Colin O'Hara, Regis Bridge Club*

Sally Bugden responds: We had a very enjoyable visit to Colin's club as part of an information-gathering exercise to find out what types of services bridge players want from the EBU. We are currently working on developing services from the results of that research. Our proposals will be presented to the EBU board in May.

Higher and higher in the pairs best scores!

AFTER reading the letters page in the February edition of *English Bridge* I am delighted and proud to report that five years ago my partner Audrey Bainbridge and I achieved 83% at Hamsterley Bridge Club. We were awarded a certificate for outstanding performance, which I still have.

We were taught bridge by Hamsterley club members in the village hall and had been playing for

only a few years when we made our big score. At that time I didn't realise what an achievement it was and needless to say we have not reached 80% since.

My bridge partner has, however, excelled at the game and is now a One Star Premier Regional Master. We are also members of Bishop Auckland Bridge Club.

– *John Burnett, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland*

Who can top our 84%?

IN the February issue of *English Bridge* there was a report that Peter Ransom and Barry Thomas from Rownham Bridge Club (Hants and Isle of Wight) achieved a score of 81.94% in a club duplicate event.

Last year my partner Pat Thirkettle and I, playing duplicate at Anlaby Bridge Club in East Yorkshire, achieved 84%.

I am sure someone will write in with an even bigger percentage. Nevertheless that was our best performance ever. – *PM Whincop, Willerby*

Like EBU 20B, but do like announcements - except 1NT

Ewart that the new EBU 20B badly designed. Opening bids actions and they are not even complementary details are just as changes before settling on the is the saying goes, 'If it ain't

Franklin was chief tournament U for many years. One of is that it was a player's duty g play to ascertain his tem, their 1NT opening and

their carding methods. His views about announcing 1NT openers would surely coincide with the views of David Ellis (*English Bridge*, December) and Colin Wood (*English Bridge*, October).

Don't get me wrong, I think announcing natural two level openers as 'weak' or 'strong' is an excellent idea, as is the return to the pre1980 philosophy of not alerting bids above 3NT. Unfortunately it seems that a paranoid reaction to a minority asking about 1NT openers and then passing, has resulted in announcements for all 1NT openings.

Announcements for 1NT openers apart I like the changes, but I do feel, however, that the new alert procedure for doubles will widen the gulf between experts and non-experts,

We need fewer rules, not more, if we want to encourage more members and ensure the future of tournament bridge. Unfortunately the proliferation of conventions, rules and regulations make tournament bridge more and more different from social bridge, which is one of several reasons why the average age of the membership keeps rising. – *Bob Rowlands, London*

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27th April-4th May 2007 (Daily Seminars)

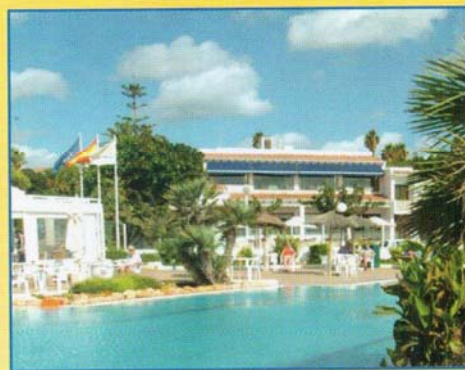
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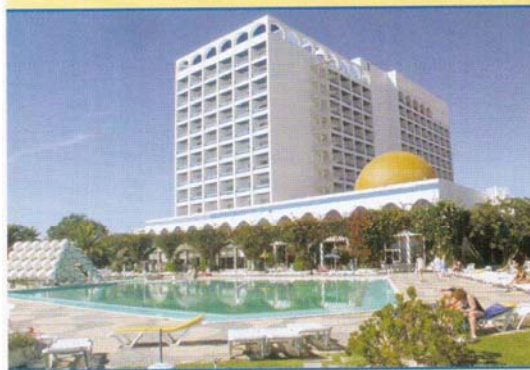
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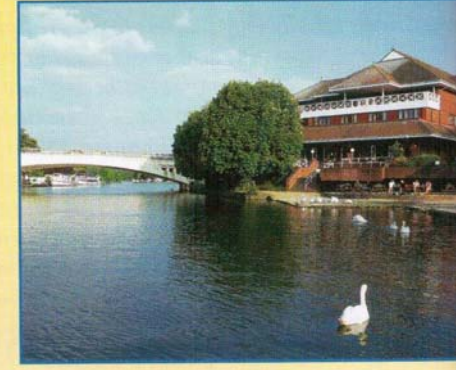
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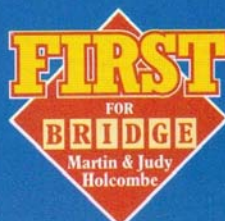


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It's North East versus South West in youth final

By John Pain, EBU education manager

THIS is the time of year when up-and-coming young players compete in local heats to qualify for a national final to be held over the Easter weekend in London.

In the northern heat of the G W Arnott Davidson inter-regional teams of eight the North East team of James Thrower, Rob Myers, Mark Dessain, Liam Jones, Chris Knight, Alasdair Frater and Alex and Jacob Gembicki beat the North West's Amy Stout, Jennie Marvin, Jonathan King, Adam Hickman, Ruth Franklin, David Barrett, Daniel Evans and Daniel Caton by 86imps. The following hand contributed to the North East's large win:



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

At the two tables where the North East were North-South both declarers made nine tricks in 3NT with the South cards after a diamond lead; the two tables where the North East were East-West also brought back positive scores. At one table West led the ♠J against South's 3NT and declarer went two down. At the final table East (Mark Dessain) opened 2♥, showing 5-4 or better in hearts and spades, South doubled and West (Liam Jones) jumped to 4♠, which made by way of five spade and five diamond tricks.

Altogether that was +400+400+100+620 = +1520 to the North East, which was 17imps.

In the southern heat all four regions were represented, with the South West beating the three other teams. The South West's team was Dan McIntosh, Katy Lee, Fred Pitch, Seb Bunyan, Rob Sassoon, Giles Ip, Damian Bell and Sam Hunt.

The Eastern team, which had two wins, was Graeme Robertson, Justin Bell, Jamie Findlay, Michael Green, Ming Ming Mei, Weiye Yang, Kieran Tilley and Arthur Wolstenholme.

London (one win) was represented by Sarah O'Connor, Nick Mock, Tony Nonnermacher, Felix Laurie von Massenbach; Alastair Gartenberg, Anthony Martinelli, Jack Sheard and Phillipe Ayache and the South East team was Bryan Chu, Mark Luk, Justin So, Sam Chan, Calvin Cherry, Archie Gammell, Trevor Fry and Robert Doffern.

The North East and the South West will contest the final on Good Friday at the Royal National Hotel, London as part of the London Easter Festival of Bridge.

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THIS set of spring-like playing cards is the prize on offer as we continue our series of defence posers by Andrew Kambites. Piatnik is giving a prize for each of the three winners in the competition.

♠ 5 3 ♥ A J 10 9 3 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ J 7 4	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;">W E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>
♠ Q 8 7 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ 8 6 2	

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♥
Pass			Pass

*3♦ is a transfer showing 5 hearts

Declarer wins your ♦J lead with his ♦A, East following suit with the ♦7 to show an even number. Declarer now leads the ♥8 from his hand. Plan the defence.

Entries to Andrew Kambites, 1 Stratford Court, Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 4AO. Entries to arrive by April 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 Piatnik prize.

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A competition you can all enter

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

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

♠A 2 ♥A K 10 9 5 ♦7 3 2 ♣6 4 3

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

2)

♠ 9 7 6
♥ 8 7 5
♦ K Q 4 3 2
♣ Q 9

♠ J 8 5 4 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ J 6	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;">W E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>
--	---

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
Pass			Pass

West leads the ♠7 and dummy's ♠Q wins the trick. State your defensive strategy for this hand.

3)



♠ A K Q 4
♥ Q 7 2
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ 10 9


♠ J 9 7 2 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ J 7 6	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;">W E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>
--	---

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♦
Pass			Pass

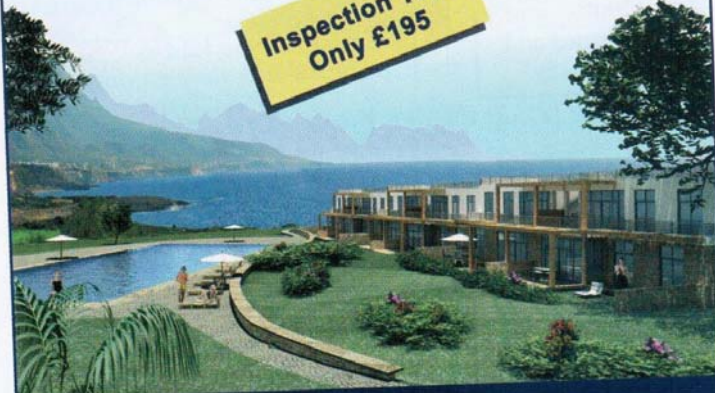
*4♠ is a cue bid

West leads the ♠A followed by the ♠K. How do you plan to beat this contract?


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Young Chelsea transformed

WARWICK Pitch founded the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in 1968 and developed it into one of the best-known bridge clubs in the world. The club moved into its premises at 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court in 1976 and has been there ever since.

Now the Young Chelsea is entering a new era. Warwick has retired and has generously transferred ownership of the club to its members. An elected voluntary management committee is running the club and Gordon Rainsford, a long-serving member, has been installed as full time manager.

Building on the strong base created by Warwick, the club has undergone a major transformation. The premises have been extensively refurbished over the last year and this work is nearly complete. New IT systems have been installed, as have Bridgemates, which allow up-to-the-minute scoring as duplicates progress, visible on a large screen in the bar.

New formats have been introduced to encourage more social bridge, as well as the strong games for which the Young Chelsea Bridge Club has become known. The playing schedule now includes games for all abilities, ranging from beginners and simple systems duplicates through to the championship pairs at which all systems are permitted.



Proud of the new-look Young Chelsea Bridge Club: from left, members Debbie Sandford, Liz Clery, Ken Barnett, Maciej Szczerczak and Nick Davidson. Behind them is the large screen on which up-to-the-minute duplicate scores and other information is displayed

A new era for the world-famous club

The new monthly Swiss pairs has proved particularly popular as it provides a congenial game for all abilities.

The annual knockout teams event is probably the strongest club event in the UK, with many teams including international players. The Young Chelsea Marathon has become world-famous and attracts top players from abroad.

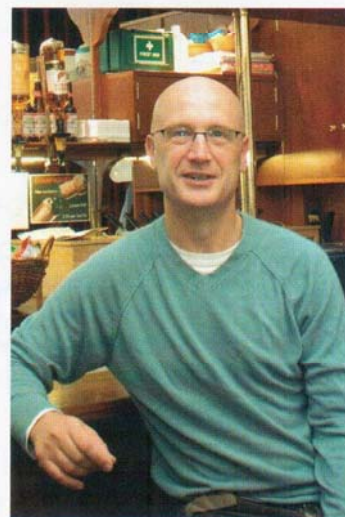
A regular teaching programme using trained and qualified bridge teachers now caters for beginners, improvers and novice players,

with a range of courses and supervised practice sessions.

The Young Chelsea also plays host to a few other daytime bridge clubs – the French Club meets there three times a week, the American Club once a week and there is a small rubber bridge club that meets three afternoons a week.

Club manager Gordon Rainsford has been a YC member for more than 13 years and says he is delighted to be working there and to be part of the changes that have happened with becoming a members' club. 'It's a club quite unlike any other, with a vibrancy and a character all its own,' he says.

'It has a great reputation and attracts visitors from all over the world. We look forward to seeing faces old and new as we go into another era.'



Young Chelsea club manager Gordon Rainsford

For further information contact:

Gordon Rainsford,
email info@ycbc.co.uk
phone 020 7373 1665

Ian Payn, club chairman – email
ian.payn@charterchambers.com
Phone 020 7618 4415

Chris Duckworth, club secretary
email chris.duckworth@lineone.net
phone 020 7385 3534
club website www.ycbc.co.uk



Mike Eden, who runs Monday supervised practice sessions at the club, makes a point to a group of improvers

Northants shine in the East

Northants teams topped two divisions and were second in the other in the Eastern Counties League. Final positions:
A division 1 Northants 106vps, 2 Cambs and Hunts 87;
B division 1 Northants 102, 2 Hertfordshire 88;
C division 1 Cambs and Hunts 93, 2 Northants 86.



All you have to do is **remember to take it!**

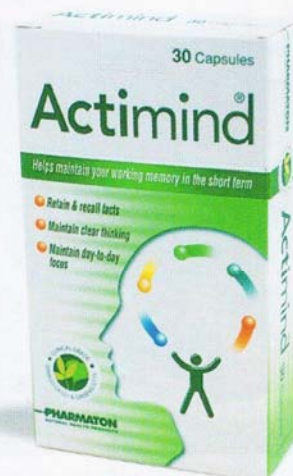
Do you struggle to remember things? Find it hard to keep your mind focussed? Don't worry you're not alone.

We've all been there – forgotten where we left our keys, unable to remember the name of the person we've only just been introduced to or walked into a room but have no idea why. From time to time our minds can become 'overloaded' with information, whether it's planning for a specific event such as a wedding or birthday or even just managing our everyday lives.

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BRIDGE KEEPS YOU YOUNG!

A special birthday cake for Bessie



BESSIE Ridings, long-serving member of Lancaster Bridge Club, had fellow club members around her for her 90th birthday celebration. She is pictured with the cake that was a special part of the day. There were also gifts from her bridge friends – and the wine flowed.

