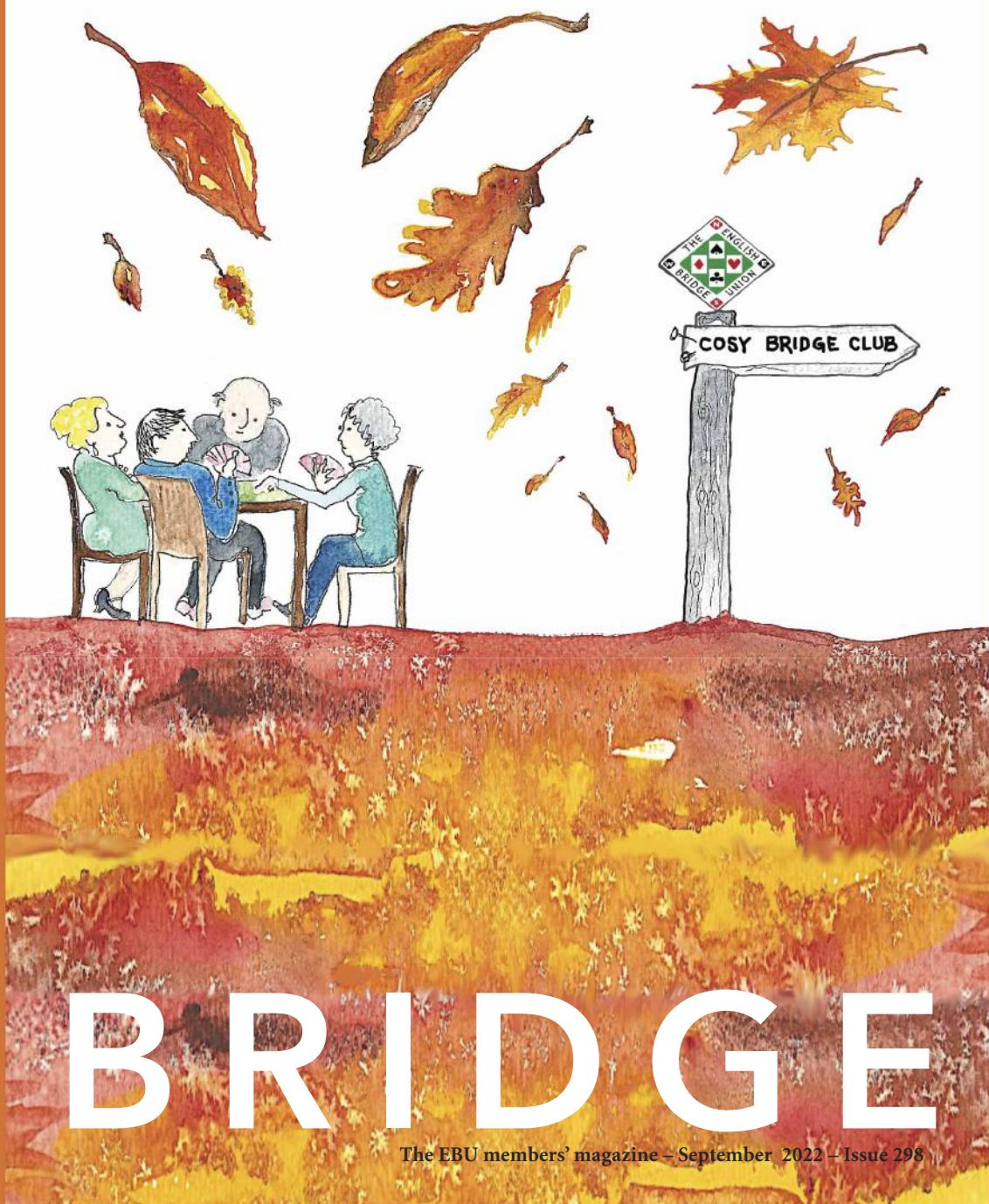


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The EBU members' magazine – September 2022 – Issue 298



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28 Sep	4* Sol House Hotel Costa Del Sol Spain	Irish Bridge Festival	7 to 14
01 Oct	4* Creta Panorama Hotel near Rethymnon Crete Greece	Duplicate	7 to 14
15 Oct	4* Athena Royal Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate & Bowls	7 to 21
15 Nov	4* Founty Beach Hotel Agadir Morocco	Duplicate	7 to 14
21 Dec	4* Barcelo Occidental Hotel Fuengirola	Duplicate & Bowls	7 to 14

2023 CALENDAR

05 Jan	4* Playa La Arena Hotel Santa Cruz de Tenerife Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 to 28
04 Feb	4* H10 Rubicon Palace Hotel Playa Blanca Lanzarote	Duplicate	7 to 14
14 Feb	5* Paloma Oceana Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate & Boule	7 to 28
16 Mar	4* Vila Galé Ampalios Hotel Algarve Portugal	Duplicate	7 to 14
13 Apr	4* Hotel Astoria Stresa Lake Maggiore	Duplicate	7
04 May	Sentido Hotels Crete 4* Pearl Beach / 5* Aegean Pearl	Duplicate	7 to 14
06 May	MS Infinity Private Bridge Cruise Croatia	Duplicate	7
09 May	4* Hotel Mediterranean Rhodes Greece	SBU Congress	7
02 Jun	4* Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany Italy	Duplicate & Tour	10

UK CALENDAR 2022/23

DATE	RESORT	HOLIDAY TYPE	NTS
11 Sep	Langstone Hotel Hayling Island	Duplicate	4
17 Sep	Westhill Hotel St Helier Jersey	Duplicate & Tour	7
26 Sep	The Hotel Victoria Lowestoft	Duplicate	4
06 Oct	Wroxton House Banbury	Duplicate	4
09 Oct	Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate & Tour	4
14 Oct	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Duplicate	4
17 Oct	St Kilda Hotel Llandudno	Duplicate	4
21 Oct	Whitehouse Hotel Worcester	Duplicate & Tour	3
24 Oct	Carlton Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	5
30 Oct	White Swan Hotel Alnwick	Duplicate	4
06 Nov	Wroxton House Banbury	Duplicate	4
07 Nov	Charingworth Manor Hotel Exclusive Use	Duplicate & Walk	4
24 Dec	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Christmas Duplicate	3-9
29 Dec	Holiday Inn Kenilworth	Christmas Duplicate	4
01 Jan	Charingworth Manor Hotel Exclusive Use	Duplicate & Walk	4
06 Feb	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel	Duplicate	4

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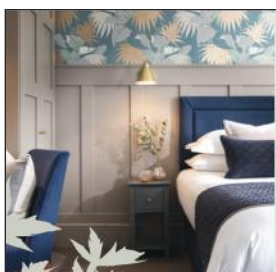
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The lure of Eastbourne

Hats off to all the EBU staff, directors and the volunteers who made this year's Summer Meeting, held in mid-August in Eastbourne, such a success.

We arrived in blistering sunshine and it was a joy to play at the Floral Hall – a large and airy space behind the scruffiest entrance – the peeling door paint and sun-bleached colours akin to the decrepit stage door of a small town theatre. However, on passing through the threshold the place transformed into freshly-painted old-time grandeur – wide sweeping stairs, wooden colonnades, domed ceilings and enough (modern) loos, even for the ladies. The only problem was that it was a bit too hot – the myriad fans seemed to be pointing at the ceiling and might have worked well if we had been playing six feet off the ground.

The place was buzzing – it was delightful to see so many of our internationals taking part and giving us the chance to play against some of the big names. The venue felt full and life was back to how it should be. The nearby cafés in the breaks were crammed with people poring over hand records, dosing up on caffeine and enjoying sitting outside. Play in the main competitions stopped at around 6pm each day leaving time to find nice restaurants, enjoy seaside strolls and rejuvenate in a beautiful setting.

Of course the EBU hadn't forgotten that there can never be enough bridge for some people. There was a pairs game on the Thursday night and Fast Pairs on the Friday and Saturday evenings for those that needed more.

I love Eastbourne town. It's small and leafy and simple. We arrived by car. The parking at the tennis courts behind the Floral Hall was easy and under £5

for the day. Our journey from our Airbnb in the Old Town was just minutes on empty roads. It's a long way from the South-West to Eastbourne, but once there it proved a gem.

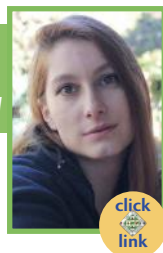
The condensed format worked well for us. It's too far to go two weekends in a row, but too expensive on both holiday allocation and accommodation to stay for 10 days. Now we were able to take part in the teams and the pairs over just three days, and only one day of holiday.

On completion of the event, participants were asked to comment on the new format. Some 115 people have replied which must be close to half the cohort, and it seems that almost everyone enjoyed the event and nearly 90% expect to return next year. There were calls for more sessions, particularly in the Swiss Teams, perhaps by incorporating the Thursday night, and I wasn't the only one to notice the heat, but comments were generally favourable, and for me, summed up by this one: *It's an annual odyssey – catching up with friends and acquaintances and playing against some stronger players than the usual club game.*

The results from the Summer Meeting can be found on page 56, with full details on www.ebu.co.uk/results/943. Details for next year will be published soon.

AUTUMN LOOMING

One thing that the Summer Meeting clarified was the joy of face-to-face bridge. I'm hoping that, as evenings draw in, clubs across England will see a return of members who felt it was too early to return to the physical table last year, and then too summery. If you haven't yet taken the plunge, now might be the time. □



Responding to partner's Weak Twos

I recently realised that I've written quite a bit about pre-empting but very little about what to do when your partner pre-empts. Having just published an article about shaded pre-empts in *Discovery*, now seems an excellent time to rectify this. There are four main types of hand that you can hold when partner pre-empts: strong with a fit, strong with no fit, weak with a fit, and weak with no fit. It's easy to guess what you are supposed to do with the last of these, but the others require a little more thought. It's also worth realising that 'strong' can mean a variety of things, and what you define as 'strong' should be different depending on whether or not you hold a good fit for partner.

I'd like to start by thinking about what to bid when you have a fit for partner. Of course, if you think you can make game you can just bid it – hopefully that goes without saying. Partner is limited so you don't need to take the auction slowly in case they have a really good hand – they have already told you they do not.

With a weak hand, that is less than about 13 points, you should usually do what is called *bidding to the level of your fit*. This means bidding to make as many tricks as you hold trumps between you. If partner has opened a weak two they will have a six-card suit. That means that you can bid three of that suit with three-card support – you will be contracted for nine tricks and you have nine trumps. With four card support, bid to the four level – you have ten trumps. It doesn't necessarily matter if this isn't making, as you are making it harder for opponents to find the right contract and your large fit should protect you from any real disasters. As always, however, vulnerability is key, and you should be more circumspect if you are vulnerable and your opponents are not.

If you have a weak hand with just two-card support for partner you should usually pass, as you are already at the level of your fit. Note that partner

should not bid over your raise, following the rule that once you have pre-empted you do not bid again unless partner makes you.

A 2NT ENQUIRY

If you want to invite game or you think you might belong in 3NT but are not sure, you can make a conventional bid to find out more about the hand. The bid to make is 2NT. This says 'partner, I have a good hand and am interested in game. What do you think?' With a minimum hand your partner should just repeat their suit at the lowest level, asking you to pass, or, if they have a good hand for their weak two, they can bid a new suit to show a high card feature in that suit. Note that they aren't promising length, just a high card (usually queen or higher). The idea is that this information might be useful to you if you are considering 3NT as a final contract. You will now know whether they are accepting your invite (they bid a new suit) or declining (they rebid their own suit), and if they have a useful card outside their suit.

But what, you say, if they hold a suit of AKQxxx and nothing else? Now they most certainly have a good hand, but they have no outside card to tell you about. Most people bid 3NT with that hand. You, as responder, might well want to pass this if you have stops in the other suits (that great quality suit sounds like six quick tricks) or you can also go back to partner's suit if there's a gap.

The 2NT enquiry bid can be played differently, so make sure you and partner agree on the responses.

That covers how you should bid after partner pre-empts when you have a fit, so all that remains is to think about what to do when you do not. I'd advocate caution. If you have a singleton in partner's suit and a stack of points, it's quite common that nothing good is about to happen to you! There are two reasons for this:

- ♣ If partner has a minimum and you 'only' have about 15 points, you might think you have a good

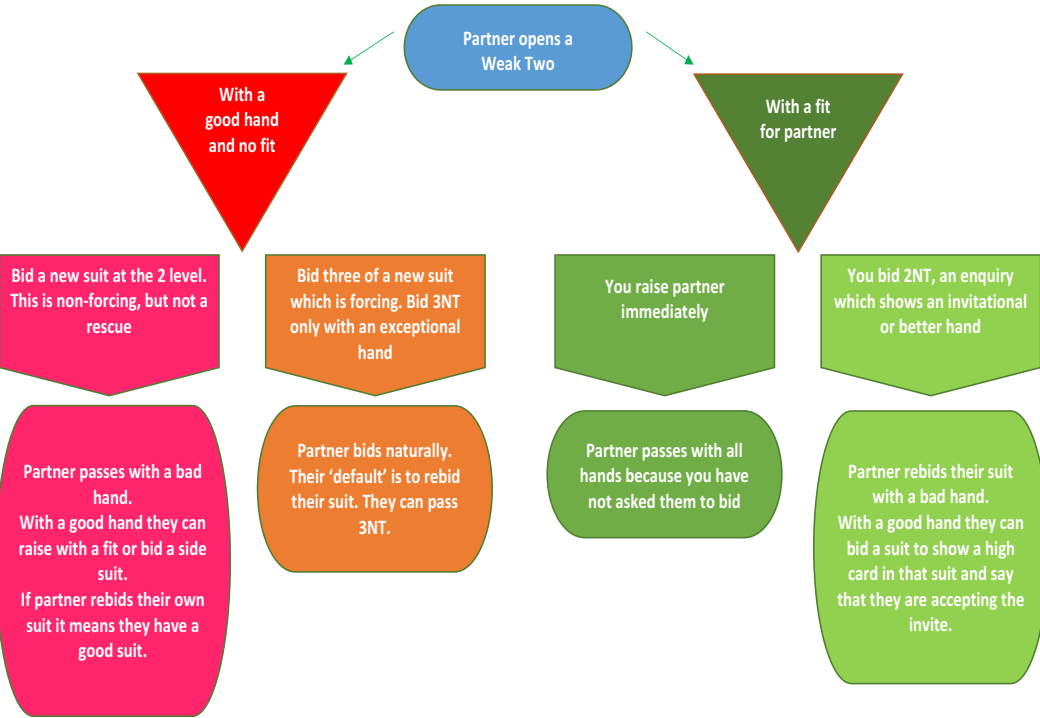
hand but actually you barely have the balance of power, and no fit, but yet have to try to make a contract. It's really easy to keep scrambling when you can't find a fit and end up far too high.

- ♣ Weak hands with a long suit facing a singleton don't tend to play well in NT. If that long suit sets up you can't always get to it, and if things break badly you have nowhere to go for tricks.