Bessie has played at the Lancaster club since its beginning and her game remains as good as ever. She is also a great helper away from the table, which currently includes taking care of the club's floral decorations.



Queen Mother of Danbury!

NEVER happier than when surrounded by bridge friends and a spread of cards in her hand – that's Lucy Evans from Rettendon Common in Essex. But this time there is something extra for the woman they call the Queen Mother of Danbury Bridge Circle, because Lucy is celebrating her 100th birthday and there are gifts and bubbly and one of those famous messages from the palace.

Lucy was a lively young 80-year-old when she joined the Danbury club started by Yvonne and David Dagwell. Within a year she was playing duplicate

and her enthusiasm for the game has never dimmed. Today she is just as lively and still insists on sitting North. She also takes charge of the travellers. She comments: 'My Wednesday afternoon is the highlight of my week.'

Lucy has also organised many afternoons of rubber bridge with her large circle of friends. 'We all love her and wish her many more years,' says Yvonne.

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

SUDOKU BRIDGE-STYLE NT



FINALLY to the No Trump abbreviation in Richard When's short series of bridge-style Sudoku brain teasers. This says NT whichever way you look at it! Our thanks to Richard for providing this extra element of entertainment to English Bridge.

The objective 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

DOUBLES QUIZ

By Bob Rowlands

Dealer West. Love all

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	?

What would you bid with:

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

Answers on page 35

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Sunday 13th May 2007

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Swiss Teams – Sunday 1pm

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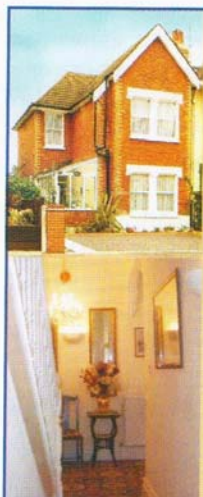
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All a matter of ethical practice

IRVINE Caplan by email makes a number of points about announcements. Included among them he asks why there is not an onus on each pair to announce their basic system and no trump range when they arrive at the table.

I couldn't agree with this more. It comes on page two of the 'How to be a human being at the table' manual. It's a fact of life that at many clubs pairs do not have fully completed convention cards. Maybe they should, but they don't! This may be because they don't play together that often or because they have arrived at the club hot and bothered at the last minute and not really had the time to fill in a card.

The truth is that for the most part the opponents will rarely care what you are doing, but it is helpful and avoids questions if they have a basic idea of your system. When I sit down at a table in an EBU event or on a club evening then I tell my opponents what system I am playing (something like weak NT, five-card majors and three weak twos). That is usually enough to avoid any questions. It may also draw attention to anything that needs a special defence. In my view if you sit down and are playing a curious 2♦ opening that the opponents might not expect and you don't tell them, you are not being as actively ethical as you should be. It is not mandatory, but I think it is good practice and clubs where the majority do not have convention cards may like to insist that this is done.

Brian Kingsley of Ledbury asks via email about movements. In his club when there are 15 tables they play 11 two-board rounds and four one-board rounds, so all pairs are played against. This leads to a different top on some boards. Is this a reasonable approach?

When there are too many pairs to play all during the course of an evening (and not many clubs will play more than about 26 boards) what should be done? My solution would be to avoid great complication, to avoid very unfair movements and to avoid Howell movements, although the last is just my personal prejudice.

I don't think it is very satisfactory to have a different top on boards. For example, it is possible if you have 16

tables to break it into two eight-table sections, but that means two sets of boards and possible duplication problems.

At most clubs that I frequent they would just have 12 or 13 two-board rounds, with a bit of arrow switching near the end to produce a single winner. It is as good as anything. I suppose that very occasionally players will try to manipulate this by sitting in a position where they won't play against someone considered strong, but most people can't be bothered with this.

Victor Savage of Bourne End picks me up on an answer I made in a column some time ago, which was about actions following hesitations. In it I talked about the law (16A) and the test applied to whether actions are to be allowed, which is usually that the action taken must be clear-cut. This is often interpreted as being an action which at least 70% of the player's peers would find. Victor is not keen on this interpretation and goes into verse to make his point.

Art thou alert?
Proclaims the rap
As East, his partner's bid does tap
Stay not inert
Invite mishap
Fall into our subversive trap
Our bridge is on the Internet
Consult our web
See what you get

But be forewarned
If you respond
For East has waved his magic wand
As spiders weave their magic web
to catch the morning dew
But really catching flies, on gossamer
with glue
So ends my tale on bridge alerts
The province of some bridge experts

When a hesitation occurs in an auction, over and above that which might happen following a STOP card being produced, it is possible that the hesitator's partner may take some action that is not normal. If you call the director he will, as Victor says, turn to Law 16A,

which says in part 'the partner may not choose from amongst logical alternatives actions which have been suggested over another by the extraneous information'.

A classic example is an auction that starts with 1NT, followed by a very slow pass, often accompanied by some questions. When the next hand passes and it is fourth seat's turn to bid, what can he do? Anything is the simple answer, but if he chooses to bid on a four count, or double on an 11 count, then the question may arise as to whether he was taking advantage of his partner's out of tempo action.

It's quite easy when the actions are as extreme as the ones above, but many are more marginal and what directors and appeal committees usually do is to allow an action in such circumstances if they consider that a clear majority of equivalent players would take an identical or similar action. This is what is often colloquially known as the '70% rule'. When directors look at the laws they also look at the advice for their region. In England this is contained in a publication called the White Book and this provides guidance as to what may or may not be allowed. It's on the EBU website and on page 39 if you are very keen.

I got told off, says DLB of North London, for answering a question about my partner's bid by saying 'I'm taking it as forcing'. I was just trying to be helpful. What is the problem?

When an opponent asks a question he is seeking to know what your agreement is. He isn't entitled to know what is in your hand and you must not use your answer to give partner information and that is what you do when you use the phrase 'I'm taking it as...'. If you don't have an agreement then you should say just that, although you may be helpful by pointing out parallel positions where you do have an agreement. When you say, for example, 'I'm taking it as Blackwood' nobody will be in any doubt as to what your next bid means, whereas if you said, because it was a correct statement 'no agreement' then partner must guess rather than use your answer.

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.

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PRIZE DEFENCE ANSWERS

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

1)

♠ K Q 10 9 6
♥ A 8 7 5
♦ J
♣ A 6 5

♠ 8 5 4
♥ K 10 9
♦ K Q 10
♣ K Q 9 7

♠ A 7
♥ Q J 6 2
♦ 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 8

♠ J 3 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 9 7 5
♣ J 4 3 2

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

* 2♣ shows the major suits

When an opponent shows a two-suited hand it is quite common that his partner has reasonable support in one of the suits, but shortage in the other. It is often right to protect your side's assets by leading a trump.

You can see on this layout that provided the defenders lead trumps at every possible opportunity declarer is denied a heart ruff in his hand and held to seven tricks.

2)

♠ J 7
♥ 2
♦ Q 7 6 4 3
♣ Q 6 4 3 2

♠ K 8 2
♥ A Q 10 9 6 4
♦ J 5
♣ J 8

♠ 5 4
♥ K 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ A Q 10 9 6 3
♥ J 8 3
♦ A K
♣ A K

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

Your partner leads the ♠2, taken by dummy's ♠J. Declarer then calls for a heart from dummy.

Partner has done very well in leading a trump, cutting down ruffs in dummy. However, if he has led from a holding like ♠K 8 2 he cannot lead another trump without giving away his trump trick. You must rise with your ♥K and play your last trump.

3)

♠ K 4
♥ K J 9
♦ K Q J 10 3
♣ J 5 3

♠ J 8 5 3
♥ 5 3
♦ 2
♣ 9 8 7 6 4 2

♠ Q 10 9 7 6 2
♥ 6 2
♦ A 9 8
♣ A 10

♠ A
♥ A Q 10 8 7 4
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ K Q

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

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

It all looked so easy at the table: ♦A, diamond ruff and the ♣A. If partner happens to lead a club after ruffing a diamond, then a second diamond ruff might lead to two off. Dream on! When you give partner his diamond ruff you can only do so with a high diamond. It will appear to partner that you want a spade switch, particularly as you bid spades! If partner returns a spade declarer's two clubs are discarded on dummy's ♠K and dummy's fifth diamond. Be kind to partner! Cash the ♣A before giving him the diamond ruff!

And the winners are:

Open: Daniel Roth, Chigwell, Essex

Regional: Dave Ross, Swanmore, Hants

County: Geoff Lacey Harpenden, Herts

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4)

♠ 9 8
♥ K 8
♦ Q J 10 9 8
♣ K Q 4 2

♠ 10 5 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A 7 6 5
♣ 10 9 8

♠ 7 4
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ A J 5 3

♠ A K Q J 6
♥ Q J 10 9 7
♦ 4
♣ 7 6

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

Partner's ♠10 lead is covered by dummy's ♠K and taken by your ♣A.

Declarer has shown at least five-five shape in the majors. It doesn't look as though declarer will have any heart losers apart from the ace. In the unlikely event of partner having two trump tricks the contract will be defeated whatever you do. Otherwise you must hope that he has the ♦A. Suppose you switch to the ♦2. Partner wins the ♦A, but if he continues diamonds your king is forced and will be ruffed, allowing declarer to make his contract.

Better defence is to switch to the ♦K at trick two, followed by a low diamond. Declarer must ruff, otherwise he has four losers. However, when he forces out the ♥A you can persevere with your last diamond, promoting a length trump winner for your partner.

Bob Rowlands DOUBLES QUIZ Answers from page 31

Dealer West. Love All

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	2♣	?

(a) ♠A 9 6 3 ♥K 8 6 4 ♦A 8 6 5 ♣2
Double – You would like more high card points, but if you pass partner will be most unlikely to reopen if West passes.

(b) ♠A 6 ♥Q J 10 8 5 ♦Q J 10 8 5 ♣3
2NT – Showing at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits. If East-West

bid on you hope partner can contest with three-card support or better in either red suit and moderate values.

(c) ♠K 7 5 3 ♥A J 2 ♦K Q J 9 7 ♣8
Double – Safer to offer a choice of suits than put all your eggs in one basket with a 2♦ overcall.

(d) ♠A 5 ♥Q 8 ♦Q 9 7 5 3 ♣K J 3 2
Pass – A 2♦ overcall might work, but it is better to pass. If West passes, North, who is short in clubs, will probably reopen.

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COUNTY NEWS

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters

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Mr P Sutcliffe of Suffolk

Master Point promotions

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2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr P J Smith
1 Star Master
Ms M Williams
County Master
Mrs M M Morgan-Jones
District Master
Mr G Whyte
Bedfordshire National Master
Mrs A Chester
Mr R Chester
6 Star Regional Master
Mrs B G Taylor
Master
Mr R Lawton
County Master
Mr R Gower
Mrs L Smith
District Master
Mr P J Dredge
Mrs V Eaton
Mr P Garthwaite
Club Master
Dr J M Cordell
Mr J A Saul
Berks & Bucks Premier National Master
Mr N Dent
National Master
Mrs L E Randall
13 Star Premier Master
Mr PA Wilson
3 Star Premier Master
Ms J Rutherford
Premier Master
Mr R Donnelly
Mr A Wallen
Mr M Wilkinson
1 Star Tournament Master
Dr G Sankey
5 Star Master
Mr PH Dickson
4 Star Master
Mr K D Casey
3 Star Master
Mrs B M Hughes
2 Star Master
Mr DW Elford
Mrs RHC Foxwell
Mrs J Johnson
Mr KN Simpson
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Mrs C Barker
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Mr M Jennings
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Mr G Fuhrmann
Mrs T J Hamilton
Mrs A Marchetti
Mrs B B Mayfield
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Mr D Faria
Dr NG Lambert
Mrs B Milling
Smith
Mr J Paul
Mr T G Pointer
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Mrs E B Wallen
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Mrs S Lancaster
4 Star Master
Mr MW Fellows
3 Star Master
Mrs A Green
1 Star Master
Mr DA Williams
County Master
Mr D Hubbard
Mr A Murphy
Mr B Stevenson
District Master
Mr C F Hadley
Mr R Salmon
Dr A D Tasker
Channel Islands 1 Star Premier Regional Master
Miss J Watts-Wakeham
County Master
Mrs P W Bowen
Mrs M Thompson
Cornwall 5 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs JA Law
10 Star Regional Master
Mr N Grenfell

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk

THE county pairs final at Bristol Bridge Club attracted an entry of 12 tables and was played over 46 boards. The result was a win for Maureen Mobley and Patricia Holland, with Katy Lee and Dan McIntosh second and Alan Jones and Mike Bell third. These three pairs qualify to represent Avon in the Corwen Trophy.

Many congratulations to Maureen and Trish from the Bath club on their fine win and to the two junior pairs who finished second and third. Performances like this offer real hope for the future of bridge in Avon.

The county inter-club simultaneous pairs was held at the Bath, Bristol, Tudor and West of England clubs, attracting a total entry of 94 pairs. The leading positions were as follows 1 Paul Keighley and Peter Sampson (Bath), 2 Robert Glass and Tony Gammon (West of England), 3 Jeremy Rickard and Irene Robinson (West of England). Thanks go to David Jones for organising the event and writing the commentary.

The county leagues are in full swing. In league one the front-running team is Andrew Smith, Cathy and Ralph Smith and Steve Tomlinson. League two is the most competitive, with the teams led by Damian Nicholls, Eric Page and Pat Chant closely bunched at the top of the table. League three has John Doran, James Dunlop, Mike Huggins, Irene Robinson and Chris Jones holding a significant lead.