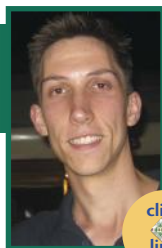
Occasionally you do have a massive hand and can bid 3NT, and sometimes you have a suit of your own that you can bid, hoping to explore a bit more and improve the contract. I usually play that responding to a weak two with a new suit is non-forcing at the two level, showing at least a good five-card suit (it must be good – how many honours do you think partner holds in it?) and usually about 14+ points

(if you play the bid as forcing you will need to have more points than this). Now, partner will support if they hold three-card support for you, or even two good cards if your suit is a major and they have a maximum. If they do not have support they can bid a second suit with cards in that suit and a non-minimum, or rebid their own suit if it's really good. Usually, if they have a bad hand they will just pass your bid, which is what makes this fairly safe: you won't get too high facing a minimum.

If you respond in a new suit at the three level, however, that is forcing, and hence shows a better hand than responding at the two level. Partner should just bid naturally over this, with their default being to rebid their own suit if they don't know what else to do. □



Check out Sarah's quiz on p70



Strong Rebids Part IV - Responding to Reverses

Back in May we looked at the dreaded reverse, a bid that generally causes confusion up and down the land – until now!

Let us start by reminding ourselves what a reverse shows:

A reverse bid is where you open with one of a suit and rebid two of a suit, with the corollary that the second suit is higher-ranking than the first, and that you go past two of your original suit, without making a jump bid. It shows 16+ points, and is limited only by the failure to open 2♣ (23+).

These are all examples of a reverse bid:

West	East
1♣	1♥
2♦	

West	East
1♣	1♠
2♦	

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♥	

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♠	

A reverse bid guarantees at least five cards in the first suit, and shows four in the second suit. (Note that 5-5 is never possible since you always open the higher ranking with 5-5. It *could* be 6-5, but it is very rare).

The question is, what are you supposed to do next when partner has made a reverse bid?

Often when partner has a good hand you will have a poor hand and your first thoughts must be to make a weak response to show you do not have enough for game – around 5-7 points.

The weak responses are:

- to put partner back to their first suit; or
- to bid a catch-all 2NT to show you have a misfit and no extra length.

Simple preference will have to be at the three level, but this can be a doubleton if you are stuck for a bid.

If you rebid your major suit it shows five or more cards and doesn't promise anything extra, though opener is expected to bid again.

If you have a better hand as responder, then you can bid 4th suit forcing, raise the second suit or bid game if you think you know which game is the correct one.

You may be surprised to hear that a raise of the second suit is forcing – but the logic is simple – if you have a fit in the second suit then you will normally have enough distribution to make game possible, since both of you will be 5/4 or better.

Let's have a look at a few examples, starting with this simple sequence. You are sitting East:

West	East
1♣	1♠
2♥	?

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

Hand 1 is a poor hand with two honours that might be of no use at all (♠J and ♦Q). Put partner back to 3♣ showing a weak hand, and partner can play there. If partner wants to bid on to game they are welcome, but they are not entitled to expect very much from us. Facing an average

hand such as ♠A2 ♥AQ84 ♦65 ♣AQJ92 game has no chance at all in any strain.

Hand 2 should rebid 2♠. This is not showing anything extra, but it is forcing for one round so partner will bid again. If they don't have a fit for spades they are welcome to try 3♣ (showing six) or 2NT (showing a stopper in diamonds). In both cases they will quickly receive the dummy from us!

If partner does have a spade fit, then we will probably make game. This is because if partner has five clubs and four hearts and three spades they will have a singleton diamond and the hands will fit well. Even facing:

♠Q83 ♥KQ83 ♦4 ♣AKJ92

(with a lot wasted in clubs) game is still likely.

Hand 3 should bid 2NT, relying on the diamond holding to act as a reasonable stopper. The alternative of 3♣ is unlikely to play that well, as queens and jacks rarely pull their full weight in a suit contract. Facing something like:

♠5 ♥K953 ♦AJ2 ♣AKJ82

2NT has a fighting chance, whereas 3♣ suffers from the lack of entries to dummy.

Hand 4 should bid 3♣ this time, preference on only a doubleton club proving likely to be the least terrible contract. Note that here the majority of the points are in partner's suits (clubs and hearts) and at least one of the weaker suits is likely to be wide open in no trumps. If by some chance we do belong in no trumps (partner is 2-4-2-5 with extra values) then it will certainly be better to play it from partner's hand, and have the lead come up to his strong short holdings in diamonds and spades.

Hand 5 should start with 3♦, 4th suit forcing, and game forcing. Holding 11 points and a club fit this hand is worth quite a lot, and we have a ruffing value in hearts as well. Note that it would be very wrong to bid 3NT ourselves, as our honour structure is such that a slam won't be a million miles away, especially if partner has a singleton spade. Holding Kx of partner's four-card suit will be especially useful for ruffing and helping to develop tricks.

Hand 6 can jump straight to 3NT. Aceless and with no fit it is almost certain that this is the right final contract. You are loaded with stoppers (both of those 9s will be useful in holding up the



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opponents' long suits) and, even if you are a few points short, you know partner has a good five-card club suit to play on. □

The Dos and Don'ts of Responding to Reverses

- Do** try and consider what bid will work out best if partner has just the minimum promised, as otherwise you risk getting a minus score when partner has a nice hand.
- Do** feel free to give preference to partner's five-card suit on only a doubleton, but only if you can't bid anything else.
- Don't** pass a reverse bid as partner can be quite strong, and if he has a partial fit for your major suit then you might even make a low point count game.
- Don't** forget that a hand that shows 5 - 4 will often have a singleton, and if the hands fit well with an empty ace facing the singleton then you will have the playing strength outside to make a lot of tricks.

Try Michael's Quiz, page 71



Blockages 4

In this issue we return to the topic of blockages. Let's start with a suit combination which is frequently misplayed.

Here is a simple example. North opens 1♥ and you respond 1NT. Partner raises you happily to 3NT and West's ♠6 lead is not particularly welcome. You optimistically try a small spade from the table at trick one but East produces the king and shoots down the ♠A at trick two. How should you play?

Hand 1

South plays in 3NT.
West leads the ♠6,
East wins with the
♠K and returns a
spade.

♠ A 7
♥ A K 7 3
♦ A 10 4
♣ A 7 4 3

♠ J 4
♥ 9 8
♦ K Q 9 5 2
♣ Q 8 6 2

Your initial *Count and Plan* reveals seven top tricks (one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and a club). The hand is simple enough to analyse – if diamonds come in for five tricks you'll make your contract, if not you are going to fail as the opponents will swamp your boat with spades.

Now, if diamonds are 3-2 the hand is easy and I wouldn't bother you with it. What, though, can you do if the suit splits 4-1? If West has the length then the answer is nothing, you must suffer defeat with as much dignity as you can muster. The key is to pick up ♦Jxxx in the East hand. The crux of the matter, therefore, is to play diamonds accurately.

You take the ♠A at trick two and cash the ♦A. Now – careful, now! – you must play the ♦10 to the queen. If both opponents follow you are home and dry as diamonds are 3-2. If, though, West shows out you can return to one of North's high cards and play

the ♦4, finessing the ♦9. Had you retained the ♦10 the suit would be blocked as East would certainly not cover the ten on the third round, and if you let it run you can't get back to hand to enjoy the remaining diamonds. Let's look at the full deal:

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♠6

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

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

	♠ N	
W	♦	E
	♣ S	

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Unblocking the suit by playing ten to the queen is essential (or, if you prefer, you could lead the ten on the first round to the queen and follow with a diamond to the ace).

These unblocking plays are also necessary in defence. North-South bid to 3NT having introduced an unsuccessful Stayman en route and, as East, this is what you can see after partner leads the ♦2:

Hand 2. South plays in 3NT. West leads the ♦2

♠ J 9 5 3
♥ K J 8 2
♦ A 6
♣ K Q 2

♠ Q 10 7
♥ A Q 6
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 7 6 4

Your initial *defensive appraisal* tells you that declarer has four diamond cards (partner's lead of the ♦2 proclaims just a four-card suit). Partner has three points, give or take one, and the ♦2 suggests an honour, so the king or the KJ. You are happy to see that the ♥AQ are well placed for the defence.

Now, how should you defend if...

- declarer plays small from the dummy and your ♦Q holds the trick?
- declarer plays the ♦A from the dummy at trick one?

Part (a) is easy enough. You obviously return a diamond – but which diamond? Should you waste the ♦10 when the ace is singleton in the dummy? Wouldn't the ♦5 be good enough?

The answer is no, you must return the ♦10, to avoid blocking the suit if partner has led from ♦K9xx.

Part (b) is trickier. Declarer is probably playing the ace at trick one in an attempt to block the suit. Here, you must unship the ten to thwart South's dastardly play. You don't see why? Well, study the full deal:

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♦2

♠ J 9 5 3
♥ K J 8 2
♦ A 6
♣ K Q 2

♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ 7 5 4
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ 9 3

♠ A K
♥ 10 9 3
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ A J 8 5

♠ Q 10 7
♥ A Q 6
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 7 6 4

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The defenders are in a position to cash three diamonds and two hearts, but only if they unblock the diamonds. If East holds on to the ♦10 in either variation (after the ♦Q wins trick one or if declarer plays the ♦A immediately) then East-West cannot cash three diamond tricks.

This hand has been played many times and many have missed the subtlety of the deal. ☐

Have you got it? Paul's quiz is online p72

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Heffalump Traps

In each of the following hands you are sitting South. You are playing in a teams match with IMPs scoring. You should make a plan to give yourself the best chance of making your contract, even if that means giving up on the possibility of making overtricks.

Hand 1

♠ Q 6 5
♥ 10 7 3
♦ K Q J 9 3
♣ K 2



♠ A J 10 9
♥ A 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A Q J 5

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♥4. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A J 9 4
♦ Q 6 3
♣ J 5 2



♠ A K J 9 6 5
♥ 10
♦ A 10 4
♣ A K Q

You are in 6♣. West leads the ♥K. Plan your play.

Hand 3

♠ A Q 10 9 3
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 9 8 2
♣ Q 10



♠ K
♥ A K 6 4
♦ J 10 7 5 3
♣ A K 4

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♣5. Plan your play.

Hand 4

♠ K Q 5
♥ A 8
♦ K 8 4
♣ A 7 6 5 2



♠ A J 3
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q J 9 7 6
♣ K 8

You are in 7♦. West leads the ♣Q. Plan your play.

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 36

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

You are sitting West. What should you bid with each hand below on the given auction at matchpoint pairs? Assume love all except where indicated.

Hand 1

♠ J 10 9
♥ A K
♦ 6 5 2
♣ A K 9 8 5

W	N	E	S
			1♠
?			

Hand 2

♠ A K 9 8 3
♥ K 6 5
♦ 10 4
♣ A K 9

W	N	E	S
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass
?			

Hand 3

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ K Q 2
♦ 8 7 3 2
♣ 8 5

W	N	E	S
	1♦	Dble	1♥
?			

Hand 4

♠ J 9 7 4 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ K 7 3
♣ 10 3

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
?			

Hand 5

♠ Q 8 6 5 3 2
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ 8
♣ A 6

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♣
?			

Hand 6

♠ 9 7 6
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 10
♣ K J 5 4 2

W	N	E	S
			Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹
?			
¹ Majors			

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 63

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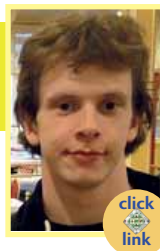
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Crocs on Defence

by Stephen Kennedy



When NOT to Cover with an Honour

In my previous article, I went over the well known phrase: 'Cover an honour with an honour'. I then went over when not to cover, explaining that you should not cover the first of touching honours. I even discussed what to do when declarer leads an honour from the closed hand:

If there is only one honour in dummy: do not cover.

If there are two honours in dummy: cover.

Now that we have re-established the basics, let's throw them out.

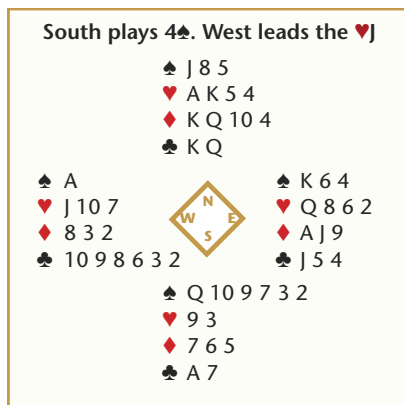


South	West	North	East
2♣ ¹	Pass	4♠	All Pass

¹ Weak Two – 6 spades, 5-10 points

Partner kicks things off with the ♥J and declarer wastes no time by winning with the ace and calling for the ♠J.

A bridge player in his prime would place the ♠K on the table without a moments thought. Covering honours is what good players do. And we are especially good because we can see that this is not the first of touching honours. Obviously, we cover. And when partner follows with the ♠A, we find out just how good we are. Here's the full deal:

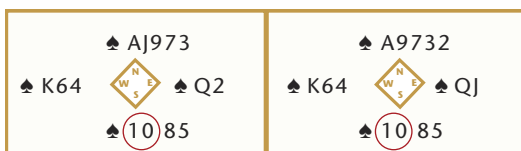


Clearly, covering was **not, NOT NOT** the correct play. But why is that? You may call it unlucky. How was I supposed to know that partner had singleton ace? I followed all the rules? Well, yes, but the rules are there to act as a guide. It's far more important to understand why we cover.

The reason covering is typically good, is because it allows us to promote lower cards. That can be the high spot cards in our own hand or the honours in partner's hand. As such, you should be wary when the opponents have length in the suit.

Thanks to the bidding, we know that partner has a singleton spade. Covering with our king cannot possibly promote a trick in partner's hand because he will have nothing left after this trick. And as we can see, it can do a lot worse than that. Covering with the king will be just as bad when partner has a singleton queen.

And this sort of thing doesn't just apply when partner has a singleton. A doubleton can be just as bad... let's look at the following examples. Declarer leads the ringed card, and you are West:



In the first example, covering the ten with the king doesn't help us, and in the second, it actively costs a trick.

A similar thing can happen if declarer's suit is strong rather than long:

<p>♠ AQ109</p> <p>♠ K84</p> <p>♠ 76532</p> <p>♠ J</p>	<p>♠ AQ108</p> <p>♠ K94</p> <p>♠ 76532</p> <p>♠ J</p>
---	---

When declarer leads the ♠J, West may cover, but there is no advantage in doing so. The suit in dummy is so strong that we can't possibly promote a trick. And in this instance, covering actively gives a trick away. With a singleton opposite, declarer can only take the finesse once. And if West covers, the finesse is no longer needed.

It's difficult to put a hard and fast rule to all this, but my advice would be this:

Don't cover when there are no tricks to promote.

If you follow this rule, you can find yourself scoring tricks in ways you may not expect. Consider this final hand where South opens 2NT and North jumps to 6NT.

South plays 6NT. West leads the ♥J		
♠ A Q 5	♠ 8 6 4 2	
♥ Q 2	♥ K 6 5 4	
♦ K 10 5 3	♦ 8	
♣ K 10 4 2	♣ 9 8 7 3	
♠ 10 9 7 3		
♥ J 10 9 3		
♦ Q 6 2		
♣ 6 5		
♠ K J		
♥ A 8 7		
♦ A J 9 7 4		
♣ A Q J		

Your ♥J lead strikes gold when it hits queen, king, ace. But a look at the dummy proves disheartening. With so many points, it's hard to imagine where your setting tricks are coming from. Regardless, you still have a hand to defend. After taking the ♥A, declarer places the ♦J on the table. Are you going to cover?

Well. Since this is an article on when not to cover, you might have the wit to play low. But why should you play low? After all, declarer has led an honour, and there are two honours in dummy. Everything we have learnt suggests that we cover. But not everything.

Right at the start, we reaffirmed that we typically cover to promote partner's cards. If partner has A9x, covering will promote his nine. It's just a shame that partner can't hold A9x.

Dummy has fourteen points. Add that to declarer's guaranteed twenty, and partner can't hold a single point past the ♥K. Declarer has the ♦A. And as such, there is no advantage to covering. And there is everything to gain by playing low.

The great Zia Mahmoud once said: 'If they don't cover, they don't have it.' As we have seen, this is very true and declarers can use this fact to their advantage. The normal play in diamonds is to cash the ace and king, hoping for the queen to fall. But there is no harm in starting with the jack. If West covers, you don't need to rely on the queen falling. And if West doesn't cover, you can fall back on the normal play of cashing the ace and king.

But we're not declaring right now. We're defending. If you hesitate – if you even blink – you will give the game away and declarer will know that you have the ♦Q. Play low, and declarer will go wrong, and you will beat this iron clad contract. Luckily you counted points when dummy went down and figured out that declarer had to have the ♦A. You did, didn't you? □

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New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

Please note that the format of the leads quiz is changing from this issue. You must choose which card from which suit to lead.

To help you with your leads, it will be assumed that we play top from a sequence, top from a doubleton, 2nd from three or more small cards and 4th highest from an honour, unless there's a good reason to make a non-standard lead.

COMPUTER LEADS

Alan Mould has teamed up with Nathan Piper to get computer-generated simulations to provide best lead scenarios. Details on methodology can be seen by [clicking here](#).



A twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards is the prize on offer. For information on Piatnik cards visit www.gibsonsgames.co.uk/collections/all-cards

There are TWO categories in our competition: up to and including Master, and those with higher ranking. Please indicate the category for which you are entering with your answers. In the event of a tie, the winner from each category will be randomly selected. The editor's decision is final.

Entries to the Editor, Leads Quiz,
Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, Somerset,
TA10 0DD
or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk
by 15 October 2022.

Please make sure you include your full postal address AND rank even if entering by e-mail

ANSWERS TO MAY'S QUIZ: Page 42

TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

Hand 1

♠ J 8 6
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ 7 5
♣ Q J 8 7

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	4NT ¹
5♠	All Pass		

¹ Minors. Note: It is better to play this as any two suits, but your partnership has agreed it shows the minors specifically.

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

★★★★★

Hand 2

♠ K 3
♥ K 6 5 4 2
♦ A 8 3
♣ K 10 7

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dble	2♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

★★★★★

Hand 3

♠ 9 8 3
♥ A 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ K 10 8 6 3

South	West	North	East
3♥	Pass	4♥	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣	5♥	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

¹ Minors (if partner had spades they would bid 4♠)

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?



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Beat Today's Experts

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ K
Dealer South ♥ K J 8 7 6
 ♦ Q 6
(Dyke) ♣ K Q 6 5 2
2. Love All ♠ A 3
Dealer West ♥ K 8 6 3
 ♦ Q 2
(Levy) ♣ K 8 7 5 4
3. E/W Game ♠ A Q 10 7 4
Dealer East ♥ Q 8
 ♦ K Q
(Brock) ♣ A K J 6
- * North bids 2♥
4. E/W Game ♠ 10 4 2
Dealer East ♥ K J 10 8
 ♦ A 10 5 4
(Sebanne) ♣ 9 6
5. Game All ♠ A
Dealer West ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A Q J 10 8 6 5 4
(Van Langveld) ♣ J 8
- * North doubles and South bids 2♠
6. E/W Game ♠ A 5
Dealer South ♥ A K Q 8
 ♦ K J 3
(Klukowski) ♣ J 10 9 8

Beat Today's Experts

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ A 9 4 2
Dealer South ♥ A 3
 ♦ 10 4
(Byrne) ♣ A 9 8 7 4
2. Love All ♠ K 10 8 4 2
Dealer West ♥ A 10 9 7 4 2
 ♦ A
(Abécassis) ♣ J
3. E/W Game ♠ 8
Dealer East ♥ 9 5 3
 ♦ 10 8 6
(Brown) ♣ Q 10 7 4 3 2
- * North bids 2♥
4. E/W Game ♠ A K 9
Dealer East ♥ –
 ♦ K Q J 6 3
(Reess) ♣ A Q J 10 3
5. Game All ♠ 7 2
Dealer West ♥ A Q 8 5 4
 ♦ K
(Van den Bos) ♣ A Q 10 7 5
- * North doubles and South bids 2♠
6. E/W Game ♠ Q 2
Dealer South ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A 2
(Gawrys) ♣ A K Q 6 5 4 3




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Bridge with a Twist – Aylesbury Dictionary

You may remember, back in May, Simon Cochemé asked for contributions to the Aylesbury Dictionary of Bridge Terms. Thanks for all the contributions. Here are our selections.

Simon's favourites:

Stayman – *an invitation . . .*

Non-Promissory Stayman – *. . . but don't get your hopes up*

Italian discard – *An empty pizza box*

Cue Bid – *A bid destined to snooker the opposition*

Weak 2 – *A new inexperienced partnership*

Strong contenders:

Double Finesse – *Two female bridge players from Finland*

DOPI – *Bidding under the influence*

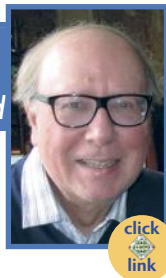
Short Club – *A putter*

The Blue Club – *Roman place of disrepute, not to be confused with . . .*

Six Clubs – *places for which Soho used to be famous*

Tony Togneri
Bill Daly
Keith Sheppard
Keith Sheppard

David Harris
Henry Cosgrave
Bill Daly
Kevin Sullivan
Kevin Sullivan



The Headmaster's Unlucky Board

In a few days, the Headmaster would be considering what pay rises (if any) would be appropriate for each member of staff. It had not escaped his attention that several rarely-seen masters had recently attended the school duplicate. Perhaps they thought this might enhance their prospects.

Peter Cummings, who was joint head of the Modern Languages department, smiled broadly as he arrived at the Headmaster's table. 'A good evening to you both,' he said 'I see that you and Norma won last week.'

The Headmaster nodded. 'By a small margin, yes,' he replied. 'Shall we play this one?'

Love All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ K J 10 6</p> <p>♥ Q J 5</p> <p>♦ 10 7 3</p> <p>♣ A J 6</p>		<p>♠ 9 8 2</p> <p>♥ 7 6</p> <p>♦ K Q J 9 5 4</p> <p>♣ 10 4</p>
<p>♠ 7 5 3</p> <p>♥ A 8 4</p> <p>♦ A 8 6 2</p> <p>♣ K 5 3</p>		
<p>♠ A Q 4</p> <p>♥ K 10 9 3 2</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ Q 9 8 7 2</p>		

West	North	East	South
Norris Butcher	The Headmaster	Peter Cummings	Norma Doulton
Pass	4♥	3♦	3♥
		All Pass	

Norris Butcher, who prided himself on his luxuriant black moustache, led the ♦3. Norma Doulton ruffed in her hand and paused to assess her contract. She could discard one spade on the

diamond ace, but West was likely to hold the king of spades. Since there was a near certain loser in trumps, it seemed that she might need to pick up the clubs for one loser. West would hold the club ace, but maybe that card was doubleton.

Since another possibility was a trump endplay on West, declarer could not afford to draw two rounds of trumps before playing on clubs. West could then play his master trump and exit safely in diamonds when he won a club trick.

At trick two Norma Doulton led a low club from her hand. Dummy's king won the trick and Peter Cummings followed with the 10. When she ducked a second round of clubs, all followed and West won with the jack.

Norris Butcher had a certain trump trick to come and would need to score a spade trick to beat the contract. Norma knew how to play the cards, though, and might arrange an endplay on him. He cashed the ace of clubs, East discarding a diamond, and exited with a diamond.

The Headmaster's wife won with dummy's diamond ace, discarding the ♠4 from her hand. After playing the king and ace of trumps, she ruffed a third round of diamonds in her hand, removing West's last card in the suit. Norris Butcher surveyed his remaining ♠KJ106 ♥Q with some concern. 'Play the trump, will you, Alfred?' said Norma Doulton. When West won the trick and had to return a spade, Norma faced her remaining cards and claimed the contract.

Norris Butcher shook his head and leaned forwards. 'You could have beaten that one, partner' he said. 'If you ruff my ace of clubs, you can switch to a spade and prevent the endplay.'

Peter Cummings made no reply, not overjoyed at having his defence queried. It was particularly aggravating only a day or so before the pay rises would be determined.

‘You set up my king of spades, do you see?’ Butcher continued. ‘Then I can cash it when I take my trump trick.’

Norma Doulton returned her cards to the board. ‘Yes, but you could have made it easier for your partner,’ she declared. ‘You should win the second round of clubs with the ace and return the jack! That would force your partner to ruff.’

‘What an excellent analysis, Norma,’ declared a relieved Peter Cummings. ‘No wonder you and Alfred did so well last week.’

Not long afterwards, the Headmaster and his wife faced two apprehensive third-formers, who were playing in the Thursday duplicate for the first time. The players drew their cards for this board:

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 5

♥ A K 8 7 4

♦ A K 8

♣ 9 7 6 2

♠ K J 9 8 6

♥ Q J 10 5

♦ J 7 3

♣ A

♠ 2

♥ 6 3 2

♦ Q 9 5 4 2

♣ K Q 5 4

♠ A Q 10 7 4 3

♥ 9

♦ 10 6

♣ J 10 8 3

West	North	East	South
The Headmaster	Julian Harper	Norma Doulton	Paul Goode
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Dble	3NT	Pass	4♣
	All Pass		

The Headmaster led the queen of hearts and down went the dummy. The slenderly built Paul Goode blinked as he inspected its contents. ‘I thought your 3NT showed a balanced hand,’ he said. ‘I wasn’t expecting a singleton spade.’

Happy as he was at the prospect of collecting 800 or so, the Headmaster peered disapprovingly at the youngster. His partner had announced at least nine cards in hearts and clubs, then some diamond length with his 3NT continuation. He might even

have held a void in spades. ‘It’s you to play from the dummy,’ he said.

Paul Goode won with dummy’s ace of hearts and discarded a club on the heart king. The Headmaster presumably had a strong holding in trumps, so the best chance to reduce the approaching penalty must be to take some ruffs in his hand.

A heart ruff was followed by a diamond to the king and a second heart ruff. The young declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in his hand. These cards remained in play:

♠ 5

♥ 8

♦ –

♣ 9 7 6 2

♠ K J 9 8 6

♥ –

♦ –

♣ A

♠ 2

♥ –

♦ Q 5

♣ K Q 5

♠ A Q 10

♥ –

♦ –

♣ J 10 8

When the ♣J was led, the Headmaster won with the ace and had to return a trump. Goode won with the 10 and tried his luck with another club. The Headmaster, who had slumped in his chair, ruffed this trick and returned a trump into the ace-queen tenace. The doubled game had been made.

‘Wow! What did you have?’ enquired North.

‘I had a seven-loser hand,’ Paul Goode replied. ‘Ron Klinger says that’s enough to go to game.’

Norma Doulton entered the 790 in her scorecard, using the same neat handwriting she employed for promising scores in the plus column. What was Alfred thinking about, leading dummy’s main suit? After a diamond lead, ten tricks would have been impossible.

‘There was nothing wrong with my double,’ declared the Headmaster. ‘I had four likely trump tricks and the ace of clubs, with your hand to come.’

Norma Doulton retained an impassive expression. ‘Yes, it was an unlucky one,’ she replied. □



Clever play

Playing pairs, West deals and passes and North opens one no trump. East overcalls two no trumps which shows both minors, and as South you jump to four hearts which ends the auction.

West leads the king of spades. How do you plan the play?

Love All. Dealer West

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ K 6 2
♦ A 10 8
♣ J 7 2

♠ 6 2
♥ A J 9 8 7 3
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 10

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2NT ¹	4♥
All Pass			
¹ both minors – at least 5-5			

You should already have a fair idea about the shape of the opponents' hands. Let's look at the clues. West hasn't opened a weak two in spades, which suggests holding at most five spades, leaving East with two. East's overcall of 2NT should be at least 5-5 in the minors, therefore it seems likely that East has at most a singleton trump. Begin with a trump to the ace, and when East's ten appears, you can finesse West for the queen, and draw the third round ending in dummy. Now play a club to the ten,

which loses to the queen, and West continues with two more rounds of spades, East discarding on the third round.

This is where you have got to after ruffing the spade:

♠ 5
♥ –
♦ A 10 8
♣ J 7

♠ –
♥ 9 8
♦ K 6 3
♣ A

With the hand now counted, you can play off your last two trumps, throwing a spade and a diamond from dummy. East, holding Kx of clubs and three diamonds, will be squeezed for the overtrick. Here's the full deal:

South plays 4♥. West leads the ♠K

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ K 6 2
♦ A 10 8
♣ J 7 2

♠ K Q J 10 9
♥ Q 5 4
♦ 9 4
♣ Q 8 3

♠ 8 7
♥ 10
♦ Q J 7 5 2
♣ K 9 6 5 4

♠ 6 2
♥ A J 9 8 7 3
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 10

What do you think of East's overcall? There is a small chance of finding a sacrifice, but often it gives declarer too much information about the shape. On this hand declarer may have found the squeeze, but would never have picked up the trumps. □

HEATHER'S HINTS

- ♣ Think about the purpose of your bid before you make it. The unusual 2NT is a less useful bid than a Michaels cue bid since it is showing lower ranking suits. Firstly, it will always commit you to the three level but there is no guarantee of a fit, so you may expose your side to a penalty. Secondly, if your side are going to find a game or a sacrifice it will be have to be at the five level. Therefore for both these reasons vulnerability plays an important role, and you should also have a little more strength or shape as you are committing your side to a higher level. Finally, if you do not win the contract, you have revealed your hand to the opponents, as on this occasion, and declarer will take advantage of knowing your shape to decide the play.
- ♣ Listen to the bidding to help decide your play, and don't forget the negative inferences. When West passes as dealer, it rules out more possibilities than simply denying twelve points. On this hand, holding a spade suit strong enough to lead the king, West would certainly have opened a weak two holding a six-card suit.