In the Western League Avon is performing well in the A and C divisions but poorly in the B. Congratulations to A team men Brian Dyde and Peter Sherry, who have played in all three winning teams this season and to Tim Butler and Jack Terry who have achieved similar success in division three.

In the Crockfords Cup the Avon team of Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson and Steve Turner is through to the fourth round after knocking out the Solomon team from Devon.

In the East Wales Swiss teams Mike Elliott, playing with Welsh teammates, finished in a fine second place and was in contention throughout the 13-round event that was contested by 57 teams.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk

COUNTY competitions continue to attract a better attendance and it has been good to see some new faces.

Well done to our recent winners and runners-up: mixed pairs 1 Lynne Emmett and Ron Davis, 2 Margaret Jones and Alf Hitchcock, 3 Monica Lucy and Peter Coles; inter-club teams of eight 1 Bedford A (Brian and Barbara Taylor, Brian and Maureen Stairs, Alan Cooke, Maris Sheppard, Monica Lucy and Peter Coles), 2 Milton Keynes B (Stewart

Pye, Christopher Challinor, Tim Sharrock, Bernard O'Connor, Derek and Janet Marsh, Alan and Sheila Caves); One Star pairs final 1 Eric Mason and Tony Dyer, 2 Colin O'Hara and Peter Scott; 3 Tony Drakard and Peter Dredge.

BBA county league: Spartak Kempston leads division one with 86, from Tudor Rose 82; Late Entry leads division two with 71, from Tetrad 67 and Langlin leads division three with 94, from Bedford School's Ousels with 62.

In the semi-finals of the Knockout Cup Spartak Kempston beat Ousels 116-52 and Exiles beat Square Dealers 76-51.

Congratulations to all concerned on successes further afield. In the Porthcawl Congress Rita and Brian Keable were third in the mixed pairs and third in the championship teams. Julie Abley was fourth in the Little Dragon pairs and fifth in the championship teams (with Steve Abley and team-mates from Hertfordshire). At Milton Keynes Stewart Pye was first in the men's pairs and Val Lawson and Jackie Davies were third in the pivot teams and in the Prince of Wales teams.

At the London Year End Congress Jane and David Jensen were placed eighth in the mixed pairs and Jon Williams was third in the men's pairs.

At the Cyprus Overseas Congress Mike and Val Lawson achieved fifth place in the Swiss pairs and eighth in the Swiss teams.

Other results: Julie Abley sixth in the National Swiss teams, Rita Keable and Monica Lucy fifth in the National women's pairs and Ron Davis and Alan Oddie fourth in the National men's pairs.

At Harrogate Congress Alan Oddie and Jon Williams were winners in the Swiss teams, with Ron Davis in the team placed third.

Diary dates: April 15 county pairs semi-final, final and consolation plate, Wiltstead; May 10 AGM and simultaneous Pairs, Wiltstead; May 13 Green Point Swiss teams, Luton; June 14 restricted pairs.

Berks and Bucks

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

IN division one of the league of eight New Amersham A won their first five matches, but Reading A had played more matches and were just ahead on victory points. In division two Burnham A won their first six matches, but still had a lower victory point average than Thame A, who had then played only three matches. 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.

The county is keen to include new members on its committees. If you are interested, or would like some more information first, please contact one of the officers or a committee member.

Friendly Swiss pairs 1 Judith Young and Simon Kilgour, 2 Addis Page and

Liz Hayton, 3 Keith Goswell and Elaine Lloyd; mixed pairs 1 Derek and Celia Oram, 2 Joan Murphy and Chris Burley, 3 Sandra Belcher and Philip Thornton; county pairs final 1 Chris Burley and Ed Scerri, 2 Addis Page and Nigel Lancaster, 3 Kevin Elstow and Philip Thornton, 4 Joyce Baldock and Barry Read; county pairs plate 1 Bob Kozlowski and Alex Jenkins, 2 David Barnes and Nigel Guthrie, 3 Alan Boothroyd and David Hudson, 4 Keith Goswell and Lee Duff.

Diary dates: April 18 novice pairs at SBBC; April 25 seniors' pairs at SBBC; April 29 friendly pairs; May 13 ladies' pairs and men's pairs; May 22 invitation teams, Berks v Bucks; June 3 Swiss teams and AGM.

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

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba

BRIDGE has been very quiet in Jersey since Christmas, but the district ladies' pairs was won by Celia Skinner and Gill Pitcher, with Jane Watts-Wakeham and Kay Johns runners-up. Harold Walden and Peter Pitcher won the district men's pairs, ahead of John Honey and David Humpleby.

The Winter Cup is run over a period of seven months and the average of the best five scores, each with a different partner, determines the winner. The final placings were 1 Marion Miles, 2 Chris Hill, 3 Howard Basden-Smith.

Meanwhile in Guernsey the finalists for the county teams have been established. In the quarter-finals James Fattorini, Clarice Alder, Cliff Drillot, Kath Evans and Geoff Clarke scored a good win over one of the favourites, Robert Plumley, Susie Farnon, Lynda Mildon and Colin Tostevin, by just three imps, while Dick Langham, Rudi Falla, Lynne Williamson, John Seymour and Brenda Walker had a comfortable win over Ian Monahan, Alastair Kent, Martin Jones, Mike Baine and Hugh Bacon by 61 imps. In the semi-finals Langham beat Fattorini by 34 imps and now await the Jersey team to contest the final in April.

The Guernsey open pairs championship has also been played and the result was 1 Ian Monahan and Alastair Kent, 2 Dick Langham and Rudi Falla 3 Brenda Lihou and Brenda Walker.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freeserve.co.uk

THE Cornish bridge year began with the Falmouth Salver, an open pairs event in which Bill Berks and Graham Buck retained the trophy. Richard Draycott and Dennis Stephens were second, with Ann James and Liz Williams third.

The Tredova Cup, for players with fewer than 10,000 local points, was retained by Viv Mably and Celia Bishop, with an impressive 72.62%. Val Wodehouse and Evelyn Knight were second and Rosemary Bradshaw and

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5 Star Master

Mr J Turner

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Mrs C Edwards

Mr I D Kay

Master

Mr C Hamilton

Derbyshire

Premier National

Master

Mr JW Calladine

Premier Regional

Master

Mr G Watson

4 Star Regional

Master

Mrs M Hallam

3 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J Floutier

Premier Master

Mr R Horsley

4 Star Master

Mr G Jackson

County Master

Mr S Barlow

Devon

Premier National

Master

Mr T Treeby

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr AN Rainford

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J M Crabtree

5 Star Premier

Master

Mrs P Avery

Premier Master

Mr F White

4 Star

Tournament

Master

Mr O F Amor

5 Star Master

Mrs J Algar

4 Star Master

Mr P J Lucas

3 Star Master

Mr S Dooley

Mrs BM Hawkyard

2 Star Master

Mr R F Harriott

Advanced Master

Mr N Massey

Master

Mr R F Luckham

Mr J Maynard

County Master

Mrs T Baker

Mr O C Box

Mrs A Russell

Mrs J Stephens

District Master

Mrs C Crocker

Ms B J Davies

Mrs I B Dawes

Dr J P B Sandall

Club Master

Mr R Williams

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Mr A M Best

Dorset

National Master

Ms S R Donner

6 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs C Hillyard

4 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs J Smith

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs I Button

4 Star Regional

Master

Mr M Gore

3 Star Premier

Master

Major HT Walker

Advanced Master

Mr JRF Crouch

Master

Mr P Murdoch

District Master

Mr G J Dean

Essex

7 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr B West

13 Star Premier

Master

Mr ET Field

2 Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs M Woolf

1 Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs P Nicklin

Tournament

Master

Mrs P E Read

5 Star Master

Mrs SA Goulden

4 Star Master

Mr D S Chandler

Mr S Margutti

Mr L Panter

Mrs C Wallace

2 Star Master

Mrs S Eggelhoefer

Mrs M Kakoullis

Mrs CL McCue

1 Star Master

Mrs V Dyson

Mr J Sitch

Advanced Master

Ms R Myers

Mr S R Timmis

Master

Mrs R Abel

Mr M Goodey

Mr K Hosking

County Master

Mrs M Brockes

Mr R Bush

Mr B

Challingsworth

Mrs B Cornell

Mrs C Mann

Mr M Offen

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Ms S Sayer

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Mrs J C Sanis

6 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr AEM Pritchett

7 Star Premier

Master

Mr A H Fatemian

1 Star Premier

Master

Mr M J Lewis

Tournament

Master

Mrs G V Grant

Duff

County Master

Mr W Miles

Ms JB O'Riordan

Hants and IOW

Life Master

Mrs M Lawson

Mrs C Ray

National Master

Mr A W Bennett

1 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs PM Brooks

5 Star Regional

Master

Mrs RG Kirby

4 Star Regional

Master

Miss P A Lee

Mr N S Vernon

7 Star Premier

Master

Mr P Aubeck

5 Star Premier

Master

Mrs E M Stewart

3 Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs M Parlour

Tournament

Master

Dr K Jerram

5 Star Master

Mrs J Buckel

Mrs JR Lake

Mrs B J Sanders

3 Star Master

Mrs B Jones

2 Star Master

Mrs MP Lucas

Mr B S

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Mrs L Mellor

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Mr A A Brewster

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Mrs R Moore

Club Master

Mr J Finch

Herefordshire

12 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J B Holder

2 Star Premier

Master

Dr C J Thomas

1 Star Premier

Master

Mr M Green

3 Star Master

Mr H R Cleveland

1 Star Master

Mrs D Bourne

Advanced Master

Mr R B Shuttler

Mr P Timms

Master

Mrs C Timms

Mrs C Williams

County Master

Mr R Cottam

Mr RA Ellis

Sir N Harington

Mrs J Kingston

Mr A J Teale

District Master

Mrs M Eaton

Mr J H Meredith

Mrs J Muller

Club Master

Mr P Robbins

Mrs A Taylor

Hertfordshire

1 Star Regional

Master

Mr C G Chowney

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr R J Hiron

1 Star

Tournament

Master Point promotions

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Mrs Y M Bain

Kent

Life Master
Dr M Alcalay

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Mrs M A White

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Mrs G Harland-Fisher
Ms S M Starkey

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Hamilton, equal 3 Marion and Mike Kelsey, Mike Smith and Andrew Leslie.

The final of the Devon pairs (Julia Chadwick Trophy) was won by Jim Grant and Stefan Lindfors, with Ann Slee and Peter Bowles second and John Beard and Mike Hamon third. These three pairs qualify to represent Devon in the Corwen Trophy in June.

Diary dates: April 13-15 Devon County Congress, Toorak Hotel Torquay; May 11-13 North Devon Weekend, Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple.

Dorset

www.dorsetbridge.org.uk

DON'T forget to enter our first Bournemouth Green Point Swiss teams on June 17 at Bournemouth University. Please also support our forthcoming county events.

Congratulations to Margot Wilson and John Gardner who, with Sheila Evans and Dennis Hoey, finished second in the Cyprus Congress Swiss teams and a creditable 12th in the Swiss pairs. Also to Harold Wayne and Janet Smith, who came third in the Year End Congress mixed pairs, and to Harold Wayne on becoming a Grand Master.

The following Dorset pairs had great success in the BGB National simultaneous pairs: 1 Brian Browne and John Askew, 2 Keith Bartlett and Ann Sharples, 7 Tricia and Stewart Farrington and 12 Janet Smith and Claire Hillyard.

County results: ladies' pairs 1 Rosemary Burditt and Inga-Lill Button, 2 Dawn Gladwinfield and Mooneen Potter, 3 Helen Ackroyd and Ann Sharples; men's pairs 1 Miles Cowling and Martin Brook, 2 Roy Riley and Christopher Denton, 3 John Howitt and Harold Wayne; Chope Salver 1 Miles Cowling and Daphne Philipps, 2 Patrick Cheu and Adrienne Trayler, 3 Janet Smith and Michael Gore; Frost Rose Bowl 1 Michael Organ, Helen Ackroyd, Ann Sharples and Clive Russell, 2 Margot Wilson, John Gardner, Pete Mallett and Hugh Kevill-Davies, 3 Phil and Jo Norman, Guy Lawrenson and Daphne Philipps.

National pairs qualifier: 1 Lesley Lewis and Dave Willis, 2 Patrick Cheu and Adrienne Trayler, equal 2 Daphne Philipps and Martin Brook, 4 Ann Sharples and Helen Ackroyd. These pairs qualify to play in the regional final.

Knight Cup final 1 Miles Cowling and Daphne Philipps, 2 Hilary Brain and Chris Stevens, 3 Clive Russell and Keith Bartlett. Consolation Pairs 1 Judy and Joe Petran, 2 Patrick Cheu and Adrienne Trayler, 3 Jan Green and Pat Savage.

The teams of Miles Cowling and Ann Sharples will contest the county knockout final.

Diary dates: April 1 AGM, prize-giving and Gee Trophy, Allendale BC; May 20 Udall Trophy, Bournemouth BC, Kinson; June 3 Allendale Trophy, Allendale BC.

Essex



Essex players Margaret Curtis and David Sherman, winners of the Swiss pairs in the Year End Congress in London, receive their trophy from EBU official Roland Bolton.

www.essexbridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret Curtis and David Sherman on winning the Swiss pairs at the London Year End Congress against very strong opposition. In the ladies' pairs Nicole Cook, playing with Christine Duckworth, came third.

In the February EBU Congress in Cyprus Sue and Chris Taylor were runners-up in the Swiss pairs, as were Margaret Curtis and Val Mollison in the ladies' pairs.