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this magazine when you
have finished with it

Let me ask you how would you play this hand?

On today's deal, you, playing as South, become declarer in 6♥, after West, on the left, leads ♣Q.

What is the best line of play?

♠ A 9 3 2
♥ 7 2
♦ A K Q 10 8 5
♣ 7

N
W E
S

♠ 5
♥ A K 8 6 5 3
♦ J 7
♣ A 6 5 3

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European Championships 2022

No 'rub of the green' in Madeira

The European Championships are held every two years, in even-numbered years. Madeira was scheduled to hold the 2020 edition, but the Covid pandemic caused them to be delayed a year. When 2021 proved equally impossible, the event was cancelled. As the pandemic receded, the EBU took the welcome decision to grant the 2022 event to Madeira.

It proved to be an excellent choice; the welcome and the weather were warm, the venues and the organisation were first class with, perhaps, the only downside being that two of the four events were played in one venue, and two in another.

The EBU Selection Committee, as usual, determined that there should be trials for the four teams – Open, Womens, Seniors and Mixed – with the top three pairs being invited to play. Well, not quite as usual – this was the first time that a Mixed teams event was being held. There were procedures in place for players who wanted to enter more than one event; if you qualified for a team, and entered for a subsequent trial, you would have to give up the earlier place if you won.

The names of the players who qualified created some new records. There were three players called Ben in the Open team – one in each partnership! The Womens team matched this three-of-a-kind by having two pairs – a pair of Ewa-s and a pair of Catherine-s – and a pair whose surnames were near-anagrams (Rosen/Senior).

The Championships were played as complete Round Robins in each category, with gold, silver and bronze medals for the first three teams, and entry to next year's World Championships for the first eight.

EUROPEANS – OPEN TEAMS By NPC Paul Barden

The England Open Team was selected through a two-stage IMP-ed pairs trial held last September and November, won convincingly by Ben Handley-Pritchard & Tom Townsend, with Stefano Tommasini & Ben Green in second place and Mike Bell & Ben Norton just behind them in third. Claire Robinson and your writer were retained as Coach and Non-Playing Captain (NPC).

Much had changed in those two months. We now had half a team of Bens and half the team from Salsomaggiore. And, joyous to say, Covid had been abolished by acclamation. No more masks or temperature checks or nasal swabs. I've heard of some not very serious Covid cases, but everyone acted as if there were no problem, and we were all happier for it.

Since Madeira is Portuguese, there was no time difference, but with possible delays and cancellations in mind we all arrived a full day in advance, which looked like a wise precaution when half the team's afternoon flight was delayed until the late evening. After a pleasant day off, acclimatizing to the African sun, which turned out to be slightly cooler than the heatwave back in England, and playing table-tennis outdoors in the wind, we settled down to the bridge.

We were to play a Round Robin of 29 16-board matches over 11 days. On the first day, in mid-June, we had small wins in both matches, and lay 10th. We started on Monday against Wales, with Ben H-P in fine form on this board:

E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ 9 4 2
♥ K Q 10 4 2
♦ A 6 5 2
♣ 8

♠ 7 6
♥ J 8 6 5
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ J 9 6

♠ K Q 3
♥ 9
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ K 7 5 3 2

♠ A J 10 8 5
♥ A 7 3
♦ Q
♣ A Q 10 4

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

West	North	East	South
Pottage	Townsend	Ratcliff	Handley-Pritchard
		1♣	1♠
Pass	2♣ ^A	Pass	4♦ ^A
Pass	4♥ ^A	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Ben HP contented himself with a simple overcall, but when Tom Townsend showed a good raise by cue-bidding clubs, Ben liked his hand. He showed short diamonds and slam interest by jumping to 4♦. Tom in turn liked his hand, envisaging the ace of hearts opposite. He cued 4♥, Ben bid RKCB, Tom showed one, and Ben bid the slam, expecting any finesses against East to work. West led a diamond, won in dummy for a spade to the jack, which held. On this lie it's possible to play for a club ruff, but it's not entirely safe, so Ben backed his judgement that the club king would be onside. He ducked a spade, won the spade return, ran the hearts, and took the club finesse at the end, making twelve.

Wales played well, and the 11 IMPs we won on the board were less than the margin in the match. Croatia played well in the next match too, and won, but we finished the day with a 36 IMP win against Italy, and rose to 8th. On Tuesday, day three, we again won two matches, retaining 8th place. Then on Wednesday morning we got hammered by the unfancied Greek team, falling abruptly to 13th, where we remained until Friday evening. It was time for a team meeting, where the captain exhorted his team to win more tricks, IMPs, Victory Points, and glory.

Cont/p26

Did you get it right?

Let me tell you how you should have played it...

We have:
1 trick in ♠
X tricks in ♥
6 tricks in ♦
1 trick in ♣

Hand 1 (West):
♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ Q 10
♦ 9 4 2
♣ Q J 10 2

Hand 2 (North):
♠ A 9 3 2
♥ 7 2
♦ A K Q 10 8 5
♣ 7

Hand 3 (East):
♠ K J 8 6
♥ J 9 4
♦ 6 3
♣ K 9 8 4

Hand 4 (South):
♠ 5
♥ A K 8 6 5 3
♦ J 7
♣ A 6 5 3

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

It looks like the contract depends on the trump suit. If the trumps are distributed 4-1 or 5-0, there is nothing we can do.

What about a 3-2 split?
We have so many tricks that it appears we'd easily make the contract.

What about the ♣ suit?
We need to win the lead with the Ace and if we now play 2 top trumps, we no longer have control over the ♣ suit.

The solution is simple – duck a ♥. The opponents might force us to ruff a ♣ in dummy, but we can get back to hand, either by ruffing a ♠ or playing a ♦ to the Jack to draw trumps.

Do you want to see more of these puzzles?

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And so they did. We edged our match against France, then beat Spain by 30, helped by Ben Norton and Mike Bell taking their captain's words rather too much to heart:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jiminez</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Knap</i>	<i>Bell</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣ ^A
Pass	3♥ ^A	Pass	3♠ ^A
Pass	3NT ^A	Pass	4♣ ^A
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Norton and Bell play some elaborate methods. Here after a Stayman enquiry found the heart fit, 3♠ was an artificial slam try, 3NT asked, and 4♣ showed either no shortage or a mild slam try with a shortage. But perhaps they should add something to sort out what happens next, because Ben could find nothing better to do than drive to slam via RKCB. Unfortunately, Mike had the wrong shortage. Fortunately, East was in the dark, and led the king of spades, so Ben was in business. He won the ace of spades, drew trumps in three rounds ending in hand, and led a diamond to the ten – the best line for four tricks in the suit when you can't afford to win the third round in the short hand. The finesse held, so he cashed the diamonds discarding a club, reaching the position shown.

Now East ducked declarer's spade lead, having no desire to endplay himself. Ben led another spade off dummy: when West discarded a club Ben did the same, and East was endplayed after all – whatever he did would present declarer with a black trick to go with his two trumps.

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

So now we were back up to 10th. The next day we played the Netherlands, who were winning the event by a distance, then the two bottom teams. We got about what we wanted out of those matches, with Stefano and Ben Green producing a storming set against Scotland, and were in 8th place with eight matches to play.

But it all went wrong. We won only two more matches, by one and two IMPs, and slid down to a disappointing 12th place at the end.

Overall, we did well against the top teams, but dropped too many VPs against the lesser lights, who sometimes seemed to play like duffers against our rivals before outbidding the field against us. But we can't complain, we made up for that with a following wind in the slam zone. In the end, we just needed to play better – all the pairs had some very good matches, but not enough of them. The positive point is that this is a young team, gaining experience in defeat as well as in victory. I am optimistic for the future. □



England's Open Teams players: Ben Green, Paul Barden (NPC), Mike Bell, Tom Townsend, Claire Robinson (coach), Ben Norton, Ben Handley-Pritchard & Stefano Tommasini

Photo: Peter Hasenson

EUROPEANS – WOMENS TEAMS

By NPC Paula Leslie

The English womens team members earned their places by coming in the top three places of a tough four day pairs trial in February and lacked many of the usual familiar faces. Our team comprised a mix of youth and experience and our three partnerships were Anne Rosen & Nevena Senior, Ewa Kater & Ewa Wiczorek and Catherine Draper & Catherine Seale with yours truly as NPC.

It has frequently been said that English teams would do better at major championships if they didn't bid any slams at all. Our team were fairly unlucky in the slam zone, bidding and going down in several where a finesse failed or an ace was offside. However, we did have a few slam zone triumphs and here is one of them from our second match against Ireland.

How would you bid the East-West cards with your favourite partner?

Game All. Dealer East.

♠ K J
♥ 7
♦ 10 9 5 4 3 2
♣ 9 8 7 3

♠ Q 7 5 2
♥ A 10 8 6 3
♦ –
♣ A K 10 5

♠ A 10
♥ K Q 5 4 2
♦ A K Q 6
♣ J 4

♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ J 9
♦ J 8 7
♣ Q 6 2

Hand Diagram:

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

West	North	East	South
Rosen		Senior	
		1♥	Pass
2NT ^A	Pass	3♦ ^A	Pass
3NT ^A	Pass	4♦ ^A	Pass
5♣ ^A	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Anne Rosen's 2NT was Jacoby, promising four-card support and game-forcing. The 3♦ bid showed 15+ points no shortage. 3NT showed a shortage in diamonds and 14+ HCP (with fewer points she would have splintered earlier). The subsequent

Cont/. . .

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diamond bid was a cue bid, denying a club control, and 5♣ was also a cue bid, showing extra values but denying a spade control. It was nicely bid for a gain of 13 IMPs. Nevena and Anne were one of only four pairs in the event to bid the optimal 7♥ contract.

In the fourth round, Catherine & Catherine bid to 6NT by South against Portugal – not the best contract but we've all bid and made worse contracts. The opening lead was the ♣7 and Catherine Seale had to find the winning line. How would you play the hand?

Game All. Dealer South.			
♠ J 10 5 4 3			
♥ Q 9 6 5			
♦ Q 8			
♣ K 4			
♠ Q 8 7 2	<div>⬡ N W E S</div>	♠ K 6	
♥ 10 3		♥ K J 8 7	
♦ 10 9 5 2		♦ 6 3	
♣ 7 6 2		♣ 10 9 8 5 3	
♠ A 9			
♥ A 4 2			
♦ A K J 7 4			
♣ A Q J			

You start with 10 tricks assuming that the diamond suit produces five tricks so you need to find two more. One option is to play for something good to happen in the heart suit but Catherine thought that the spade suit offered more promise. Accordingly, she won with ♣K in dummy and played a small spade to the 9 which lost to the ♠Q. When the ♠K fell on the next round, she could cross to dummy with the ♦Q and cash her two established spade tricks making 12 in all.

West could have beaten the contract by ducking the ♠9 but that is easier to see when all four hands are on view.

While on the subject of slams, I should also mention Ewa Kater and our youngest player, Ewa Wiczorek, who is only 24. In the match against Germany, they had already bid and gone down in two 6♥ contract on boards 8 and 10 but they picked themselves up and bid the cold 7♥ on the very next board where only four other pairs in the event managed to bid to a grand slam.

In terms of our overall performance, it was a tale of two halves. In the first half, we won seven out of nine matches and were lying sixth. Unfortunately,

the second half of the tournament didn't go well and we only won two further matches ending in 12th place and out of the qualifying spots for next year's world championships. The opponents were certainly tougher in the second half when we played all three of the eventual medallists. However, it was a disappointing finish and we will hope for a better result for the womens team next time. □



Time off for the Womens Team. From left: Catherine Seale, Catherine Draper, Anne Rosen, Nevena Senior, Solvi Remen (Norwegian team), Ewa Wiczorek, Ewa Kater, Paula Leslie

EUROPEANS – SENIORS TEAMS By NPC Simon Cochemé

The Senior team for the Championships was made up of three pairs who won the trials back in March, Taf Anthias & Chris Dixon, Sally Brock & Barry Myers, and Gunnar Hallberg & David Mossop. Anthias was making his international debut. Brock and Myers were appearing as Seniors for the first time.

Our first match was against Israel and included this critical (and instructive) board:

Love All. Dealer South.			
♠ 9 8 5 4			
♥ J 9 7 4			
♦ Q 9 6			
♣ 9 2			
♠ A 10 6 3 2	<div>⬡ N W E S</div>	♠ K Q 7	
♥ K 5 2		♥ A 6	
♦ 10 8 7		♦ A J 4 2	
♣ A 10		♣ K Q J 8	
♠ J			
♥ Q 10 8 3			
♦ K 5 3			
♣ 7 6 5 4 3			

Brock & Myers bid to 6NT as East-West and took their 12 top tricks. At the other table the Israelis reached 7♠ by West. This looks to be a fair contract, needing a heart ruff in dummy and the trumps to behave. Dixon, with no compelling reason to lead a side suit, started with the ♠4. My eyes, and possibly yours, would light up at the prospect of a free finesse round into the ♠A10. But you, I am sure, would remember the importance of thinking at trick one.

If the trumps are 3-2, then all you need is a heart ruff in dummy. You must consider the situations when the trumps are 4-1. If North started with four spades to the jack, there is nothing you can do; winning the first trick with the ♠10 and then ruffing a heart in dummy will mean you have a trump loser. If South started with four spades to the jack, then playing one of dummy's honours is the right play; on certain lies of the cards you might survive via a trump coup. The remaining 4-1 layout is the one in the diagram, with South holding a singleton jack of trumps, about a 3% chance. You must win the lead in dummy and take your heart ruff with the ♠7. Spurning the free finesse is always the right thing to do.

In our match, declarer gave in to temptation and played small from dummy. He had to ruff his heart loser with a trump honour, and Dixon made a trump trick. England won 14 IMPs, and a 29 IMP win had got us off to a fine start.

The Israeli declarer was not alone; two other Seniors went down in 7♠ on trump leads and one made it. It was slightly better in the Open event; four declarers made 7♠ on a small trump lead, but two went down.



England's Open Teams players: Gunnar Halberg, Chris Dixon, Sally Brock, Barry Myers, David Mossop, Simon Cochemé (NPC). Taf Anthias not pictured

Photo: Peter Hasenson

We won our second match by one IMP and then faced Sweden, the eventual bronze medalists. Suppose, at Game All, you made a splinter bid and were horrified to see your partner pass. How many IMPs would you expect to lose? On some days Lady Luck might smile on you.



West	North	East	South
Morath	Dixon	Ostberg	Anthias
2♠ ^A	Pass	3♦ ^A	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

2♠ showed 10-12 points with six plus spades. 3♦ was erroneously alerted by East to North as a transfer to hearts (a convention that this pair played in the past). It was not alerted by West, who knew it was natural. He decided to show his diamond support and heart shortage with a 4♥ splinter. Imagine his surprise when this was passed out.

Dixon led the ♥A and declarer escaped for down two. Sweden were fined a VP for not knowing their system, but England were not awarded any compensation. At the other table the bidding took a more normal route to a not-uncommon contract and result.

West	North	East	South
Mossop	Efraimsson	Hallberg	Axdorph
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

The ♣A was led and declarer could not avoid the promotion of South's ♥9 as he tried to get to hand to draw trumps. The result was three down and -800. Four other North-Souths recorded +800 (and one North-South made +600 the hard way - 4♠ by Cont/. . .

West, undoubled and six down!) Despite this 12 IMP set-back, England narrowly won the match.

The team's progress through the event was a series of peaks and troughs. We beat four of the eight teams that qualified, but lost to the three teams at the foot of the table. One particular ravine was Anthias testing positive for Covid on the fifth day. He had to go into isolation, and returned to England five days after everyone else.

The roller-coaster continued with the five remaining players. Our last match saw us take a 35 IMP lead against Scotland after three boards, only for the Scots to claw their way back and restrict us to a 4 IMP victory. That meant we dropped to 11th place overall – a disappointing end to a frustrating week. □

EUROPEANS – MIXED TEAMS

By NPC Nick Smith

History records that the British last occupied Madeira in 1814 – the island was almost our only source of wine during the Napoleonic wars – but there was quite an invasion from the home nations for the 65th European Bridge Championships, including English teams in all four of the main events.

Most went with justifiable hopes of medals and we had a strong line-up on paper with Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne fresh from their triumph in the Spring Fours, the gifted Sarah Bell and Michael Byrne, and one of our older international debutantes, Diana Nettleton, partnering the unflappable Tom Paske. But six of the first nine matches were lost to leave England languishing in 18th place. Then Bell-Byrne, in particular, hit their best form in a run of six consecutive victories, including one that knocked Italy off the top of the table.

The last of these was a narrow win against medal-chasing Romania, largely thanks to a well-judged defence from Sarah Bell on the next hand shown.

Michael Byrne led the ♣10 and declarer, Geta Mihai could have succeeded by running five club winners. Instead she won the club lead in hand and ran the ♦8. Sarah won with the queen and accurately played back a heart to the jack and queen. Michael does best to return a small heart but, with the position a little unclear, tried a 2nd club instead.

Game All. Dealer North.

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

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

♠ N
 ♥ W
 ♦ E
 ♣ S

West	North	East	South
Byrne	R. Mihai	S. Bell	G. Mihai
	Pass	Pass	2NT ¹
All Pass			
¹ 19-20			

Rather than cash all her winners in the suit, Geta now decided to run the ♦J and Sarah displayed excellent technique by ducking smoothly. With a second diamond trick in the bag, the Romanian might have switched to one of the majors, confident of picking up at least one trick in each of those suits, but instead she fell into the trap of a third round finesse of the ♦10. When this lost to the king, Sarah played a spade. Declarer guessed wrong, and the ♠J lost to West's queen, leaving the frail 2NT contract as scuppered as one of Henry the Navigator's ships off the Madeiran rocks. With Frances Hinden making 1NT + 2 in the other room, that was 6 IMPs to England.

England's penultimate match was against the Netherlands and featured the first ever boards



England's Mixed Teams players: Diana Nettleton, Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Nick Smith (NPC), Michael Byrne, Tom Paske & Sarah Bell

played by Frances Hinden and Tom Paske. This new pairing went straight to the top of the Butlers Table, thanks to the kind of solid card play that Frances exhibited on the this deal:

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ J 6 5
♥ A Q J 9
♦ J 7 5
♣ A 8 4

♠ 9 3
♥ 10 8 7 3 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ J 10 9

♠ K Q 8 7 4
♥ 6
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K 5 3 2

N
W
E
S

♠ A 10 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ Q 7 6

West	North	East	South
Maas	Paske	Vriend	Hinden
			1NT ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	3NT
All Pass			
¹ 15-17			

Tom Paske’s 2NT was the equivalent of Puppet Stayman and the 3♦ response showed a four-card major. 3♠ showed he had 4 hearts and East took the opportunity to double for the lead. So West duly led the ♠9 against 3NT.

East, Bep Vriend, ducked the opening lead – the technical play in theory in order to maintain communications (although perhaps dangerous with so many HCP in dummy). Frances won with the ♠10, crossed in hearts and lost a diamond finesse to West, who continued with a low spade to the queen and ace.

This all helpfully gave declarer an exact count in spades so, after cashing all her red winners (counting any spade discards) East was strip squeezed and Frances could throw her in with the third spade to give her a second club trick and 11 in total. At the other table West made the natural club lead and held 3NT to 10 tricks.

The comprehensive win against the Netherlands gave England a good chance of rising to 9th in the last match against Switzerland but a tired defeat in that last encounter meant we had to settle for 10th place.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS		
OPEN TEAMS RESULTS		
Gold	Netherlands	
Silver	Switzerland	
Bronze	Norway	
12th	England	
WOMENS TEAMS RESULTS		
Gold	Poland	
Silver	Sweden	
Bronze	Israel	
12th	England	
SENIORS TEAMS RESULTS		
Gold	Poland	
Silver	Denmark	
Bronze	Sweden	
11th	England	
MIXED TEAMS RESULTS		
Gold	France	
Silver	Romania	
Bronze	Italy	
10th	England	

COMPETITION NEWS

YEAR END LONDON 2022

We are delighted to announce that the Year End Congress will return to London. Join us between Christmas and New Year for four fabulous days of bridge.

The event will take place from 27th – 30th December at the ILEC Conference Centre, London. The ILEC is just a few minutes walk from West Brompton station which offers both underground and National Rail services and only two stops from Clapham Junction.

As usual there will be stratified Swiss Pairs and stratified Swiss Teams. There will also be Mixed/Open Pairs and Improvers events.

The venue is linked to the IBIS hotel near Earls Court London.

Full details and prices are available online at www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/year-end. Please book via My EBU or send enquiries to comps@ebu.co.uk or call 01296 317203.

KYRENIA CYPRUS CONGRESS

The first Overseas Congress of 2023 will be taking place in Kyrenia, Cyprus from 1st – 8th February and is sponsored by First For Bridge.

Join us for a fantastic week in picturesque Northern Cyprus. Kyrenia is referred to as the Jewel in the Crown of North Cyprus, and the package costs from just £875 (including bridge fees). While in Kyrenia, explore the magnificent harbour and beautiful architecture with winding backstreets full of surprises.

We'll be staying at the five-star Lords Palace Hotel where you can enjoy superb facilities, excellent service, and outstanding value with our ultra-all-inclusive package.

AUTUMN CONGRESS & SENIORS CONGRESS

**EARLY
BIRD
DISCOUNT**

Don't forget to book early to take advantage of the special early bird prices for both the Autumn and Seniors Congresses this year. The closing date for early bird prices will be 9am, 26th September for the Autumn Congress and 9am, 30th October for the Seniors Congress.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Red – Anticipated F2F Events

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 24-25 Crockfords Cup Final, Warwick
- 24-25 Surrey GP Swiss weekend, Richmond BC and RealBridge
- 25 Westmorland & Cumbria GP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge

OCTOBER 2022

- 1-2 Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Village Hotel & Spa, Leeds
- 1-2 Suffolk GP Congress, Felixstowe
- 5-12 EBU Autumn Overseas Congress, Antalya, Türkiye
- 7-9 West of England GP Congress, Weston-super-Mare
- 8-9 Gold Cup Finals, Young Chelsea BC
- 15-16 Premier League 2nd weekend, Young Chelsea BC & East Midlands Bridge Academy
- 21-23 EBU Autumn Congress, RealBridge
- 22-23 Junior Bridge Camp, Tunbridge Wells
- 29-30 Kent & Sussex GP Congress, Tunbridge Wells BC
- 29-30 Malvern GP Congress, Worcester
- 29-30 Lancashire GP Congress, BBO

NOVEMBER 2022

- 4-6 North East Congress, Gateshead
- 5-6 Premier League 3rd weekend, Young Chelsea BC & East Midlands Bridge Academy
- 12-13 Tollemache Qualifiers, venue tbc
- 27 Middlesex Metropolitan Cup, GP, RealBridge

DECEMBER 2022

- 4 Sussex GP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 6-8 Seniors Congress, RealBridge
- 9-11 Lady Milne Trophy Trials
- 16-17 Channel Trophy, Lille, France
- 16-18 Teltscher Trophy Trials
- 27-30 Year End Congress, Ilec Conference Centre, London

JANUARY 2023

- 6-8 Midland Counties Congress, RealBridge
- 6-8 Camrose Trophy, Northern Ireland
- 7-8 Manchester Congress
- 9-12 British Winter Sims, various clubs
- 14-15 Oliver Cowan New Year Congress, Nottingham
- 21-22 National Point-A-Board 2023
- 28-29 Chester Congress
- 29 Dorset GP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1-8 EBU Overseas Congress, Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus



EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed unless stated

Enter via 01296 317203, comps@ebu.co.uk or at www.ebu.co.uk/members

Great Northern Swiss Pairs

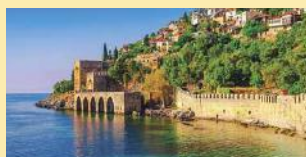
1 – 2 October
Village Hotel & Spa, Leeds



Swiss Pairs – 12 rounds incl Sat dinner & Sun high tea
Entry via Yorkshire CBA:
<https://tinyurl.com/GNSP22>
Really Easy Pairs – LP
Entry via events@ycba.co.uk

Overseas Congress

5 – 12 October
Antalya First for Bridge
Congress, Side, Türkiye



Open Pairs – BP
Men's, Ladies', Mixed Pairs – BP
Pivot Teams – BP
Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams

Autumn Congress

21 – 23 October
RealBridge

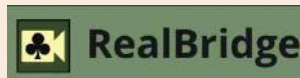


Two Star Pairs
Swiss Pairs
Teams of Four
Championships

Player of the Year

Seniors Congress

6 – 8 December
RealBridge



Championship Pairs
(qualifying rounds are BP)
Swiss Pairs
Swiss Teams

Year-End Congress

27 – 30 December
Illec Conference Centre, London



Stratified Swiss Pairs
Jack-High Swiss Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Mixed or Open Pairs
9-High Improver Pairs

National Point-a-Board Teams

21 – 22 January
RealBridge



Details for 2023 to be confirmed
Enhanced Green Points in final
www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/national-point-board-teams

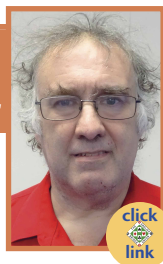
Player of the Year

Overseas Congress

1 – 8 February
Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus
with First for Bridge



Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams
Round Robin Pairs – BP
Open Pairs – BP
Butler Pairs – BP
Pivot & Multiple Teams – BP



Changes to the Blue Book

What is the Blue Book?

The Blue Book is a Handbook of EBU Permitted Understandings. It gives advice to players on disclosing agreements and carding systems, outlines what calls have to be alerted and announced, and the rules on what agreements are allowed. It does not cover the Laws of Bridge (see later question), for example mechanical errors such as revokes or bidding out of turn. The Blue Book can be read or downloaded via tinyurl.com/EBUbluebook. A new Blue Book came into force on 1st September 2022.

What do we need to know about the changes?

- ♣ **4-suit transfers over 1NT.** You now announce 2♠ and 2NT over a 1NT opening if they are transfers to clubs and diamonds. However, if 2♠ or 2NT shows both minors, or could be either minor, then the bid is still alerted – you only announce it if the bid shows the specific minor.
- ♣ **1NT response.** If a 1NT response to a one of a suit opening can show 11 or 12 points then you announce it. If it is forcing you alert it.
- ♣ **Transfer responses to a prepared club.** If you play transfer responses over a prepared 1♣ opening then you announce them. Opener names the suit shown by the transfer response. Unlike over 1NT, there is an announcement even if the suit is not necessarily a five-card suit.
- ♣ **Strong openings.** There are some changes to what is allowed in strong openings and some updated definitions. You can read about these later in this article.
- ♣ **Opening 2NT.** You no longer announce a strong balanced 2NT opening.

The Announcements Summary table on the EBU website has been updated with these changes. These can be found here, or click below:
tinyurl.com/EBUannouncements

CHANGES AFFECTING STRONG OPENING BIDS

The definition of a strong bid has been changed (see Blue Book Section 5D). For a strong 1♣ (or strong 1♦) the requirement is now 13 or more HCP. For other strong bids (for example, opening 2♣ or 2♦) the requirement is 16 or more HCP, or where there are both 10 cards and 13 HCP concentrated in two suits. Stephen Green, vice-chairman of the Laws & Ethics Committee has written the following to help navigate the new regulations for opening bids (see Blue Book Sections 7B/7C).

Let's take a look at three hands:

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

- ♣ **A strong opening bid at the one level may contain as few as 13 HCP.** Therefore Strong Clubbers can elect to upgrade Hand A to be a 1♣ opening (currently prohibited because fewer than five controls and fewer than 16 HCP), while Hand B can no longer be described as a Strong Club because it has fewer than 13 HCP, even

though it meets the previous requirements of 5+ controls.

♣ **A Strong 2-level opening bid** must either have at least 16 HCP, or 13HCP is sufficient if there are two suits with 10+ cards containing those points. Hand C was previously prohibited from opening a Strong 2♣, but is now allowed.

♣ **Three categories of an Opening Bid at the two- or three-level are defined:** either Strong, Natural, or Non-Natural. You may have any number of meanings if all your meanings fall into one of the three categories. Alternatively any number of Strong meanings may be combined with a single Natural or Non-Natural meaning. For example take a typical Multi 2♦ opening described as either:

- a. Balanced 20-22, or
- b. Strong in any suit, or
- c. Weak in a major

This combines two Strong options with one non natural option which is fine. However, take care. The following description including ‘eight playing tricks’ has caused uncertainty under the current regulations too. The Multi must not be described as:

- a. Balanced 20-22, or
- b. Eight playing tricks in any suit, or
- c. Weak in a major

This is not allowed because ‘eight playing tricks’ is not necessarily ‘Strong’ and you cannot combine two non-strong meanings with a Strong one. For example, if Hand C replaced the ♦K with a small diamond it no longer qualifies as ‘strong’ even though it contains eight playing tricks. As a result, the restrictions on non-natural bids would apply. Further, even if you remove the balanced 20-22 option, there is still a problem, because non-strong, non-natural options, such as ‘eight playing tricks in **any** suit’, must not contain diamonds as the primary suit. I mention ‘primary’ because take Hand D:

Hand D

♠ A 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8
♦ A Q J 10 9
♣ 2

This hand does not qualify as ‘strong’, as it has fewer than 16 HCP, and while it contains 10 cards in two suits, it does not contain 13 HCP in them (only 10). So if you wanted to open 2♦, explaining it as

‘eight playing tricks in spades, hearts or clubs,’ you can do so if your next bid shows hearts. Having diamonds as a **second** suit is acceptable.