Essex players had some good results in the BGB winter sims. David Clark and Ray Cornell (Hutton BC) won the Monday event, with Paul Nettingham and Mike Stribling (Woodham Ferrers BC) third. In the Tuesday event Ross and June Steele (Felsted BC) were 10th and in the Wednesday event Mike Madden and Alan Phillips (M and B BC) were 11th.

Results of recent Essex competitions are as follows: Essex Swiss Pairs 1 Chris Megahey and Alaric Cundy, 2 Peter Oake and Tessa Beer, 3 Phil Collier and Peter Scotting; National pairs heat 1 David Piper and Frank Morrison, 2 Rob Elliott and Sandy Riach, 3 Ray Cornell and Tessa Beer; Helliard Trophy 1 Waltham Forest A (Anne Catchpole, Colin Hepworth, Ken Rolph, Phil Mattacks), 2 Loughton B (Michael Watson, Jacek Lapszys, Lawrence Raven, Alan Stanley), 3 Loughton A (Patrick O'Gara, Wendy Coldham, John Mansfield, Pat Watson); Loughton BC thereby qualified to represent Essex in the Garden Cities Trophy; Essex non expert pairs 1 Chris and Barbara Ide, 2 Tony and Lyn Falder, 3 Neina and David Ellis.

Apologies to Carol and Trevor Archer, who were reported in the last issue as being second in the intermediate level of the novices pairs, when they were in fact joint winners.

Diary dates: April 1 Essex pairs; April 22 Essex Spring novices; May 12 Essex AGM.

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk

MANY congratulations to the Gloucestershire team on winning the

2007 Tollemache - the first success for the county in this prestigious event after finishing a close second in 2006. Representing Gloucestershire were Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Richard Butland, John Atthey, Richard Chamberlain, Andrew Kambites, Graham Sadie, Joe Angseesing, John Rookwood and Derek Rue, with Judy Sanis as npc and Anne Swannell as scorer. There is a report of the event on page 27.

Congratulations also to Dan Mackintosh, a member of the England under 20 team that won the Peggy Bayer Trophy and to 16-year-old Fred Piper who, playing with his father, has qualified to represent Gloucestershire in the Corwen.

These are two more young students of Andrew Kambites, who has had remarkable success in producing fine young bridge players for county and country.

In the Midland Counties league against Staffordshire the Dawes team lost 16-4 to sink to the bottom of the table, but some honour was saved by the Porter team winning 20-0 and the Markham winning 12-8, thereby moving both off the bottom of their respective tables.

Apologies for the recent non appearance of these notes, but the following results hopefully bring us up to date: men's pairs 1 Alan Wearmouth and Tony Hill, 2 David Atthey and George Barrett, 3 Dan Mackintosh and James Rogers; ladies' pairs 1 Pam Pearce and Lindsey Geddes, 2 Judy Sanis and Lesley Harrison, 3 Anne Swannell and Wendy Angseesing; Lesley Everett inter-county invitational teams 1 Alex Selsby, Anne Swannell, Joan and Geoff Peel; Bredon Vale inter-club 1 North Cotswold A (Robbie Kingston, Roy Walker, Alison McLelland and David Cook); Ace of Clubs pairs 1 John Councer and Chris Smith (Southam), 2 Jane Rowley and Roger Nicholls (Cheltenham), 3 Brian Foster and Ken Perry (Cheltenham); County pairs final 1 Graham Sadie and Patrick Shields, 2 Paul Ford and Guy Vandergucht, 3 Fred and Nigel Pitel; Individual 1 Lindsey Stewart, 2 Norah Allen, 3 Hilary Lawrence; No Fear pairs 1 John Botting and Anne Wilkinson, 2 Alan Lamb and Jeanette Simon, 3 Ralph Brooks and Rob Small.

Successes outside the county include Oxford Green Point Swiss teams 1 Kanwar Rahim, Stan Powell, Mike Wignall and Mark Rogers; Blackpool Year End Congress Swiss pairs 2 Alan Wearmouth and Tony Hill; Seniors Congress Daventry Swiss pairs 2 Joan and Geoff Peel.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Norman Roberts at the age of 89. Norman was president of the GCBA from 1989-1991, a committee member for a number of years and ran the North Gloucestershire clubs league for 10 years. Although he retired from active participation in GCBA activities a few years ago, in his time he made a valuable contribution to running Gloucestershire bridge. He continued to run Stroud BC until recently.

Diary dates: April 15 Cotswold

Master Point promotions

Tournament Master

Mrs D Barclay
2 Star Master
Mrs G Leigh
Master
Mr P Reynolds
County Master
Mr R Shelley

London

Life Master
Ms J de Botton
Premier National Master
Ms R White
1 Star Premier
Regional Master
Dr L Ziyal
Premier
Regional Master
Mr S S Gillis

2 Star Regional Master

Mr M A Davies
2 Star Premier
Master
Mr D Strawbridge

Premier Master

Mr M Clack
Mrs B Macdougall
Mr N D Tomkin

2 Star Master

Mr R C F Russell
1 Star Master
Mr D P Pinto

Advanced Master

Mrs L B Silver
County Master
Mr D Bennett

District Master

Mr P Laing
Mr B McCarron

Club Master

Ms M Doi
Mrs DA Friedman
Mr RS Friedman
Ms H Fukushige
Mr A E Levi
Mrs E Michalski
Mrs S Nurock

Manchester

Grand Master
Mr M G Byrne

Premier National Master

Mr P E Foster
National Master
Mr A Morris

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs L Furnival
2 Star Master
Mrs E Duncleley
Mr TN Wild

1 Star Master

Mrs L Williams
Advanced
Master
Mr M Noronha

Master

Mr P M Green
Mr D G J Matthews

County Master

Mr N G Matthews
District Master
Mr M A Jabbar

Club Master

Mr N King

Merseyside/Cheshire

Premier National Master

Mr D Edwards
Premier
Regional Master
Ms B Serres

1 Star Regional Master

Mr R G Cowie
Regional Master
Ms M Howe

2 Star Master

Mr JA Gorman
Advanced
Master
Mrs B P Richards
Dr P M Wright

County Master

Mr H Brewster

Middlesex

Life Master

Mrs D B Miller
National Master
Mr I F Plewis

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs D Lee
Mr M R Lee

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs D Stein
Premier Master
Mr P Breakell

5 Star Master

Mr A C Ioannou
1 Star Master
Mr M Cohen

County Master

Mrs E A Stevens
Mr CT Williams

Advanced Master

Mr G J Ellis
County Master
Mr E Black

District Master

Mrs R Panchamia
Mr M Wilkenfeld

Club Master

Mr T Wheatley
Mrs D Golend

Norfolk

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs J A Thompson
5 Star Regional
Master
Mr AJ Kimbley

2 Star Regional Master

Mr I C Smith
27 Star Premier
Master
Mr M J Connolly

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr A Brown
Mr DWC Thompson
Mr PE Whittley

Tournament Master

Mr P C Cotes
4 Star Master
Mrs H Gaskin
Mr P Sutton

3 Star Master

Mrs K Liversidge

Cup; May 4-6 Cheltenham Congress; May 31 AGM and mixed pairs.

Hants and IOW

www.hantsbridge.org



AS usual the county bridge year will end with the AGM and Finale pairs. The latter consists of a ranked competition divided into three parts, with division three giving the opportunity for players of Club Master, County Master and Master status to enjoy county bridge without having to face top opposition. Nevertheless this has been the least well attended of the divisions, so more support is welcome. Come along on June 10 and remind your friends about it too.

A topic currently under discussion is that of the plated teas provided at county events. Do you like having them or would you prefer a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit?

Please give your opinions to any committee member and come to the AGM to let the committee know your views on any county matter. A snack lunch is provided, so please give an hour or two of your time before the bridge starts.

It is also the time for trophy presentations. If you are a winner, but cannot attend, please see if you can arrange for someone to collect for you.

County results: Lincoln mixed pairs 1 Eleanor Rice and Stuart Strachan, 2 Chris and Richard Ray, 3 Janet Smith and Geoff Bailey; Midwinter mini-Swiss teams 1 Jeremy Baker, Andy Hughes, Fred Smith and Fred Hotchen, 2 Bob McRobert, Sheila Stubbins, Steve Turner and Steve Tomlinson, 3 Mark Hooper, Deborah Berwitz, Mike Pownall and Martin Brook; Candlestick pairs 1 John Jones and Bo Deyal, 2 Chris and Richard Ray, 3 Sandra Ruffell and Mary Lucas; IBM sim pairs 1 Julie and Andy Tilling, 2 Philip Shotton and Rick Assad, 3 Jim Gillespie and Geoff Lewis; Valentine Swiss teams 1 Tricia Brooks, Marian Rudd, Nigel Whiteman and Jim Finch, 2 Clare and Ian Fearon, Rosemary and David Spencer, 3 John Jones, Mac Nurmohamed, Madeline Lawson and Stuart Strachan; Pivot teams 1 Chris and Richard Ray, Steve Preston and Mike Fithyan, 2 Steve Howell, Jan Whitehouse, Marian Stevens and Sula Turpin, 3 Bill and Barbara Boswell, Celia Carter and Brian Stapleton.

Diary dates: April 15 Pottage final 1pm) and Farley Trophy consolation pairs 1.30pm; April 22 Phillip Graham Swiss teams; April 28 Petersfield Swiss pairs (entries to Maureen Rubra 01730 263396); May 6 Ladies' and men's teams; May 13 Green Point Swiss teams, Winchester (entries to Marian Rudd 01264 333847 or marian37@waitrose.com); May 20 Hill Head mini-Swiss teams; June 10 AGM noon)/Finale pairs 2pm.

All the above will be held in Romsey starting at 2pm unless otherwise listed. Entries to Lillian Craigen 02380 254276 or events2@hantsbridge.org

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to the Hereford Bridge Club team of Bob Underhill, Peter Bellamy, Pat Jenkins and Ian Murray-Watson who, for the second year running, won the Newent Bowl, an annual Swiss teams event organised by the Newent Bridge Club in Gloucestershire. Back-to-back wins in Swiss teams events are rare and the players deserve special applause for their consistency.

Also consistent are Ben and Tom Paske, who continue to do well as a part of the English under 20 squad. Following their contribution to England's second place in the Channel Trophy in Lille, they were in the England team which won the Peggy Bayer Trophy, the annual competition between under 20s teams from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This event saw their first appearance on Vugraph.

Last year's Green Point weekend at Ross-on-Wye, jointly organised by Herefordshire BA and Gloucestershire CBA, was a great success despite the exceptional heat. Space is limited, so early entry to this year's events on June 16 and 17 is strongly advised. Last year some late applicants had to be turned away. See diary dates below.

County competitions: National pairs heat 1 N Edmondson and N Downes, 2 M Ralph and T Truluck, 3 P Watts and D Weller; No Fear teams (no more than one player ranked Advanced Master or above) 1 S Weller, S Dowle, R Wilson and J Dowle, 2 P Holbrook, E Warrington, R Malim and J Pugh, 3 J Foot, P Shaw, J Brent and M Panniers; Swiss pairs for the Bulmer Rose Bowl 1 S and D Munday, 2 J Crowe and N Shorrick, 3 L Delahay and J Baker.

Diary dates: April 16 Ace of Spades (for players with Master Point ranking below Advanced Master), Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye 7pm; April 21 championship pairs and mixed pairs, Tarrington Community Hall 10.30am; May 11 inter-club teams, round five, Ledbury Community Centre 7pm; May 20 Herefordshire open teams, Tarrington Community Centre, 2pm; June 16 HBA and GCBA Green Point weekend Swiss pairs, Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye 1pm; June 17 HBA and GCBA Green Point weekend Swiss teams, Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye 11am.

Hertfordshire

www.hertsbridge.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE qualified for the final of the Tollmache Cup for the first time in more than 20 years. Congratulations to the team of Sally Bennett, John Cuthbert, Dave Dickson, Anne Flockhart, Vernon Gaskell, Malcolm Harris, Alan Kay, Celia and Derek Oram and Dave Walker. In the final the team came a very creditable fifth.

In the Year End Congress at London Alan Kay, playing with Heather

Dhondy, was fifth in the Swiss pairs. Alan was also second in the men's pairs, with Malcolm Harris third. Celia Oram was eighth in the ladies' pairs.

In the National Swiss teams Alan Kay was third, Malcolm Harris, Rick Irwin, Maria Budd and Julie Abley were sixth and Derek and Celia Oram eighth.

In the Cyprus Congress Sheila Evans and Dennis Hoey were part of the team that finished second in the Swiss teams.

Local events: Swiss pairs for the John Horsley Trophy 1 Maria Budd and Malcolm Harris, 2 Andrew Doye and Rob Cookson, 3 Anne Flockhart and Roger Gibbons; Hertfordshire GolfPrint Trophy heat 1 Malcolm Landau, Beatrice Fess, Howard Levene and Stewart Wiseman, 2 Gill Burn, Audrey Batten, John and Gill Sefton, 3 Therese Shand and Norma Reynolds, Wendy Leverett and Sally Pool; Eccles Cup club teams 1 St Albans, 2 Hemel Hempstead, 3 Park Street; Eccles Cup pairs 1 Roger and Janet Thornhill, 2 Ian Grant and Brian Carroll, 3 Martin Melhuish and Alex Kent.

The leading qualifiers for the championship pairs final are 1 Celia and Derek Oram, 2 Ian Grant and Brian Carroll, 3 Roger Edmonds and Derek Peers.

In the Humble Cup final Derek and Celia Oram, John Cuthbert and Sally Bennett take on Paul Littlewood, Bob Turnham, Karima Basse and Roy Button.

Cadet pairs 1 David Ellam and Sally Miles, 2 Phil Cooper and Simon Jarvis, 3 Peter Grice and John Crosher; HBA simultaneous pairs 1 Tony Beck and Alan McMullen, 2 Shirley Brooke and Bonnie Williams, 3 George Singer and Hermann Hirschberger; Rose Bowl 1 Barbara Kime, Bob Turnham, Sheila Evans and Bill Blackman, 2 Bill Thurl, Francis Eddleston, Simon Mostyn and Malcolm Rosenblatt, 3 Martin and Bobbie Rodney, Maria and Simon Budd.

Diary dates: April 3 Seniors pairs (with buffet lunch); April 15 championship pairs final; April 20 cadet teams; May 20 AGM, followed by mixed teams. Contact Mike Minting at mike@mintingm.freeserve.co.uk to book these events.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



MANY congratulations to Christine Kempton and Marion Hunt on coming second in the National women's pairs.

Secretary Brian Crack has been elected to co vice-chairman of the EBU tournaments committee and as you are all aware had a great deal of influence in organising the March bracketed Swiss teams in Canterbury.

Although Rachael King has decided to resign from the EBU panel and as Kent CBA chief tournament director, She has agreed to run our two Green Point events this year. The committee wishes to thank Rachael for all her

Master Point promotions

2 Star Master Mr P Lofting	9 Star Regional Master Mrs K Armstrong
1 Star Master Mr M Butler	5 Star Regional Master Mrs C S Green
Mr RB Grimsdick	4 Star Regional Master Mrs N J
Mrs P Howard	Cockerill-Smith
Mrs GM Hubbard	Mr M Richardson
Advanced Master Mr DA Ellis	2 Star Regional Master Mrs V Ireland
Miss S Moorby	12 Star Premier Master Mrs T Wilkinson
Mr TL Stiles	Mr T Wilkinson
Master Mr M Bean	9 Star Premier Master Mr J Scott
Mr M Bell	8 Star Premier Master Mr C Stenning
Mr TA Payne	7 Star Premier Master Mrs L Oliver
Mr AG Thurston	6 Star Premier Master Mrs A P Boardman
County Master Mrs JS Allen	Mr RA Jackson
Mrs J Pamplin	Mrs B Seery
Mr M Pamplin	4 Star Premier Master Mr C Singh
Mrs R Semmence	3 Star Premier Master Mrs P Graham
District Master Ms F Bradford	Mrs P Procter
Mr A Geschke	1 Star Premier Master Mrs B Kirkland
Mr T S Hubbard	4 Star Tournament Master Mrs M Wilson
Mr G Ip	1 Star Tournament Master Mrs J Lormor
Club Master Mr PA Brett	Tournament Master Mrs AL Laws
Ms M Culmer	5 Star Master Mrs JR Anderson
Northamptonshire	4 Star Master Mr H Wood
4 Star Regional Master Mr R Stacey	3 Star Master Mrs P Niven
2 Star Regional Master Mr I Blackburn	Mr G F Young
1 Star Regional Master Mr B Chadwick	2 Star Master Mr S Hetherington
10 Star Premier Master Mr B Alston	1 Star Master Mrs C M Bruce
4 Star Premier Master Mrs R Stewart	Mrs M Dodds
2 Star Premier Master Mr R A King	Dr PA Dodds
Mrs J Swannell	Dr R G Farquharson
5 Star Master Mrs P Marsh	Mrs P Gill
3 Star Master Mrs AV Evans	Mr J L Gray
Mrs B Norman	Mr R G Hornsey
2 Star Master Mr G W Lott	Mr P Johnson
1 Star Master Mrs V Walker	Mrs E Staincliffe
Advanced Master Mr I Chacksfield	Mr E Thompson
North East Premier Life Master Mr MH Stanbury	Advanced Master Mr D Brickland
Premier National Master Mr N Gray	Mr A Scott
Mr J McCourt	Mr R E Steel
7 Star Premier Regional Master Mrs W A Stevenson	Mrs A Waite
2 Star Premier Regional Master Miss A Caygill	Mrs M Watson
12 Star Regional Master Mr J Atkinson	
Dr IN Gordon	

hard work on behalf of the association. The competitions season has started well, with much positive feedback on 11am starts and provision of a quality lunch. Although playing numbers have remained stable we hope these improvements will enhance the playing experience and encourage larger fields.

Kent men's and the women's pairs competitions were keenly contested with numbers slightly up on last year. Congratulations to Brian Crack and Dean Mortlock, who won the men's pairs and to Brenda Tolhurst and Janet Rumsey who won the women's pairs.

Congratulations to Colin Maher and Tony Baber, winners of the Kent seniors' pairs competition.

The team of Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior, Malcolm and Karen Pryor came second in the Sussex New Year Swiss teams, as they did 12 months earlier.

Finally, congratulations to the Chislehurst team of Brian Grimwood, Yanne Green, John Chapman and Simon Smollet, who won the Kent heat for the GolfPrint Trophy and came second in the South East regional final.

Ashford Bridge Club's annual open Swiss teams drew 21 entries and was won by Nicky Adamson, Peter Law, Denis O'Donovan and Frank Wright, with Steve Auchterlonie, Richard Browne, Bob Jones and Dean Mortlock second, Diana Avis, Brian and Pat Crack and Colin Wilson third and Malcolm Judge, Margery Rumbelow and Keith and Jan Salvage fourth.

Diary dates: April 15 Kent pairs championship and No Fear (non-expert) pairs; June 10 knockout novice teams-of-eight and Kent leagues play-off; June 17 Green Point Swiss pairs 1pm; July 15 Kent AGM and Phillimore Cup. All events at Tunbridge Wells at 11am unless otherwise stated.

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



WOULD members please note that the Lancashire CBA AGM takes place at Bolton Bridge Club on May 21 at 7.30pm.

Congratulations go to Wigan BC on winning the Lancashire association's teams-of-eight competition. Wigan will now represent Lancashire in the Garden Cities Trophy. The team comprised Azam Khan, Iqbal Ahmed, Jean McWilliam, Beroose Ahmed, Mike Nicholson, Des King, Dipak Banerjee and Derek Spoor. Second place went to the Brierfield A team of Brian Irlam, Mildred Newman, Megan Taft, Dorothy Gilbert, Tony and Rosemary Price, Carol Croasdale and Nalini Dewan, with third spot filled by Southport A (Bill Carr, Ray Parkinson, George and Maureen McConkey, Sue Fjortoft, Monica Cartwright, Glenn Oliver and Hettie Sutton).

Lancashire Butler pairs 1 Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield, 2 Alex and Tony Wilkinson, 3 Neil Thomas and Gillian McMullan; Lancashire Evening Post pairs 1 Nick and Sue Woodcock, 2 John

Warner and Bob Parkinson, 3 John Morrell and Alan Whittam; Lancashire championship pairs 1 Mike Nicholson and Steve Haley; 2 Jack Johnstone and Ruth Henig, 3 Bill Carr and Ray Parkinson, 4 Barrie and Julia Newall.

Diary dates: April 6-8 EBU Easter Festival, Blackpool Hilton; April 15 LCBA ladies' and men's pairs, Bolton BC; April 21-22 National pairs final, Kettering; May 7 Mayday Swiss pairs, Merseyside Bridge Centre; May 12-13 Green Point weekend, Risley; May 19 Garden Cities regional final, Bradford BC; May 20 Blackburn Swiss pairs, Blackburn BC; May 21 LCBA AGM, Bolton BC; May 28 Bolton Swiss teams, Bolton BC; June 1-3 Yorkshire Congress, Harrogate.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



THE Bainton, Lincolnshire's pairs championship, had the lowest turnout yet for its semi-final. Some players failed to turn up and only 31 pairs sat down to contest the event. Winners North-South were Keith Stewart and Roy Hughes and winners East-West John Gaunt and Debbie Burton.

Keith and Roy went on to win the final, with Maurice Ladlow and Mo Parsons second and Mike and Vic Llewellyn third. These players qualify to represent Lincolnshire in the Corwen Trophy.

The county's random seeded teams was won by Mike Perry, Nick Dyer, Shirley Wimbles and Trish Herring, with Roy Hughes, Keith Stewart and Paul and Barbara Evans second and David Stoddard, Peter Childs and Bill and Shirley Holmes third.

Don't forget your sub reminder was in the February magazine. Cheques payable to Lincolnshire CBA.

Dairy dates: April 22 Veterans Cup (Minimum age 60, combined age of any partnership 125); May 12-13 annual championships, Lincoln Bowls Club; June 17 Lincolnshire one day Green Point Swiss teams, Spalding.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



INTERNATIONAL honours for London members have been gained this time by Espen Erichsen, who was a member of the winning team in the Australian National open teams, and by Jan Petter Svendsen, who won both the open pairs and open teams at the Icelandair Bridge Festival in Reykjavik - both fine achievements.

A number of London players did well in the Year End Congress. David Burn, Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski and Nick Sandqvist won the main Swiss teams, with David Gold and David Bakhshi members of the third-placed team, while Mark Davies and Edward Leatham won the B flight Swiss teams. In the Swiss pairs the

David Gold and Bakhshi were second and Moza Panahpour fourth. Richard Hillman was second in the mixed pairs, Aline Sandberg and Juliet Scott second in the women's pairs and Gitta Hecht Johanssen fourth in the pre-congress pairs. Well done to all these players and to Chris Duckworth and Agnes Wesseling, third in the National women's pairs.

Results: London teams-of-four qualifier 1 Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery, Mike Scanlon and Paul Huggins, equal 1 Paul Martin, Benjamin McCarron, Justin Corfield and Mary Stanley, 3 Mike Clack, Mike Hill, David Ould and Roger Morton; London teams-of-four final 1 Paul Martin, Benjamin McCarron, Justin Corfield and Mary Stanley; London championship pairs 1 Carl Nelson and Abigail Nichols, 2 Nick Boss and Richard Johnson, 3 Heather Dhondy and Moza Panahpour; Consolation event 1 David Parry and Rosie White, 2 Nigel Clayton and Sati McKenzie; Palmer Bayer Trophy 1 Cliff Feldman and Wierd Minzinga, 2 Justin Wickens and Sue Estermann, 3 Guy Fraser-Sampson and Eva Ferguson.

Diary dates: April 22 Fox Shammon Trophy seniors' pairs, Queen's Club (Contact Steve Eginton on 01628 780862 or steve@eginton.co.uk); May 6 Newcomer's Day - a gentle event for recent learners to get a taste of duplicate - Young Chelsea BC 2pm (Contact Chris Duckworth on 020 7385 3534 or chris.duckworth@lineone.net); June 3 London Trophy, RAC Club 2pm - Come and watch the finals of trophy and plate at this prestigious new venue - (Contact Cecil Leighton on 020 8500 0700); July 5 LMBA AGM, Young Chelsea BC 7 pm.

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk

WELL done to Bill Hirst, Paul Hackett and Jason Hackett on winning the teams at Australia's Gold Coast Congress and to John Holland's team on reaching the semi-final. Well done also to Howard Melbourne and John Armstrong on winning the pairs.

The eighth annual Manchester Congress was again a tremendous success, attracting players from all over Britain, as well as more than 30 junior players of all ages. EBU General Manager Barry Capal and wife Hazel played in both the main events and Barry presented the prizes.

Winners of the championship pairs were county chairman Jeff Smith and county treasurer Bernard Kaye, a first time victory for both players. Runners-up were Eve Lighthill and Sid Travers.

In the championship teams the A final was won by M Byrne, D Happer, B Hirst and J Hassett, from S Draper, A Woodcock, D Debbage and O Burgess second. The B team final was headed by A Whittam, P Evans, T Wilkinson and A Wilkinson, from S Herman, B Lewis, S Travers and G Fink, and the C team final top spot was taken by B Senior, T Smith, B Hackett and S

Master Point promotions

Master

Mr J P Clark
Mr J McDermott
Mr G C Tritton
Mr D Young

County Master

Mrs P Constable
Mr P G Marshall
M K McCarthy
Mrs J Pallister
Mrs E Powney
Mr J Powney
Mrs E Pyman

District Master

Mr G L Ball
Mrs M Ball
Mrs EM Lorimer
Mrs B Peakman
Mr D G Scott
Mrs F Wood

Club Master

Mr P Costello
Mrs B Mueller
Mrs H Sadler
Mr J I Wallis

Nottinghamshire

1 Star Master

Mr JDA Arundel

Master

Mr RS Dyke
Mr J F Stevenson

County Master

Mr D L Barnett
Mr D R Griffiths
Mr D Landon

District Master

Mr E Fullick
Club Master
Mr A Abbott

Oxfordshire

4 Star Premier

Regional Master
Mrs C Rowland

5 Star Regional

Master
Mr J D Gunn

3 Star Regional

Master
Mr C Sheppard

2 Star Regional

Master
Mrs S Millikin

7 Star Premier

Master
Mr F D Sharples

1 Star

Tournament
Master
Mrs J P Shuter

5 Star Master

Dr JA Rolfe

4 Star Master

Mr P Watson

3 Star Master

Mr R N Dixon

1 Star Master

Mr S Bliss
Mr N S Henry

County Master

Mr B Hargrave
Mrs D Max
Mrs D Rankin
Mr R Sills

District Master

Mr T Dawn
Mrs A Potter
Ms H Strang

Club Master

Mrs H P Aldred
Mrs E M Coxhill
Mrs M Greenfield

Somerset

6 Star Premier

Regional Master
Mr R J Walder

5 Star Regional

Master
Mr P Wickham

3 Star Premier

Master
Mr M L Gordon
Mrs M A Gordon

2 Star Premier

Master
Mr M D Thomas

1 Star Master

Mrs K Curtis

County Master

Mr J D Brown

District Master

Mrs D Greatorex

Club Master

Mr R Cavaghan-Pack

Staffs & Shrops

Premier

Regional Master
Mr N Jones

1 Star Regional

Master
Mrs S Williams

5 Star Premier

Master
Mrs B Kershaw

4 Star Premier

Master
Mrs VJ Leland

Tournament

Master
Mr J Leek

Advanced

Master
Mrs REM
Taylerson

District Master

Mr RJ Pearson

Club Master

Mr J M Golland
Mr B McLaren

Suffolk

Grand Master

Mr P Sutcliffe

4 Star Regional

Master
Mr R Champness

9 Star Premier

Master
Mr JM Garbutt

7 Star Premier

Master
Mrs M Garbutt
Mr R Parish

4 Star Master

Mr R W Johnson

1 Star Master

Mrs E Butler
Mr J Clement

Advanced

Master
Mrs E C Jeal

District Master

Mrs R C Skinner

Club Master

Mr G Johnston
Mr M Sutherland

Surrey

Premier National
Master
Mr G Bailey

National Master

Mrs LP Lockhart

Penfold, with D Matthews, B Hobden, K Higgins and R Sinton second.