The advice here is to make sure all Strong opening bids meet the definition of ‘Strong’ (see

para 5D1). As you can have as many strong meanings in an opening bid as you wish, you then avoid the restrictions being placed on non-strong meanings.

♣ **Natural bids at the two level must contain 5+cards or 4+ cards and a specified second suit;** For instance, if the bidding goes 2♥ on your left, and your partner bids 3♥. Is this natural, two-suited or maybe a stop ask? Hopefully you have agreed what it means if 2♥ was a Weak Two, but what if the opening 2♥ showed a weak hand with four hearts and a longer minor? This is considered too challenging for a standard defence, so four card openers at the two-level are only permitted if a second suit is also specified, giving the defence another take-out option via a cue of the opponent’s second suit.

What about the other books: White Book and Sky-Blue Book?

There was also a new White Book covering Technical Matters for the director, such as scoring, time limits and best behaviour, effective from 1st September. The Sky-Blue Book was an interim set of procedures and regulations for online bridge. With the new Blue Book and new White Book, the EBU has taken the opportunity to put online bridge on the same footing as face-to-face bridge. The procedures and regulations from the Sky-Blue Book have been moved to the Blue Book and the White Book. The Sky-Blue Book has been retired.

What about the Yellow Book that the director at our club uses?

The Yellow Book is one of two versions of the Laws of Bridge. Both are used in clubs for dealing with the mechanical errors mentioned earlier. Neither ‘Yellow Book’ has changed in 2022.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 from the World Bridge Federation is available from the EBU Warehouse and the EBU version has a yellow cover.

Duplicate Bridge Laws Simplified (2017) by David Stevenson is published by Mr Bridge and also has a yellow cover.

Any questions regarding these changes can be sent to bluebook@ebu.co.uk and may be published, with answers, in future editions of *English Bridge*, or on the website. □

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakshi



Answers from page 12



Hand 1		
♠ K 8	♠ Q 6 5	♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ K J 9 4	♥ 10 7 3	♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ 8 5 4	♦ K Q J 9 3	♦ A 7
♣ 10 8 6 4	♣ K 2	♣ 9 7 3
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> </div> </div>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> ♠ A J 10 9 ♥ A 2 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ A Q J 5 </div> </div>		

3NT. West leads the ♥4

Your 3NT contract is likely to be duplicated at the other table, so any swing will arise as a result of the play.

You have six top tricks, and you could make four extra tricks by force in diamonds, or three extra tricks via a successful finesse in spades. Following West's heart lead, you will have no stopper remaining after winning your ♥A, so there is a danger that you will lose at least three heart tricks, the ♦A, and ♠K.

If you lose only three heart tricks then it would be safe to play on diamonds, but if you lose more than three heart tricks, then you will need to find East with ♠K, and play on spades.

How should you decide which suit to attack?

Assuming that ♥4 was West's fourth highest heart, then hearts will be dividing 4-4, and the defenders can only win three heart tricks. This can be deduced by the fact that you can see ♥2 and ♥3 between your hand and the dummy. There is no advantage to ducking the first round of hearts, so it is therefore safer to win the ♥A, and force out ♦A rather than risking the spade finesse. East can win the ♦A, and the defenders can cash three rounds of hearts, but you will now be able to win nine tricks upon regaining the lead.

Hand 2		
♠ 3	♠ Q 8 4	♠ 10 7 2
♥ K Q 7 6 5 3	♥ A J 9 4	♥ 8 2
♦ J 8 5	♦ Q 6 3	♦ K 9 7 2
♣ 10 6 3	♣ J 5 2	♣ 9 8 7 4
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> </div> </div>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> ♠ A K J 9 6 5 ♥ 10 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ A K Q </div> </div>		

6♣. West leads the ♥K.

You have bid to a slam that is likely to be bid at the other table, but making a slam often puts you in a position to outscore your opponents, so you should aim to ensure that you win 12 tricks.

You have 11 top tricks, and can try to win an extra trick in hearts or diamonds. If you try to make your extra trick in diamonds, then you will have the potential to take two finesses by leading towards the ♦Q and the ♦10. However, it is worth noticing that you have a three card sequence in hearts (♥J, ♥10 and ♥9), which could be used to guarantee an extra trick.

You win the first trick with the ♥A, and have to decide when to draw trumps. If you plan to establish an extra trick in hearts, then you will need to manage your entries carefully, and delay drawing trumps. You should therefore, lead the ♥9 at trick two, and discard the ♦4 from your hand. West will win the ♥Q, and may try a third round of hearts. If he does, you should resist the temptation of playing the ♥J now, as East might be able to trump the winner that you have just created.

You trump the third heart in your hand and, as long as spades are not 4-0, then you can be certain of making your slam. In case spades are 3-1, you should plan to win the third round of spades in the dummy, so play ♠A, ♠K, then lead a spade to the ♠Q. You can now cash dummy's ♥J, discarding your ♦10, bringing your total to 12 tricks.

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

3NT. West leads the ♣5.

You have sufficient values to try for game, so making your contract is likely to be necessary to avoid losing a swing, and may allow you to gain a swing.

You have eight top tricks, and can expect to make at least one extra trick in spades or diamonds. If you play on

diamonds, you will have to lose three rounds and hope that the defenders cannot establish two extra winners in the meantime. If you play on spades, then it is worth noting that there is a blockage in the suit, and that dummy only has one entry outside of spades. If you had a second entry, you could plan to win the first trick, unblock the ♠K, cross to dummy to continue spades, and if necessary, give up a trick to the ♠J before returning to dummy to cash the fifth spade. However, without a second entry, you need an alternative plan.

Playing on spades looks to offer the best chance of success, since it will still be possible to win four spade tricks if spades are 4-3, but in order to preserve dummy's entry, you will need to overtake the ♠K with the ♠A, then drive out the ♠J. How will you ensure that you still have an entry to get back to the dummy at the right time?

You should play dummy's ♣10 at trick one, and even if East plays low, overtake with the ♣K. You now lead the ♠K, and overtake with the ♠A. You can now cash the ♠Q, then lead the ♠10. East can win the ♠J but, when West follows to this trick, then dummy has two spade winners remaining. If East returns a club, you can win with dummy's ♣Q, and cash dummy's ♠93 then lead a heart, allowing you to win three more tricks in your hand.

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

7♦. West leads the ♣Q.

You have bid well to reach a grand slam, so making your contract will ensure that you avoid any significant loss, and could well result in a substantial gain. You have 12 top tricks, and can make an extra trick in clubs if they divide 3-3 or 4-2, but can anything be done if they split 5-1?

With plenty of entries to the dummy,

you do not need to risk an early defensive ruff, so you can win the ♣K in your hand, then draw trumps (in two rounds). You next lead the ♣8 to the ♣A. If East followed you could now trump two more clubs if necessary and establish dummy's fifth club. However, when East discards, you need another way to make an extra trick, without losing a trick in the process.

Can you see how this could be achieved?

The only other suit that could provide an extra trick is hearts, so you will have to hope that West holds the ♥K in addition to their three remaining clubs. If they do, then they will have trouble making discards later in the hand. You can now plan to cash three rounds of spades, then play out your four remaining trumps. Your intention is to reduce to a three card ending, in which you have the ♥Q5, and your last trump, say the ♦A, whilst dummy has the ♥A8 and one club, say the ♣7. In order to prevent the ♣7 already being a winner, West will have to retain the ♠J, and the ♥K10.

At trick 11, you will lead the ♦A, and West has to decide what to throw. In order to retain the ♠J, he will have to discard the ♥10. Dummy's ♣7 will now be useless, so you will throw it away. Knowing that West has only one heart remaining, you will hope that it is the ♥K, so at trick 12 you lead the ♥5. When West plays the ♥K, you win dummy's ♥A, and your ♥Q provides your crucial extra trick. □



Beat Today's Experts

1. Game All. Dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dyke</i>	<i>De Bilde</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Dble
5♣	All Pass		Pass

Our deals all come from the World Championships, contested in

Salsomaggiore. England face Denmark here and Michael Byrne bids the fourth suit, which might allow him to bid a forcing 3♣ on the next round. South doubles to suggest a diamond lead, and the England pair reach the best contract – game in clubs.

When North leads the ♦A, South would often glance at his ♦K and encourage with the ♦9. Here he very much wanted a heart switch and played the ♦3. North duly switched to the ♥10, South ruffing, and the ♦K put the game one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	2♠
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Tom Townsend led the ♠10, understandably, and declarer ditched a diamond loser. At trick seven, North needed to find a double-dummy underlead of the diamond ace for two down. When he didn't, declarer escaped for one down, England scoring 3 IMPs.

Awards: 5♣ (10), 4♥ (6), 3NT (2).

2. Love All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Schou</i>	<i>Abécassis</i>	<i>Hansen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT ^A	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠ ^A	Pass
3NT ^A	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

France faces Denmark in the Seniors event. Unlike most of the world, French players usually insist on four trumps to raise responder's suit. Michel Abécassis's 2NT was forcing, and Alain Levy's later 3NT showed no shortage in response to the 3♠ query. East's 4♣ was a control bid and East was encouraged by West's lack of a 4♦ bid. RKCB then led to the 24-point slam. At the other table the slam was easily reached when West opened 1♥.

Awards: 6♥ (10), 4♥ (5).

3. E/W Game. Dealer East

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

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

West Brock	North Bertheau	East Brown	South Larsson
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Eventual bronze medal winners, England's Sally Brock and Fiona Brown, face Kathrine Bertheau and Jessica Larsson of Sweden, the gold medal winners. West has 21 HCP but 1♠ is easily the best start. North overcalls 2♥, followed by two passes, and Brock re-opens with a double. When partner responds in clubs, 3♥ shows a strong hand.

The bidding to this point was identical at both tables. What should East say next? Holding six clubs and a singleton spade, Brown judged well not to show any ambition. England stopped safely in 4♣, making ten tricks. Well bid!

At the other table, Emma Ovelius (East for Sweden) jumped to 5♣ over 3♥. That was one down and England gained 6 IMPs.

Awards: 4♣/3♣ (10), 5♣/3NT (3), 4♠ (1).

4. E/W Game. Dealer East

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

West Sebanne	East Reess
1♥	1♦
3♦	3♣
4♥	4♣
5♦	4♠
All Pass	6♦

France faces Germany in the semi-finals of the Wuhan Cup (world mixed championship). 4♥ and 4♠ are control-bids (cue-bids) showing the ace or king, sometimes a singleton or void. Vanessa Sebbane's 5♦ denies the ♣K, so Lionel Reess can rule out a grand slam. It was an excellent auction and 13 tricks were made when North held the ♣K.

By comparison, this auction was poor.

West Von Arnim	East Häusler
1♥	1♦
3♦	3♣
4♥	4♦
All Pass	5♦

Daniela von Arnim's first three bids had not limited her hand in the slightest – neither in terms of general strength, nor in the controls she might hold. Helmut Häusler's sign-off in 5♦ is incomprehensible.

Awards: 6♦ (10), 7♦ (5), games (3).

5. Game All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Langveld</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	Dble	1♥	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

We move now to the final of the Bermuda Bowl, where the Netherlands face the multi-national Switzerland team sponsored by

Pierre Zimmerman. Berend van den Bos wisely started to describe his hand, rather than confusing matters with a redouble. His next good move was to raise partner's diamonds on the second round. After West's control bid in spades, he bid 4NT, hearing of two key cards and the ♦Q. If 5NT had located a side-suit king, a grand slam would have come into the reckoning. It was a fine auction and an overtrick was duly made.

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♦	Dble	1♥	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Many pairs agree that a new suit after partner's jump rebid shows a control, agreeing partner's suit. If that were the case here, albeit over the 2♠ intervention, we might expect Michal Klukowski to bid 4♠ instead of 4♦. It was a disappointing auction by one of the world's top pairs, and 13 IMPs went to the Netherlands.

Awards: 6♦ (10), 7♦ (7), 5♦ (4).

6. E/W Game. Dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♣ ^A	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♣	All Pass

Klukowski opens a Polish Club, most often a 12-14 balanced hand or 18+ points. Piotr Gawrys gives a natural positive response and

West's raise to 4♣ denotes 18+ points. RKCB locates the two missing aces and Piotr Gawrys is then happy to bid 7♣. He does not know enough to make it 7NT instead.

(Playing Acol, facing a 1♣ opening, East would be happy to have 'inverted minors' on his convention card. Otherwise... anyone for 1♦?)

At the other table, four rounds of relay bidding carried Verhees and Van Prooijen to 4♠ and West then jumped to 7NT, the Netherlands gaining 2 IMPs. Switzerland eventually claimed the gold medals by the heart-rending margin of 167-164. (Better to lose by 20, I always say!)

Awards: 7NT(10), 7♣ (9), 6NT/6♣ (5), game (1).

You generally like some chance to 'Beat the Experts'? Not this time, sorry. Our world championship megastars accumulate 59/60 at the tables that I featured. Perhaps you would rather compare your scores with the East/West pairs at the second tables? They mustered 36/60.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ♣ 'Inverted minors' is an excellent method, giving you a great start when you have a good fit for opener's minor.
- ♣ When the opener jumps in his suit (1♥ – 1♠ – 3♥), a new suit at the four-level should be a control bid agreeing the opener's suit.



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Answers to May's Problems

The first hand was sent to me by long-time friend Alan Jones, for which many thanks to him, the remaining two are my own.

Hand 1

♠ J 9 7 2
♥ Q J 9
♦ 8 5
♣ J 10 6 5

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥Q; (c) ♦8; (d) ♣J

South clearly has a very good hand and is either an inveterate potter of slams or has a void somewhere (no Blackwood). We have a surprise in that we know the trumps are breaking 4-1 and we have an almost certain trump trick. Where is the best place to look for the setting trick?

- (a) ♠2: 1 mark. Frankly, I only put in this lead to give you an easy one to eliminate! I am sure no readers of *English Bridge* will lead a trump from this holding...
- (b) ♥Q: 7 marks. Personally I think it is fairly close between a club and this. If declarer is void in hearts (as she was) then this could well be right as it starts the force and declarer may lose control. On the other hand, this bidding suggests a hand improved in the bidding, probably by a partial heart fit, in which case this will not start a force and could be utterly disastrous – such as K10xx in dummy opposite Axx in declarer's hand...
- (c) ♦8: 2 marks. This could be equally as disastrous as a trump and has no upside I can see.
- (d) ♣J: 10 marks. Often the seemingly obvious leads are the best. Why not lead the unbid suit? If dummy comes down with ♣AK and declarer was

void and discards her two heart losers, well, I have done worse things at the table. There is an argument that declarer is ready for a club lead, but you know the trumps are not breaking, declarer doesn't. I lead the ♣J here rather than low as I want partner to be clear about the position. It is very, very unlikely that this will give declarer any tricks.

This is my kind of lead problem in that you can lead anything (yes including a trump unless it is the jack!) and declarer has precisely 12 tricks.

Pairs Bonus: ♠J: 5 marks. The same lead for the same reasons.