Saddleworth BC players triumphed at the Cantor Cup, the county annual newcomers' competition sponsored by the Cantor family in memory of Trudy Cantor. David Welsh and Martin Crowther won the event, which was played at Altrincham BC. Runners-up were Maggie Crowther and Anne Lawrence.

In the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer trophies the England teams won both events. Congratulations to Mark Reeve and David Collier of Manchester who were in the Junior Camrose team. Michael Byrne was npc of the England Peggy Bayer winning team.

Manchester finished seventh in the Tollemache final. The team was Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield, David Barton, Alan Jones, Michael Byrne, Andrew Woodcock, David Debbage and Michael Newman, with Jeff Smith NPC.

The Manchester BC team of David Debbage, Michael Newman, Andrew Woodcock, Craig Fisher, Bill Hirst, Bernard Goldenfield, Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield won the 2006-7 Gazette Cup competition, entitling them to represent the county in the Garden Cities regional final at Bradford on May 19. The Cheadle Hulme team that finished second will be invited to represent Manchester in an inter-county competition.

Diary dates: April 29 Higson Cup and Plate finals, Manchester BC 1pm; May 12; Risley Green Point Swiss pairs 11am; May 13 Risley Green Point Swiss teams 11am (Entries for Risley to Steve Mattinson tel 0161 439 4318, email smattinson@btinternet.com, mobile 07788 577535 - advanced booking advisable, especially for the pairs); May 24 AGM Manchester CBA, Manchester BC 7.30pm.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol who, with team-mates Keith Bennett and Jeremy Dhondy, finished third in the National Swiss teams.

The county trials had 18 pairs competing. The winners were Lollo Murthwaite and Bunny Davies, with Alan Stephenson and Stuart Matthews a close second. Only slightly further back were Dave and Jean Keen. Well done to the selectors for managing to arrange the largest field for this event for several years.

The Jean Keen Trophy (county women's teams) was won by Jean McKeown, Barbara Serres, Doris Coltman and Julia Dearing. The runners-up spot went to Anne Harwood, Joyce Kennedy, Denise McDowell and Rose Williams.

The Merseyside Cup (restricted Swiss teams) was won by Anne Harwood, Joyce Kennedy, Denise McDowell and Rose Williams, with Margaret Lloyd, Bunny Davies, Pat Tweedle and Lollo Murthwaite a close second. Please note that next season this event will become non-restricted.

In the Chester Congress Tracy Capal completed a double. First she won the pairs in partnership with Peter Kaufmann (Teresa and Ian Ferguson were second) and then she joined up with Boris Ewart and Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield to take the Swiss teams. ahead of Shirley Webster, John Arrowsmith, Roy Wallwork and Keith Perry.

Diary dates: April 11-13 BGB sim pairs, clubs; April 22 Preece Rosebowl, Blundellsands BC; May 7 May Day Swiss pairs, MBC; May 11 Lady Connell/Cheshire Salver finals; May 24 Andrew Rosebowl, LBC; June 2-3 annual match v Dublin LBC; June 7 Liverpool BC open pairs; June 10 Eric Howarth Trophy (open Swiss teams) Deva BC; June 14 Jim Davies Swiss teams, Heswall BC.

Middlesex

www.btinternet.com/mcba

BELATED congratulations to Simon Cope and Stuart Haring on their selection to England's junior Supersquad. Members of the squad represent their country in various international junior events and take part in special training weekends.

Congratulations to Ian Pagan on his first place in the National men's pairs with Chris Jagger of Cambs and Hunts. Gail Hoffman and Susan Moss finished eighth in the women's pairs.

Our Middlesex team finished third at the Tollemache final in Kettering. Well done to Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Keith Bennett, Jeremy Dhondy, Heather Dhondy, Bill Pencharz, Victor Silverstone and Tony Waterlow.

Keith Bennett and Jeremy Dhondy and team-mates Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol finished third in the National Swiss teams. Catherine Seale, Brian Senior and Nevena Senior, with Sandra Penfold of Yorkshire, came fifth.

Andrew McIntosh and Graham Orsmond were third in the Icelandair open pairs, while Peter Kaufmann and David Sellman finished second in the open pairs and third in the Swiss teams at the EBU Congress in Cyprus.

Well done to John Gross and Sylvia Stock on winning the Middlesex ranked Masters pairs. Barry Murray and Jill Feldman were second and Rajesh and Trupti Shah third.

Congratulations to Sue Simon and Jacqui Tobias, winners of the Middlesex women's pairs. Nevena Senior and Heather Bakhshi finished second and Marion Hayman and Latchmin Tilarie were third. Steve Root and Jerry Harouni won the men's pairs, with Waseem Naqvi and Gary Jones second and Steve Foster and Geoff Foley third.

Brian Senior and Fiona Hutchison filled third in the Swiss pairs and sixth in the mixed pairs at the Harrogate Congress.

Condolences to the family and friends of Mike Elliott, who died in January. Mike played in Middlesex events for many years and partnered Gary Jones for 20 years.

Diary dates: May 9-10 EBU Spring simultaneous pairs, clubs (Green

Points to be awarded); May 17 ranked Masters' teams, Pinner Bridge Club (Closing date for entries May 10); June 18 Middlesex AGM, Acot Bridge Club 7pm (After the meeting everyone is invited to take part in the Committee Cup, a multiple teams of four event).

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

Norfolk

norfolkbridge.co.uk

BELATED congratulations to Suzanne Gill who, with partner Harry Ingham (Manchester), won the mixed pairs event at the Blackpool Year End Congress. A strong field included some nationally famous pairs.

Against Cambridge University all three county teams had a comfortable win. Against Hertfordshire success was limited to the A team, that won 15-5. The B team lost 4-16 and the C team lost 0-20.

The recent trophy competitions were both team events. The Smart Trophy was retained by the holders, Roger Amey, Mike Whiting, David Newstead and Terry Noble. Runners-up were Joe Merz, David Taylor, Neville Hill and Eric Lloyd.

The Beccles Swiss teams went to P Spratt, P Sutton, T Geschke and P Rowlett. Runners-up were J Howlett, B Seppings, R Alfonso and T Hogarth.

Diary dates: April 13-15 Norfolk Congress, The Dukes Head Hotel, Kings Lynn; April 29 Hudson Cup pairs, Bawburgh.

If you are planning ahead, don't miss the joint Norfolk-Suffolk Green Points weekend, June 16-17 at Thetford.

North East

www.ncba.co.uk

THE first major event of the year was the Chronicle Cups, the NEBA championship pairs competition. Qualifiers from club heats and three semi-finals met at Stannington, where David Broadhead and Martin Kane won by less than 1% from Tony Jackson and Fred Dalton, with Bob Watts and Jacqui Graham third. Alex Simpson and Brenda Osborne won the B final for the St Georges' Shield.

Forty-six pairs contested the student sim pairs at three venues. The winners were Louis Morris and Les McBeth, with Alex Craggs and Thomas Wigham second and Kati Russell and Monica Ogden third.

The King Cup, the NEBA ladies' pairs championship, was an 11-table event, with Jacqui Graham and Nicola Cockerill-Smith the winners, ahead of Nan Bell and Jo Lormor, with Betty Yarrow and Beryl Sowerby third.

Ray Flute and Ian Dobson, who won the autumn sim pairs, are from Whitby and not Whitley Bay, as reported in the February magazine. Well done to the two players from this small, friendly club near Scarborough.

Diary dates: April 28 Kempson Vase final, Stannington; May 6 club

Master Point promotions

Mrs B Rangarajan	Mr D Simpson
6 Star Premier	Mr TP Wickham
Regional Master	Mrs EA Wingham
Mr N Barnes	1 Star Master
2 Star Premier	Mrs CF Hendron
Regional Master	Mr D May
Mr N W Browne	Mr P J Phipps
1 Star Premier	Mrs JA Tring
Regional Master	Mr R Tring
Mrs P A Pinder	Advanced
Premier	Master
Regional Master	Mrs B G
Mrs D Richmond	Alexander
7 Star Regional	Mrs M A Batty
Master	Mrs A Harding
Mrs M K	Mr P Harding
Blundell	Mr N Proddow
Mrs M Shoosmith	Mr J H Rees
Mr P Thorpe	Mr WW Taylor
6 Star Regional	Mrs P Windebank
Master	Master
Mr RR Munro	Ms J Dyas
5 Star Regional	Mrs J Faulkner
Master	Mr P L
Mrs BA Bramidge	Hainsworth
Mrs AM Kolbe	Dr LR Hiorns
Mr CD Pullan	Mr D Sheldon
4 Star Regional	Mrs P Sheldon
Master	Mr D Sims
Mrs BP Stephens	Mrs PB Spiller
2 Star Regional	Mr J Turnbull
Master	Mrs M Turnbull
Mr L Zeglovskis	County Master
20 Star Premier	Miss BM
Master	Butterworth
Mr RW Guille	Mr S Foster
16 Star Premier	Lady S M Prickett
Master	Dr PJ
Mrs I Hough	Serafinowski
7 Star Premier	Mrs K Williams
Master	District Master
Mr JR Balson	Mr J C Dockerill
Mr L R Springate	Mrs S A Heard
5 Star Premier	Mr E O Hurter
Master	Mrs MI
Mrs J Beresiner	McMichael
2 Star Premier	Club Master
Master	Mr J Bradshaw
Mrs SJ Cape	Mrs P Cadge
1 Star Premier	Sussex
Master	4 Star Premier
Mrs S Jackson	Regional Master
Premier Master	Mr G Park
Mr R H Buxton	3 Star Premier
1 Star	Regional Master
Tournament	Mrs FE Thornton
Master	Premier
Mrs EP	Regional Master
Hammond	Mrs S Bugden
Tournament	10 Star Regional
Master	Master
Mrs W Lancaster	Mr J H Woodard
5 Star Master	3 Star Regional
Mrs M	Master
Dumbleton	Mrs M Baker
Mr GR Fosker	2 Star Regional
Mrs SA Hudson	Master
Mr WR Shepperd	Mrs J E
4 Star Master	Cattermole
Mrs P Burles	1 Star Regional
Mr IL Burton	Master
Mr BJ Ellis	Mr A Lea
Mrs TP Scott	Mrs AM Thorpe
Mr G E Searle	13 Star Premier
3 Star Master	Master
Mrs B M Curtis	Mr T A Kelly
Mrs Linsley	7 Star Premier
Mr RJ Whittaker	Master
2 Star Master	Mr D T Burman
Mrs MA	6 Star Premier
Aitchison	Master
Dr R M Knowles	Mrs J M Boydell
Mr H Marsen	

champion teams, Darlington; May 13 Kempson Cup and Plate final, Whitley Bay; May 20 club champion pairs, Newcastle.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

IN the county match versus Derbyshire the Nottinghamshire teams lost, 8-12, 4-16 and 7-13 respectively.

The NCBA mixed pairs championship was won by Irene and John Auld, with Joan and David Burgess second, Marjorie Gilbertson and Robert Northage third and Jane Hall and Clive Wood equal third. Session prizes went to Daphne and Mike Coggles and Nancy Berry and Richard Kowalski.

The GolfPrint heat was won by Retford GC, with Radcliffe on Trent GC second. The National pairs heat was won by John and Irene Auld, with William Crook and Tony Sowter second.

The NCBA knockout championship heat was won by William Crook, Graham Kirby, Rob Sharpe and Tony Sowter.

The Individual championship was cancelled as only seven players turned up.

Diary dates: On Wednesdays, apart from a BGB simultaneous pairs on April 11, the Friday Cup continues until May 16; April 15 Journal Cup 1pm; April 29 county AGM, Nottingham BC 6pm; May 23 start of Black Cup mixed pairs; May 30 start of Farr Cup similar pairs. Enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley on 0115 92332186.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



GEOFF Nicholas and Debbie Roberts performed well at the EBU Cyprus Congress. They were fifth of 58 in the mixed pairs, 10th of 92 in the Swiss pairs and, teaming up with Norman Gascoyne and Jean Squires, fourth of 47 in the Swiss teams.