Computer simulations:

♣J/10: 17.5% chance of defeating the contract (teams)

♣J/10: 0.89 tricks - highest average tricks taken with this lead (pairs proxy)

Hand 2

♠ J 9 5 2
♥ K 5 2
♦ J 10 8 5 3
♣ A

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass
6♣ ²	All Pass		

¹ cuebid, ² Suggestion to play (accepted!)

Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥2; (c) ♦J; (d) ♣A

This hand is all about listening to the bidding – a common theme in recent articles.

- (a) ♠2: 10 marks. I have just told you that leading from J9xx against 6♠ was absurd, now I tell you to lead from the same holding against 6♣. What is the difference? The difference is the bidding. You *know* that partner has at most one spade. So unless the opponents have suddenly discovered an 11

card club fit, you know you can defeat this contract by leading a spade, winning your club ace and giving partner a ruff. This was the only way to beat the hand and is clearly indicated. Gary Hyett showed me a hand very similar to this many years ago where his international opponent had not found the right lead, so well done if you did.

- (b) ♥2: 6 marks. As my reader will know, I am a huge fan of aggressive leads against slams, and this would be my second choice, but really it is not close. You have a cast iron way to beat the hand...
- (c) ♦J: 1 mark. Declarer is certainly short in a red suit (they must be at least 6-4 in the blacks for this bidding), dummy has cue bid diamonds and partner has not even doubled them. How can this be the right lead?
- (d) ♣A: 4 marks. Singleton aces of trumps are very dangerous (particularly in slams) as you can get thrown in with them after declarer has eliminated the side suits. It is often a good idea to lead them. But not here where you know how to beat the slam.

Pairs Bonus: ♠2: 5 marks. You will get zero matchpoints for -920/-1370 so the same lead for me.

Computer simulations:

A spade: the ♠J or ♠9 give marginally more chance of beating the contract at 94.5% (teams) but the ♠5 or ♠2 produce slightly more tricks with an average of 2.1 (pairs).

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

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

This was an Acol style auction so 2♣ was natural and 9+ and 3♠ was not forcing.
 Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥A; (c) ♦2; (d) ♣6

Did someone say something about listening to the bidding? Here you know that declarer is at least 5-4 in the majors and dummy has three spades and some clubs. Surely that suggests a clear lead ...

- (a) a spade: 10 marks. Unless declarer has a partial club fit then declarer's most likely line of play will be to try and ruff their heart losers on dummy. Looking at your heart holding you really do not want that. So I think a trump stands out like a sore thumb.
- (b) ♥A: 1 mark. Why? Where do you think this is going? There is no hurry to cash it and it will very likely set up declarer's king and help them ruff heart losers.
- (c) ♦2: 6 marks. If dummy hits with ♣AKQ and nothing and declarer has three low diamonds and one club then this could be essential, but really it is heavily odds against. It is much more likely that a diamond will just give a trick away.
- (d) ♣6: 2 marks. Trying for a ruff? Just how likely is that? You have an 11 count (I know players who would have doubled the 1♠ opening on your hand) and the opponents have enough for game. Just how likely is it that partner will be able to give you a ruff (which basically means partner being able to take two tricks before declarer draws trumps and declarer having three clubs)?

Pairs Bonus: a spade: 5 marks. A trump is even clearer at pairs I think. If the hand is about overtricks (as it may well be) a trump is probably the best lead to limit them.

Computer simulations:

A spade: 31% chance of defeating the contract (teams), with an average of 2.84 tricks. □

If you have a lead problem please email the editor, lou@ebu.co.uk. Alan will be delighted to use it if suitable.

Full details of the computer simulations can be found online, p73

CONGRATULATIONS TO
 MAY'S WINNERS:

Master: Rupert Timpson, Chadlington

 Open: Michael Tyas, Torquay

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Great Bridge Disasters

by David Burn



Michaels Response Disaster

How would you and your partner bid the East-West hands below, with East as the dealer?

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

When the deal occurred in an online tournament, there were 22 tables in play featuring many national and international champions. A commentator remarked that this might be a rare occurrence of a flat grand slam, 7♥ being bid and made at every table. Keen students of bridge disasters know that this is most unlikely – something terrible always happens to someone. By far the most common auction was this:

West	East
	1♠
2♥	4♣ ¹
4NT ²	5♣ ³
7♥ ⁴	All Pass

¹ Short clubs, 4+ hearts; ² Keycard Blackwood;
³ ♠A, ♥K, ♥Q; ⁴ Precipitate.

I was a little surprised that all the Wests (including my partner) seemed unworried about the possibility of losing a diamond. After all, East's most likely shape by far for the 4♣ splinter rebid is 5-4-3-1, when unless he has ♦Q or very good spades the grand slam will be poor or hopeless.

A common agreement at this level of play is that after keycard Blackwood has confirmed that all the aces and the king-queen of trumps are present, a new suit requests third-round control. So I would have thought that after 5♣ West would continue

with 6♦, and East would bid the grand slam on the strength of his ♦Q. He would probably also bid it with three little diamonds if his spades were ♠AKQJx, and all would be well.

Not that it mattered. Seven hearts was the final contract at all but two tables, and the full deal was:

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

At every table but one, the grand slam was made in next to no time by drawing trumps in three rounds and ruffing the fourth round of diamonds in dummy to set up the fifth. An exception occurred against our team-mates when declarer accidentally drew a fourth round of trumps. At first sight this seemed to doom the contract, but a closer examination revealed that if he drew a fifth round, then cashed his top clubs, North would be squeezed in spades and diamonds and the contract would make anyway.

West duly cashed his last trump, then ♦A on which South dropped the jack. He continued by cashing ♦K, finding that the suit did not break but, had he crossed to ♦Q, returned to ♣A, and cashed the second top club North would have succumbed to the pressure. Alas, declarer further lost the plot and took the spade finesse at this point, from which there was no recovery and another 'flat grand slam' had failed to come to pass.

At one table South put in an enterprising 3♣ overcall after East opened 1♠. West bid 3♥ and North bid 5♣, after which East-West could not use keycard Blackwood or any fancy third-round control asks. They settled for six, and a loss of 11 IMPs. The contract at the final table was two spades, which made three overtricks, and you are invited to deduce how this came to be given that there were no misclicks or technological failures involved.

The East-West auction was brief: East opened 1♠, West raised him to 2♠ and everybody passed. Of course, West wasn't raising East – he was, in his own mind, overcalling what he believed to be a 1♠ opening by South with a Michaels cuebid to show hearts and a minor.

I have seen this kind of thing once before, when someone 'overcalled' his partner's 1♥ opening with 2NT for the minors. 2NT was actually Jacoby, and his partner jumped to 4♥. Not having any hearts at all, and seeking to rescue the situation, our man tried Blackwood in the hope that his partner would respond in a minor and that this would be a playable contract. His partner bid 5♥, and he decided against any further heroics. One down. □

BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN 2023 GOLD CUP

The premier British teams event

Closing date:

Monday, 3rd October 2022

The 2023 Gold Cup will run from October 2022 to the Finals in October 2023. The Silver Plate, also administered by BGB, is open to all first and second round Gold Cup losers, with the exception of Scottish teams who have their own Plate, and will commence in April 2023.

Entry fee: £92 per team
(half-price pro-rata for players under 25)
The entry fee includes the fee for the Silver Plate

Enquiries to Sandra Claridge
sclaridge31@gmail.com

Entry form at
www.bridgegreatbritain.org



Eton College win the Lords Trophy by Giorgio Provenza

At the end of June Eton College, winners of the Inter-schools League, were presented with the Lords Trophy during a visit to the House of Lords.

Covid has made bridge in schools very hard over the past two years, but it has also presented opportunities, offering new ways to play bridge safely online.

In 2021 EBED decided to move the Schools Cup online – previously held annually in Loughborough in early March – and to play it on RealBridge.

The event turned out to be a great success and sprouted an idea by Stuart Haring to run an online Inter-schools League. With the relentless work of Joan Bennett (EBED's national youth coordinator), the Inter-schools League was up and running by September that year.

Forty teams from seventeen schools, divided into three divisions with promotions and relegations



fought all year until Eton College – who went undefeated into the final round – beat Haberdashers' school, in what has become a recent classic (the Habs boys won the 2022 Schools Cup, taking back the crown from Eton, winners in 2021).

The Lords Trophy, sponsored by the House of

Lords thanks to Baroness Ruth Henig, who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group for Bridge, was donated by John Deech and presented to the winners before a 12-board match against the Peers.

The match started off well for Eton, when Andrew Bradkin, with youthful optimism, opened 2NT on a flat 19 count and Jacob Potter jumped to 6NT with his 12 points. A handy fall of a heart honour meant declarer could claim 12 tricks after conceding a diamond.

The optimistic bidding continued, but Eton's luck dried out; so the Peers were 18 IMPs in front at the break.

The boys were unfazed though and stuck to the plan. The comeback began, when Henry Rose and Roland Bourne drove this hand to slam (missed at the other table).

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

Bourne opened 1♥, Rose bid spades, but later supported hearts, and asked for keycards in hearts, before signing off in 6♠. The ♥K was onside and 13 tricks rolled in.

A good sacrifice found by Bradkin & Potter in the next board meant that Eton now had the lead. And then came this board:

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

What are the odds of picking up a ten-card suit? This is well above my pay grade, but I am told it's 0.0017%. Which means one every 58,823 deals. So if you play two sessions a week, every week for just

over 23 years, you'll come across one. Actually, I could have told you that without crunching all those numbers, because that is exactly how long I have been playing bridge, and that was my first occurrence. Next one aged 72!

At one table East passed, South opened 1♣ and Lord Hamilton jumped to 4♠. Rose (North) doubled which Bourne left. An easy ten tricks and +790 to the Lords.

At the other table, Bradkin opened East's hand 1♦ (no self-respecting junior passes an eleven count ... ever!), 2♣ by South and Potter, having seen partner open the bidding, must have thought slam could be on (three aces are 12 points, after all – remember that youthful optimism?) so he decided to bid a game forcing 3♠, maybe he could ask for keycards later. The auction got back to him in 5♣, so he was left with no choice but to bid 5♠, duly doubled.

Which ace would you lead if you were North? Diamonds had been bid by dealer, so he chose the ♥A and did not like the dummy. He cashed the ♦A. What next? He tried another diamond – Potter ruffed, played a spade to the ace and claimed. +850, 2 IMPs to the goodies and a victory for Eton.

If you run a bridge club in a school or know someone who does and you want to enter next year's Inter-schools League, get in touch with Joan Bennett (joan@ebedcio.org.uk). □

More pictures online, p76

JUNIOR TRANSNATIONALS



Congratulations to William Battersby & Aman Parekh who won a silver medal in the U16 pairs at the World Junior Transnationals. after a late burst through the field.

In the U21 pairs, Charlotte Bedford & Venetia Anoyrkatis qualified for the main final along with Henry Rose & Imogen La Chapelle.

The tournament took place in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy in mid-August. Well done to Thomas Bradkin (pictured) who won a bronze medal in the U16 Individual.



JUNIOR EUROPEANS – U16

By Tom Furness

We came second! We being Lucy Norman, Lottie Bedford, Aman Parekh, Will Battersby, Tom Furness and NPC Giorgio Provenza and coach-Giorgio-bumped-into-on-day-two-and-persuaded-to-join, Laura Covill. Although Poland eventually won the gold, we could at least be happy with beating them by 39 IMPs when we played them – Giorgio calling it a ‘demolition job’!

The first day started off fairly well, with three close wins over France, Germany and Netherlands, despite Germany bidding a horrific slam and demonstrating that with 9632 opposite AKJ7, you should *obviously* drop the doubleton queen offside! Well done, Germany!

We had our first loss at the end of day two, against Hungary, who managed to earn 35 IMPs from slam hands alone. The match was not one-sided though – take a look at this board:

N/S Game. Dealer North.

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

♠ 9 7
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ J 10 9 8 4
 ♣ Q J 8 4

West	North	East	South
Norman	Zábrádi	Furness	Juhasz-Molnar
	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♣	Dble	5♦	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

After North’s imaginative 4♠ opening, I decided to shoot with 4NT at green vs red, showing two places to play. I converted to 5♦ over Lucy’s (doubled) 5♣ to show the reds, which she duly converted to 5♥ (oh no, my hand would be on the table for all to see!). Zábrádi doubled this as well and led the ♠K.

After winning the ♠A, Lucy tried a heart to the queen, losing to the ace. Zábrádi fired back the ♥4, upon which Lucy correctly rose with the king. Now she ducked a club, and was no doubt pleasantly surprised when North exited with the ♦K to her ace. Now the clubs could be established via a minor crossruff and she emerged with 11 tricks, +650.

At the other table, Lottie opened 2♣, rebidding 4♠ after the opponents barraged to 4♥. This drifted off one for -100 and a gain of 11 IMPs to bring the match back to 34-34. Unfortunately Hungary made a grand slam on the last board, to finish 51-34.

On day three we regained momentum, beating Croatia 100-0 in the first match, and then played Greece, who were in eighth place at the time. I faced a difficult decision on this board:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

♠ K 8 6 5 4 3
 ♥ A 10 7
 ♦ 6 3 2
 ♣ 6

♠ A
 ♥ K 9 6 4 2
 ♦ Q 8 7 4
 ♣ Q J 7

West	North	East	South
Katsakioris	Furness	Ntalianis	Parekh
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



U16 Team: Lottie Bedford, Tom Furness, Will Battersby, Lucy Norman, Aman Parekh, NPC Giorgio Provenza and Coach Laura Covill


I upgraded the North hand based on the nice intermediates and decided to pass 3NT with the 4-3-3-3 shape, as nine tricks in no trumps seemed to be easier than ten in hearts. The lead was the ♣10.

When the dummy came down it seemed, not for the first time, I had landed in a doomed contract – when the opponents got in they would have no problems switching to a spade and later making two spades, two or three diamonds and a heart. Sigh...

Not giving up, however, I won the club lead and played two rounds of hearts, ducked both times. I then attempted to run the ♦10, which was speedily covered by the ace. Now came the predictable low spade, which I cleverly decided to win. I exited with a heart to West's ace. A spade to the queen and . . . a club! I won this in hand and optimistically played a second diamond up, won by East's king. When he played a third club all was revealed – the spades were 6-2, and had become blocked! I gratefully entered +600 into the tablet.


At the other table, 4♥ stood no chance on the lead of the ♣6 – Lottie could play her trumps low high to show a diamond entry to give Lucy her club ruff, and that was 12 IMPs and a great start to an eventual win of 46-3. □

insisted on turning up in the wrong place at the wrong time:

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

Oliver and Aaron bid to 6♣, as you would after South opens the bidding. With clubs as trumps, you rarely have enough space to look for both keycards and trump queen, but these slams are habitually bid these days. West held ♣Qxx – one down giving Croatia 11 IMPs rather than losing 11 IMPs.

In the next match Lady Luck was also misbehaving:

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

Cont/...