More than 10,000 players competed in the Bridge Great Britain simultaneous pairs earlier this year. Players had a choice of three days on which to compete at their local club, with the same deals being played at 100 clubs from six countries. On the Tuesday, the top score was attained by Lamoma Burwood-Smith and Frances Pollitt from Abingdon BC, while Fred Hill and David Marsh from Witney BC reached third place on the Wednesday.

At the time of writing, with Oxfordshire leading in all three divisions and some matches yet to be played, the Dawes/Porter/Markham league seems to be heading for an exciting climax. Final results will appear in the next issue of English Bridge.

Alan Prior and Keith Goswell won the monthly seniors' pairs in January, with Krishan Jalie and Geoff Nicholas the winners in February. Normally held on the second Monday of each month, the April event will be held on

the third Monday to avoid a clash with Easter.

Diary dates: April 15 Beck Cup final, Oxford BC; April 16 seniors' pairs, Roke village hall; April 23-27 Oxford Bridge Association simultaneous pairs, local clubs; April 29 County pairs final, Oxford BC; May 6 mixed pairs championship, Oxford BC; May 14 seniors' pairs, Roke village hall; May 20 Dawes league match v Derbyshire, Oxford BC.

Somerset

somersebridge.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners of recent county competitions: in particular Bob Warrender, Colin Powell, John and Shirley Durrant, Denis Grier, Stewart Upton, David Steele and Bert Ginnever, who won the teams of eight.

In the inter-club teams of four – Winscombe's Mike Whittaker, Pat Ashford, Mike Powell and Brian Greenwood were winners of the experts event and Yeovil's Steve Fletcher, Jane Mearring, Simon Oldham and Cyndi Harris were the non-experts winners.

Mixed pairs victory went to Judy and Robin Belcher, while Bob and Edith Hearn were the overall winners and collect the Michael Coda Cup.

More than £850 was raised in aid of this year's charity, the North Somerset branch of the National Autistic Society.

Staffs and Shrops

www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs

A STAFFS and Shrops team captained by Paul Cutler finished fourth in the Tollemache final – only 1vp off third spot. It was the counties' highest placing for many years.

The players were Roger Keane, David Bevan, Malcolm and Judy Mitchell, David Smith, Ian Pendlebury, Robin Adey, Geoff Davis, David Moir and Paul Cutler. Paul Cutler and David Moir achieved the team's best Butler score and the fifth best score of the competition.

The simultaneous pairs in January attracted a record level of entries from 12 clubs in the two counties. The overall winners were Bob Miller and Maira Rowlands (Monday, Shrewsbury), with J and L Armstrong (Eccleshall) second and Kath and Terry May (Stone) third. The leading pairs from each club were Mary and Bernard Johnson (13 Club Alsager), Jane and David Drinkwater (Chasetown), Aaron Bell and Sandy Calder (Newcastle), Kath Steadman and Graham Roberts (Oswestry), David Small and Roger Bowles (Shrewsbury), Pat Andrews and Shirley Elphick (Stafford), David Fern and Barbara Czernuska (Tamworth), B Huntbatch and M Kenny (Tettenhall), Sara and Brian Shepard (Wolverhampton). The next county sims will be held on August 20, 21 and 22.

On the international front Jason, Justin and Paul Hackett finished third

in the NEC Cup and second in the Osaka Cup in Japan. Jason and Paul then went on to win the teams event in Australia's Gold Coast Congress.

Stone Bridge Club celebrates its 60th anniversary this year and one of several planned events to commemorate the anniversary will be two Andrew Robson master classes (afternoon and evening) on April 26.

Shrewsbury Bridge Club has relocated to The Chapel, which is the newly refurbished Community Centre at The Chestnuts, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury.

Diary dates: April 21-22 Shropshire Green Point Congress, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School (for details see county website); May 6 county men's pairs, Stafford; May 9 county women's pairs, Stafford; June 6 county mixed pairs, Stafford.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to the team of Chris Chambers, Peter Gemmell, Jim Gobert and Peter Sutcliffe on finishing second in the National

Swiss teams at Kettering.

The Mid Anglia pairs event was won by Rick Hanley and Mike Sherer, with Graham Beeton and Jo Peacock second and Harold Morris and Anne Wilmer third.

The Bury Swiss teams was won by Harold Morris, Anne Wilmer, Ralph Parish and Tony Shearman, ahead of Barry Davies, Din Gudka, Andrew Lee and Tugral Kaban, with Robert Green, Colin Bamberger, Sue Flin and Graham Beeton third.

The Suffolk singles event proved a great success, with 32 players taking part. The winner by a large margin was Lucette Smith, with John Standley second and Chris Kennedy a close third. Thanks go to Eric Newman for standing in as director and saving the day.

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held on May 20 at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club, starting at 3pm. Following the meeting there will be an AGM pairs event. Anyone intending to play is asked to notify Jyl Marsh on 01206 322546 or by email at jyl@gotadsl.co.uk

Nominations for the Suffolk committee should be sent to the secretary, Pauline Hanson, 21 Hardwick Close, Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk IP4 5XB, pauline.hanson@tesco.net These should be agreed by the nominee, proposed and seconded. Please also forward to Pauline any proposed motion in writing by April 27.

Diary dates: April 22 championship pairs final, Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club 2pm; May 9 pivot teams, Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club 7.15pm; (please note change to evening for this season only); May 13 Clare Swiss pairs; June 16-17 Norfolk CBA and Suffolk CBA Green Point weekend, Breckland Leisure Centre, Thetford, Norfolk (For details contact Mike Harnden on 01508 493048 or email mike@harn-dennorwich.fsnet.co.uk).

Master Point promotions

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs J Handley
Mr YM Lebrech

2 Star Premier Master

Ms S Ebsworth
Mrs P Hart

5 Star Master

Mr I S Gordon

Mr E J Peerless

3 Star Master

Mr D J Boots

Mr I F Carruthers

Mrs J Jewson

2 Star Master

Mrs PA Collings

Mrs M Marshall

Mr K R Oliver

1 Star Master

Mrs G O Cowell

Mr A P Foley

Mr P Hunt

Mrs H A Lumley

Ms CA Mitchell

Mrs S M Tester

Advanced Master

Mr D Duggan

Mr E Fisher

Mrs E Fisher

Mrs VJ Friend

Mr T J Turner

Mrs A Walsham

Miss M R Winn

Master

Mrs J Lavery

Mr D Mucicchi

Mr P Romanelli

Mr M P Symons

Mr P G Williams

District Master

Mr P E Goldsmith

Mr H Jorgensen

Mrs J Jorgensen

Mrs J M Leddy

Mrs B Pearson-Woodd

Mrs C Wickham

Mr MD Wilkes

Club Master

Mr W Bourne

Mrs H Coe

Ms S K Dennison

Miss V B Devlin

Mr N H Kelly

Warwickshire Premier National Master

Mr N Selwyn

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr A R Pagett

3 Star Regional Master

Mr D J Hulston

7 Star Premier Master

Mr A Imam

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs P A Cooley

4 Star Premier Master

Mrs L Birch

Mr R Birch

1 Star Premier Master

Mr E Legg

Premier Master

Mr R L Langowski

2 Star

Tournament Master

Mrs J Gallacher

3 Star Master

Mrs M Millar

Mr R Millar

2 Star Master

Mrs D Manders

Mrs R Prosser

Advanced Master

Mr M J R Padmore

Mr PF Sands

Master

Mr DJ Barrow

County Master

Mr F J Deakin

Mrs J M Fine

Mrs SM Scott

Mrs M Taylor

District Master

Mr V S Khorana

Mrs E Revill

Club Master

Mr A S Hickman

Ms P A Jarvis

Westmorland Advanced Master

Mr KD Mart

County Master

Mrs D A Atkinson

District Master

Mr P Jeffreys

Club Master

Mrs J Jeffreys

Wiltshire Premier National Master

Mr E Smith

5 Star Master

Mrs JC Cash

3 Star Master

Mrs JM Coats

Advanced Master

Mr R Williams

Master

Mr R D Moore

County Master

Mr B Cross

Dr W Simpson

District Master

Mrs R I Bierwirth-James

Mrs M I Clark

Mr R J Thorpe

Club Master

Mr D Fenn

Mr K C Horsfall

Mrs P Turner

Worcestershire Premier Life Master

Mr S J Allerston

Life Master

Mr S P Harrison

Premier National Master

Mrs M J Hannah

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs C J Timmis

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Dr K M Carpenter

Premier Regional Master

Mr I Thompson

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

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk

FIRST many congratulations to Penny Macleod and Jane Green on winning the National ladies' pairs, six percentage points clear of the field. Ting To and Bob Rowlands came third in the men's pairs.

Surrey finished second in the Tollemache. The team played very well but could not overtake Gloucestershire, who led by 31vps with two matches to go. The Surrey line-up was Graham Osborne, Cameron Small, Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Jon Cooke, Paul Gibbons, Peter Lee, Bob Rowlands, Ken Ford and Ian Swanson, with npc Peter Bentley.

The Surrey Pairs Cup was won by Jeffrey Allerton and Mike Scoltock, with Bob Rowlands and Ting To runners-up. Audrey Randall and Renate Lane won the plate.

The 30K Cup, for players with fewer than 30,000 Master Points, was won by David and Pat Sheldon.

The affiliated clubs teams-of-eight was retained by Selsdon, who will again represent the county in the Garden Cities Trophy in May. The winning team comprised Rosemary and Roger Fellows, Christine Dyer, Denny Wade, Bill Hodgkiss, Robin Clarke, Tony Cherrett and Nick Press.

Fifty-two boys and girls took part in Surrey's ninth annual schools' event at Cranmore School in West Horsley. The MiniBridge pairs was won by Kelly Klimayts and Georgina Hammond (Claremont Fan Court), with Oliver Turner and Charlie Miller (The Mount) second. In the bridge teams event the Charterhouse A team of Sam Lo, Mark Luk, Archie Gammell and Calvin Cheung won for the third year running.

Charterhouse represented Surrey and the South East for the first time in the South of England heat of the junior teams-of-eight event for the G W Arnott-Davidson Trophy at Young Chelsea, but found the experienced opposition too strong and did not qualify for the finals.

Diary dates: April 15 mixed pairs, Cobham; April 22 Newcomers' teams, Oxshott; May 6 ladies' teams, Wimbledon. Entries to Frances Trebble or via the website.

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS go to Mick Carrington, Richard Fedrick, David Franklin and Gerry Stanford for their substantial win at the New Year Swiss Teams Congress at Henfield Hall. Second place went to Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior, Malcolm and Karen Pryor and third place to Pyers Pennant, Simon Reade, David Howard-Houston and

Bertie Wallace.

The winners of our annual charity simultaneous pairs, in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Saint Wilfred's Hospice in Eastbourne, were Gerry Stanford and David Franklin. Second were Anne McCarthy and Kathleen Pawson and third David and Andrea Galpin. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the 280 people who took part.

Congratulations to Peter and Anne Harding, who won the East Grinstead Basic Bridge pairs competition, with Jackie Clinton and Charles Endean second and Robert Weir and Christina Backholer third.

The David Pavey competition for players with fewer than 10,000 Master Points had its final, with George Miller and Sandra Dennison coming first, Winsome and Stafford Walker second and Marion Page and Jean Holden third. We congratulate all those who took part and hope to see you in future county competitions.

The inter-club teams of eight competition saw West Sussex Bridge Club beat nine teams to win the event, with Worthing second and Eastbourne third - well done to all.

The annual seniors' simultaneous pairs took place on St Valentine's Day. Congratulations to the winners, Geoffrey and Joan Kellett, and to Tilly Hennings and Anthony Whiteway who came second and Mick Carrington and Janice Cowell who were third.

Finally to the Sussex individual and congratulations to the winner, Lewes club player Mike Keeping, with Maureen Norman second and Shirley Robinson third.

Diary dates: April 1 Sussex pairs final, West Sussex; April 15 Kremer Dersch Trophy, Eastbourne; April 20-22 SCCBA Spring Congress, Uckfield; April 28 mixed pairs semi-finals, West Sussex and Worthing; April 29 open Swiss teams, Eastbourne; May 12 EBU/SCCBA Swiss pairs, Ardingly; May 20 Metropolitan Cup, Ardingly; May 26 mixed pairs final, West Sussex; May 27 open Swiss teams Eastbourne; June 2 The Candles, Henfield.

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk

HEARTIEST congratulations to Susan Stockdale and David Cropper on their selection for the Junior Camrose and, more significantly, on an excellent win in the event.

The county teams showed good form against Staffs and Shrops, winning 16-4, 20-0 and 14-6 in the Dawes, Porter and Markham competitions respectively. But against Oxfordshire several of our strongest pairs were unavailable and we lost 7-13, 9-11 and 9-11. However, with a game in hand we can recover and should end with respectable places in the Midlands Inter-County League.

Congratulations to Sutton's Jeremy Fenwick and Mike Morriss on taking top honours in the Warwickshire pairs final, followed by Gerald Nodding and Maureen Parker, with Chris Potter and

Glyn Preece third.

The Warwickshire introductory pairs final was supported well and congratulations to the leading three pairs - 1 N Lewis and S Donahoe, 2 Silvia Palmer and Barbara Stevens, 3 Nora Hale and Charles Woolf.

Result of the local heat of the GolfPrint Trophy was 1 Edgbaston Golf Club (Julian and Mary Shingler, Evelyn Whiteford and Faye Vernon), 2 Olton Golf Club (Mike Whitfield, Brent Wormald, Doug Money and Dave Cadney).

In general clubs are not submitting news of their competitions and it is hoped this tendency will be rectified.

Stephen Green's Coventry pairs league is ever popular. Outcome of the September-January session was victory for Mike Allen and Roger Bryant from Ben Green and Brian Senior. In division two it was David Jones and Mike Northwood from Stephen Green and Rob Helle, division three Matt Haag and Susan Stockdale from Brian Osmond and Mike Sallis, division four Dodo Georgevic and Robin Ogg from Val Cooper and Dorothy Foster and division five Graham Cope and Malcolm Green from Mike Adams and Jim Claricoates. The Doddy Trophy for the best scores in this event was won by Brian Osmond and Mike Sallis, with David Jones and Mike Northwood second and Jon Lillycrop and John Thornby third.

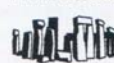
At Sutton BC the winners of the Whitehouse Cup were Jeremy Fenwick and Nick Woosnam, with runners-up John Hind and Janet Whittaker.

Competitions have taken a back seat at West Midlands BC while extensive renovations have been taking place, but a grand reopening will be celebrated on June 30 with a full bridge programme the following week.

Diary dates: April 8 Greswolde Bowl Swiss teams WMBC 1.45pm; April 11-17 Warwickshire simultaneous pairs, clubs; May 6 Arden Club's charity Swiss teams; May 10 Warwickshire men's and ladies' pairs, Moseley BC 7.10pm; May 13 Warwickshire Green Points Swiss teams, Sutton BC, Walmley 1 pm; June 3 Cock o' County pairs, WMBC 1.45pm; June 20 Frank Cup multiple teams, WMBC 7 pm. For entries to Warwickshire events please contact Mr D Evetts, 53 Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Warwickshire CV31 2JJ, tel 01926 429 039.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



THE premier league continues with nine matches played and two to go. Currently the team of Pat Davies, Dixon, Gwyn Davis, Peter and Valerie Austwick; leads, with Bob Bannister, Andrew Law, Kathy Hodgson, Sam Sloan and Roy France second and Danny Miller, Colin Jones, Dave Hale, Georgie Dalton and Sonia Blandy third.

Third match in the Western league this season was against Hereford. There was a draw for the A team and

Master Point promotions

1 Star Regional Master Mr A G Boyes	Mr BA Williams
11 Star Premier Master Mr M Brettell	3 Star Master Mrs D Cass
5 Star Premier Master Mrs V Enticknap	Mrs SJ Gowar
Premier Master Mrs L Gervis	Advanced Master Mrs J Cockcroft
5 Star Master Mr M J Haywood	Mrs C Heron
Mr I R Rich	Mrs M Owen
4 Star Master Mr C Noble	Mr PR Pick
3 Star Master Mr P Bellingham	Mr D L Robinson
Mr J W Cox	Mr G K Sissman
Mrs S Knoll	Mr N Solden
Mr C R Moore	Master Mr D Croll
2 Star Master Mr D A McClelland	Mr B Ferris
Mr D G Teague	Mrs J Ferris
1 Star Master Mrs G Jackson	Mr MJ Friedman
Advanced Master Mr D A Cope	Mrs M E Keith
Mr G B Hill	County Master Mr M Akeroyd
Master Mr P G Webley	Mrs E Armstrong
County Master Mr J Macriner	Miss R Brian
District Master Mrs H M Morgan	Mr M C Dessain
Mrs R M Simpson	Mr H Dunn-Birch
Club Master Mr C Kelly	Mr PL Hughes
Mr BG Wilkes	Mrs M M Ness
Yorkshire Premier Life Master Mrs A Booth	Mrs J Prescott
Premier National Master Mr LK Brown	Mr F Solts
8 Star Premier Regional Master Mr CR Gray	Mr R Thompson
2 Star Premier Regional Master Mrs J Leach	District Master Mr P Carson
Regional Master Mr B Davison	Capt S Ledger
7 Star Premier Master Mrs M M Cook	Mr AM Roberts
Mrs JR Wiener	Club Master Mr M Baltrenas
5 Star Premier Master Ms S Logan	Mrs I Boothman
Mr B Ziff	Mr P J Cotterill
4 Star Premier Master Mr A Hirst	Mrs A L Dean
Dr R A Litton	Mrs S D Gatehouse
Mrs JW Mair	Mr P G Green
Premier Master Mr M Wilder	Mr AE Hepton
1 Star Tournament Master Mrs D E Coggles	Mrs M T Lawson
5 Star Master Mrs PM Ward	Mr J H Longbottom
4 Star Master Mr JA Digby	Mrs J Norman
Mrs C Hall	

victories for the B and C teams. The fourth round was against East Wales and this time all three Wiltshire teams lost.

Valerie and Peter Austwick won the Butler pairs event, with Bob Bannister and Andrew Law second and Bernard Lloyd and Caroline Wilcox third.

In the qualifying heat of the National pairs Gwyn Davis and Kathy Hodgson, Bob Bannister and Andrew Law and Bob McMurray and Hugh Gross earned the right to play in the regional final in Bristol on March 25.

The championship pairs was won by Richard Samter and Norman Botton, with Tessa Attwater and John Somerfield second, Sam Sloan and Roy France third and David and Margaret Thackaberry equal third.

The mixed pairs was won by Gayle and Colin Webb, with Bob Bannister and Gill Messer second and Danny Miller and Sonia Blandy third.

The Wiltshire and Avon Green Point event, played this year at Bath University for the first time, was well attended and successful, comprising Swiss teams and Swiss pairs. This success could place the two-day event firmly on our annual calendar.

Wiltshire's AGM will be held on May 20 at the Nursted Centre and Wiltshire members are urged to attend to ensure that they have their say in the running of their county. The handicap pairs, a popular fun competition, always runs after the AGM.

EBU Master Points won in county competitions are now published regularly on the website and sent directly to the EBU.

Bridge teaching is being undertaken this year in Trowbridge by Diana King and Phil Green. Please check the web page for details.

Worcestershire

www.wcba.freeseerve.co.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE has its own version of the Dimmie Fleming award – The Ron Allen Award – named after its long-standing first secretary. Ron Allens go to those who have given

unstinting service to their club and fellow members. Latest recipients, recognised by clubs and county, are Mike Smith of the Bewdley BC and Jenny Steel of Bredon BC.

A cheque in excess of £700, raised at one of Worcestershire's bridge events, was presented on behalf of the county to Angela Mercer, chief nurse of the Acorn Children's Trust.

Worcestershire sent a reasonable quota of players to the Blackpool Year End Congress and four of them – Jimmy Ledger, Maureen Hannah, Susan Sharp and David Thomas – returned as winners of the Swiss teams event.

Ombersley Golf Club now has 50 players active in bridge. Remarkably 44 of them, tutored by John Cattnach and Ian Lewis, only started bridge lessons in January 2005.

This year Ombersley has played five duplicate bridge matches against other golf clubs – and has yet to be beaten. Two teams-of-four entered the 2005-06 county beginners league, coming first and second. They have now progressed into other county leagues for 2006-07, while a new team has entered the 2006-07 beginners league. The golf club has plans to enter two teams into the Worcestershire trials for selection for the 2007 National EBU GolfPrint competition.

The 57th Midland Counties Congress held some success for Worcestershire players. Mike Theelke and Paul Hooker were second in the men's pairs, while Stephanie Forward and Sue Evans won the ladies' pairs and Richard Jephcott and John Sansom won the main pairs. David Philpott and Mike Heard managed a good third in the Cooke-Porter and in the West Midland Plate Brian and Carol Varley and Jimmy Ledger and Maureen Hannah were second and third respectively. A Warwickshire group won the main teams event, with Dennis Loynes, Sue Evans, Leslie Harrison and Pam Pearce second and Jean Newton, Jessie Newton, Mike Orriel and Ross Garrett third. Worcestershire won the other two teams events emphatically. Sue Page, John Turner, Simon Harrison and Peter Edwards collecting the Littleford Healey Cup and the Swiss teams honours going to Georgina and Ian Lineker, Gerald Hill and Nigel Walters.

Malvern Bridge Club has joined Worcester Bridge Club in offering new or social bridge players an opportunity to play duplicate bridge in a protective club environment once a month. They will play in their own section, monitored by a club member, who will help in scoring etc. and will partner any player who arrives alone. It's first Wednesday of the month at Worcester and third Thursday at Malvern.

Diary dates: April 15 Garden Cities qualifier, Cookhill 2pm; April 23 Veterans' pairs (over 65) Holt Fleet 7.15pm; May 14 Play with the experts teams, Holt 7.15pm; May 21 AGM, Holt 7pm; June 4 Seniors' pairs, Holt 7.15pm.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freeseerve.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to three members of Bradford Bridge Club: Bryony Youngs, Susan Stockdale and Sarah Teshome. They have

been selected as members of the six-woman team to play for England against Wales in the Lady Milne Trophy. Bryony and Susan won the trials for this event.

The Yorkshire pairs competition was won by Arnout Kalverda and Dominic Pinto, with Tom Gisborne and Sandy Davies second, Graham Jepson and David Musson third, John Gibson and Terry Jacobs fourth, Alan Johnson and Derek Bland fifth and Roger Taylor and Richard Pike equal fifth.

Yorkshire Schools pairs A flight 1 Kaustur Joshi and Michael Turton, 2 James Thrower and Robert Myers; B flight 1 Sam Pearson and Gareth Hull, 2 David Fennimore and Kenneth Andrew. Mini-bridge 1 David Mooney and James Clarke, 2 Megan Eustace and Rebecca Stockman.

Winners of the Yorkshire Cup were the Leeds players Steve Sellers, Alan Harte, Richard Kempner and Peter Carson. Runners-up were Lol Hinchcliffe, Mary Hinchcliffe, Ann Wall and Toby Wall, with Brian Graham, Roger Litton, Graham Fry and Colin Milton in third place.

More than 180 from all over the county played in heats of the Margery Cartwright simultaneous pairs, but the leading three pairs all came from the Bradford heat. They were Phil Godfrey and Giles Foster, Derek Markham and Martin Thornton, and Philip Roebuck and Raymond Foster.

Doncaster Swiss pairs 1 Roman Gembecki and Alex Gembecki, 2 Ian and Julie Grant, 3 Tony McNiff and Sue Logan.

Winners of the Yorkshire golf clubs bridge competition were R Mayo, N Brown, A Davidson and D Trueman, representing Harrogate Golf Club.

Diary dates: April 1 West Yorkshire open Swiss teams, Bradford; April 13-15 Scarborough Congress; April 22 Castle Swiss pairs, Huddersfield; April 29 Yorkshire individual final, Leeds; May 13 Yorkshire mixed pairs final, Bradford; May 16-17 Bridlington Congress, Tickton; May 20 Yorkshire Masters pairs, grade one Harrogate, grades two and three Doncaster; June 1-3 Yorkshire Congress, Harrogate.

County news deadline

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

Sudoku solution from page 31

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

MEMBER²MEMBER

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Also **Spring Bank Holiday 25 - 29 May, £1200 in prizes, 6/7 sessions, 3/4 nights, £139/169pp. sharing, single supp. £30/40** (Partners not provided). Secure parking included. COVENTRY HILTON, 0247-684-1018 (or - 660-3000).

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Advertisements for the June 2007 edition of English Bridge must be received by: **April 26**



CLUB DIRECTOR and TEACHER TRAINING COURSES - 2007

ESSENTIALS £32

Chobham (£31)	Saturday 21st April
Huddersfield	Sunday 5th August
Brighton	Monday 13th August
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Weds 17th October

BOOK RULINGS £37

Southport (£36)	Saturday 14th April
Chobham (£36)	Saturday 12th May
Brighton	Tuesday 14th August
Huddersfield	Sunday 9th September
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Weds 14th November

JUDGMENT RULINGS £36

Oxford	Saturday 14th April
Stourbridge	Saturday 14th April
Southport	Saturday 19th May
Chobham	Saturday 16th June
Brighton (£37)	Wednesday 15th August
Huddersfield (£37)	Sunday 14th October
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Weds 12th December

ASSESSMENT £41

Richmond, Surrey	Saturday 14th April
Oxford	Saturday 19th May
Southport	To Be Arranged
Stourbridge	To Be Arranged
Chobham	Saturday 14th July
Brighton (£42)	Thursday 16th August
Huddersfield (£42)	Sunday 25th November
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Weds 16th January 2008

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

A full series of courses has been arranged by Stratford Upon Avon Bridge Club to be held at the Club Essentials - Saturday 28th April (£25); Book Rulings - Saturday 19th May (£30); Judgement Rulings - Saturday 23rd June (£30); Assessment - Saturday 11th August (£35) Course fee includes tea and/or coffee; lunch available by arrangement. To book for these courses only, please contact Don Devonald - don.suabc@btconnect.com

The annual **County TD and County Refresher Course** has been fixed for September 22nd and 23rd 2007 at the Hinckley Island Paramount Hotel. All inclusive cost is £150 per person. Intending participants should preferably have the approval of their County Association. For further details please contact Peter or John at the EBU Office 01296 317203/218.

Focus on Value Teacher Training Courses - Courses for new teachers -

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These weekend courses provide instruction on the new Focus on Value initiative and will be held at the Hinckley Island Paramount Hotel, Hinckley For further details call **01296 317217** or email **lisa@ebu.co.uk**

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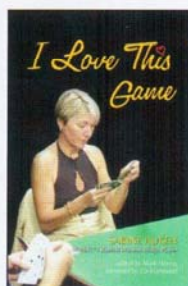
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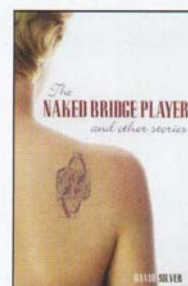
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