UNDER 16 RESULTS

Gold	Poland	
Silver	England	
Bronze	Netherlands	

JUNIOR EUROPEANS – U26 OPEN By Nick Sandqvist


England fielded a good team in the U26 European Junior Championships which comprised Aaron Hutton & Oliver Powell, Kripa Panchagnula & Jonathan Clark and Ewa Wieczorek & Charles Bucknell. However, they say luck and good play go hand in hand, but sometimes I wonder if they're not even more intimate than that? The early signs were not great, when the ♣Q



U26 Open Team: Nick Sandqvist (NPC), Aaron Hutton, Kripa Panchagnula, Oliver Powell, Ewa Wieczorek, Charles Bucknell, Jonathan Clark, Stephen Kennedy (Coach)

Kripa and Jonathan (Jono) bid sensibly to 4♥, but the Poles tried 6♥. This needed clubs to be 4-3 with the queen onside, and when that was the case it was another 22 IMP turnaround.

The next day it was time to take on Hungary:

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

Kripa and Jono bid the cards to 5♦, the right level for either minor, but the Hungarians couldn't really agree on a trump suit:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Against this, Aaron might possibly have found a trump lead, but his partner had bid spades and there was surely a risk that something would disappear. This enabled the Hungarian North to ruff a spade in dummy, and when trumps broke 3-2 he had 12 tricks and 11 more IMPs.

We eventually scored a win against Ireland – not as big as it should have been – but we had to come to terms with the fact that this was not going to be the kind of tournament we had dreamt of, and now we just had to think about qualifying.

The next day went better, with medium-sized wins against France, Scotland and Estonia, and the mood was starting to turn around.





On the Saturday we only played two matches. The first was against the strong Swedish team, and we played quite well to come away with a smallish win. The mood at lunch was buoyant; we had played well, beaten a strong team and almost reached average.

However, in the second match against the Netherlands we lost by almost the maximum. All the good work of the previous couple of days undone in one sloppy match!

Only two matches on the Sunday, and in the first we got blitzed by Germany. The bad luck with slams seemed to be relentless.

We recovered a little with a small win against Greece, but we were still a long way off qualifying for the Worlds – down in 14th place.

We had been informed that more than eight teams might qualify for the Worlds – sometimes as many as 10 or 11 – so we made a decision not to go all out for eighth place but rather just try to play as well as we could and see where it would take us. Sadly, this time it was not to be and we ended in 14th place. □

UNDER 26 OPEN RESULTS		
Gold	France	
Silver	Italy	
Bronze	Israel	
14th	England	

JUNIOR EUROPEANS – U26 Women By Lily Kearney

The U26 Womens team competing in the Junior European Championships comprised Kim Hudson & Dido Coley, Lily Kearney & Raphaella Sinclair and Bethany Madden & Megan Jones. Claire Robinson was the NPC.

Our first match of the tournament saw us facing France. Eager for revenge after the Channel Trophy, we started with two flat boards, followed by this board, shown overleaf:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

Game All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ J 10 6 5 4</p> <p>♥ K J 8 3</p> <p>♦ 9 8 4</p> <p>♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ K 7</p> <p>♥ 7 6 2</p> <p>♦ K 5 3</p> <p>♣ K Q 7 6 4</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 8</p> <p>♥ A 5 4</p> <p>♦ J 6 2</p> <p>♣ 5 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 3 2</p> <p>♥ Q 10 9</p> <p>♦ A Q 10 7</p> <p>♣ A J 9 8</p>
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In the open room West (France) judged her hand as too strong for 1NT (15-17) and opened 1♠. Hearing 2♠ from partner, she ended in 4♠. England's Dido Coley found the crucial lead of the ♦J and the defence took their three aces and declarer mis-guessed trumps for +100.

In the closed room, having agreed to invite aggressively in this situation, I opened 1NT (15-17):

West	North	East	South
<i>Kearney</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Kurek</i>
			<i>Beaulieu</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

¹ Non-promissory Stayman

Dissuaded from the fatal heart lead by Raffy Sinclair's potential heart suit, North led the ♣4. Now ahead on tempo, but with limited entries to dummy, I won in hand and played the diamond king. South won the ace and played back another club, won in dummy with the king. A heart from table lost to North, but established the ninth trick, and a third club was won with the ace. The last diamond was led, and when the jack appeared I was saved an awkward guess, for five diamonds, three clubs, and a heart, and a 12 IMP swing to England. More success in both rooms led to a 44-19 victory, and our appetite for revenge thoroughly sated.

The competition took the form of a double round robin and, at the start of the second half, we faced Poland. Having been beaten convincingly by them in the first half, revenge was once more on our minds. The match started with a swing to Poland, but the tide turned on the following board:

In the open room North opened a Polish club, and soon found themselves playing in an optimistic 3NT. Beth Madden (East) found the vital heart lead, and the defence took four heart tricks. Now on lead, Meg Jones (West) switched to a top spade, the final nail in the coffin. With North's king successfully finessed, four spade tricks were taken, but unfortunately the suit was blocked. +400 is nothing to complain about though!

In the closed room, Dido decided her aceless 11 count was perhaps not worth opening, and came in later. The auction went as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>Banaszkiewicz</i>	<i>Coley</i>	<i>Morawska</i>	<i>Hudson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	2♣	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

¹ Polish club; ² negative response

Expecting trash from partner East didn't feel her heart suit was a good lead, and instead tabled the ♦6. The ♦10 was called for, and nine tricks rolled in



U26 Womens Team: Claire Robinson (NPC), Beth Madden, Raffy Sinclair, Meg Jones, Kim Hudson, Dido Coley, Lily Kearney

easily. +110 and 11 IMPs to England. Eleven more followed, before the Poles made a comeback on the final three boards, but it was too little too late. 24-20 and revenge was once more achieved.

The final match of the competition saw us against Denmark. Our first encounter was a nail-biter, where two slams and a grand were bid (and made) at both tables in 12 boards, the final score being 18-16 to Denmark. The rematch was a completely different story.

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ 7 4 3
♥ A 8 7
♦ A K 10
♣ 9 6 5 4

♠ A Q 10 6
♥ J 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ A Q J 10

♠ K 9 5 2
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ Q 8 6
♣ 8 2

♠ J 8
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ K 7 3

N
W E
S





This was the auction in the open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kearney</i>	<i>Thrane</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>
	<i>Jacobsen</i>		
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♠ ³	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
¹ 2-way checkback			
² Forced			
³ Invitational with four spades			

The ♠8 was led. The ♣K was required to be onside for the contract to have a chance, so Raffy ran the lead to hand, and finessed clubs once. Winning, she pulled the remaining trumps, ending in hand, and once again finessed clubs. She cashed the ♣A for a diamond pitch, and when the king dropped, the last club gave another diamond pitch, and she lost only the two aces for +650.

In the other room, the bidding started in the same way, but East remained quiet after West showed her weak NT. The same 11 tricks were taken, but this time only scored +210. 10 IMPs to England. The

rest of the match went equally well, for a 56-24 victory to England. A very good end to an instructive and enjoyable tournament. With a place in the World Championships, everyone is now really keen to improve and threaten for medals next time. □

UNDER 26 WOMENS RESULTS		
Gold	Italy	
Silver	France	
Bronze	Netherlands	
8th	England	

JUNIOR EUROPEANS – U21 By Michael Byrne

The U21 European Championships was a tale of two halves for the team of six representing England, comprising Andy Cope & Thomas Gardner, Jamie & Liam Fegarty, Imogen La Chapelle & Henry Rose with NPC Michael Byrne.

With only 14 countries competing the format was a double round robin of 12 board matches, so 48 boards a day, and after the first round robin we were doing very poorly. Despite a few good matches we had not scored enough against the weaker teams, and our position of tenth place left us with plenty of work to do.



U21 Team: Thomas Gardner, Andy Cope, Henry Rose, Liam Fegarty, Michael Byrne (NPC), Jamie Fegarty, Imogen La Chapelle

The second round robin saw a completely new team take the field, as the players showed their true mettle and started beating everyone left right and centre. Indeed, had the event only been scored on the basis of the second round robin, we would have won the silver medal (a cruel break in a grand slam denying us the gold).

When the music stopped we had finished 8th and qualified comfortably for the World Championships, to be held next year in an as yet undisclosed country (to be announced this autumn).

This was an exciting high level auction against the gold medal winners Israel:

Love All. Dealer West.

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

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

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

When England were N-S Andy and Thomas stopped safely in 4♠ after a free run. North opened 1♠ and showed a heart shortage after a forcing raise from South. South made one cue bid but was not tempted to go past 4♠, knowing that a singleton opposite a singleton is rarely an indicator of a low point count slam.

At the other table the auction was more explosive:





West	North	East	South
Rose		La Chapelle	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
3♥	3♠	4♥	4NT
5♦	5♠	All Pass	

Imogen cashed the ♥A and, aided by the 5♦ bid, switched to a diamond to beat the contract out of hand.

Henry's 3♥ bid might not win any prizes for suit quality, but it is definitely right to bid in these situations. You'll notice that (on a spade lead) E-W make a slam in hearts. In any event he got his

diamonds in later, which might have been vital if N-S had held the ♥A and bid a slam in spades.

The medals were won by Israel, France and Denmark, but with a year to train we are looking forward to making our mark at the World Championships in a year's time. □

UNDER 21 RESULTS		
Gold	Israel	
Silver	France	
Bronze	Denmark	
8th	England	

South East Counties Junior Bridge Camp



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There is only so much that students can absorb in class and most of us appreciate the value of quiet reflection and thinking things through. Often finding your own solution is the key to understanding and many bridge learners actually love homework!

A course textbook can be a huge benefit for teachers and students alike, and makes teaching easier if you can simply refer students to a suitable exercise. These questions are designed for the lesson on responding to one of a suit, but can be ideal for revision later on, when new players need reminding if they trip up by supporting a minor or by bidding too high, too soon. Let's try one, (a short extract from *Beginning Bridge Book 1*):

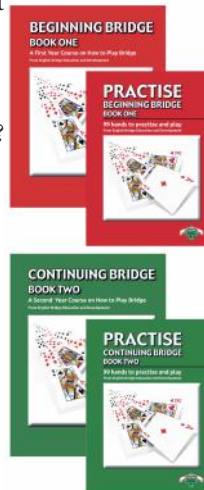
1. Partner opens 1♦. What do you reply?

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

2. Holding this hand how do you reply when partner opens:

- a) 1♠
- b) 1♥
- c) 1♦
- d) 1♣
- e) 1NT?

♠ A K
♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 5 3 2



BRIDGE FOR ALL TEXTBOOKS

The Bridge for All textbooks have exercises and practice hands, and you can see preview pages on our website. Books can be purchased directly from EBED with discounts available for all members of English Bridge Teachers Association.

Contact Lisa Miller:

Tel: 01296 317217

Email: lisa@ebedcio.org.uk

2a INT. You do not have enough points to bid at the two level, and there is no suit left to bid at the one level.
2b 2♥. Always support a major if you can.
2c 1♥. Always respond a major if you can, rather than supporting partner's minor.
2d 1♥. Same logic as 2c.
2e 2♦. This is a transfer to hearts and shows a 5-card heart suit. Some players use an older style bidding and would bid 2♥ as a natural weak take-out bid.

1a 1♥. With two five-card suits, respond with the higher-ranking one.
1b 1♥. Always bid a major if you can rather than supporting a minor.
1c INT. You do not have enough points to bid at the two level. INT is a catch-all bid which denies being able to bid another suit at the one-level (in this instance hearts and spades).
2♦ 2♣. Unlike 1C, this hand has enough points to bid at the two level so you can bid 2♣.

ANSWERS:



sdrawkcab gnikniT . . . Thinking backwards

However brilliant and inspiring our teaching, our students will always encounter misunderstandings that we need to unpick. How best to do this? If, for example (teaching ACOL), they open 1♥ with a flat hand and 14 points, it could be that they don't understand the definition of a balanced hand, they've forgotten the point range for 1NT or they've evaluated their hand as being worth 15 points. It's hard to respond appropriately unless we know why they made the bid they did. Simply telling them the 'right' bid doesn't help because they will not know what is 'wrong' with the bid they made and it will also build up the fallacy that there is such a thing as a 'right' bid in the first place. Enabling students to understand that bidding is about guidelines rather than rules helps build resilience.

A tool that can help is what's called 'formative assessment' where the teacher uses students' work to inform the feedback they give. This approach sets a task which helps reveal what your students are thinking. For example, you give them two or three bidding sequences such as:

North	South
Pass	1NT
3♥	Pass

and invite them to construct the hands from the information given, one bid at a time. Can they work out that North has exactly five hearts for example? Can they deduce that South doesn't have 14 HCP? This reverses the normal order of things so I call it 'backwards thinking'. Such tasks enable you to listen to students' discussions and pick up points of confusion more accurately. This can be done in a variety of ways. If you ask a table to use a pack of cards to lay out possible hands, they need to discuss and agree their actions. Students can engage strongly in such group work though it can also allow the least confident to take a passive role so using individual tasks as well is important. A simple but

effective tool is a class set of mini-whiteboards, pens and small erasers. They allow all four players to complete a task simultaneously and you can quickly scan them as you walk around the room.

WHY RATHER THAN WHAT

Other ways this can work would be to show the class the best lead and ask them to go backwards – why is it good? Teaching a finesse: tell them which cards to play and ask them to work out the logic. Thank you to Stephen Hanslip from Wakefield BC who suggested asking students to describe their partner's bids as they are made. Tasks that ask 'why' rather than 'what' challenge students and inform teachers. Once you can pinpoint the causes of confusion, guidance becomes more effective.

EVEN BETTER IF . . .

Even then confidence is not guaranteed so aim to use positive language – the formula of *What Went Well?* + *Even Better If . . .* is hackneyed perhaps but it works. It's the difference between, 'That's the wrong card from that holding – remember I told you to lead top of two touching honours' to 'Great that you led your partner's suit – good listening – good choice – even better though if you show extra information by playing the King there . . .' If you ever have the privilege of attending one of Andrew Robson's classes or seminars I suggest you switch off listening to the bridge guidance (just for a moment . . .) and focus on his exemplary use of positive language in feedback – it's two masterclasses in one.

THE RIGHT SOIL

Ultimately students need to feel safe in our classrooms – safe to try new things, safe to get things wrong and safe from memories of the punitive classrooms of their youth. Our role as teachers is not only as pedagogues but as gardeners nurturing the soil in which our students can flourish.

If you have teaching ideas or tips to share please contact marysharp@btinternet.com 

The best way to find a bridge club is the EBU website

The EBU website is naturally one of the top destinations for people in search of information on bridge and where to play. The EBU has a new tool to show off the rich variety of clubs and help attract new players and members. The new Club Directory is available from the EBU's home page. Enquirers just tap in a postcode, type a club name, or choose a county, and the results list the clubs alongside useful information including the location, whether you can go without a partner, whether teaching is on offer, and can you get refreshments with your bridge! Tap the club name for more details, which will often include forthcoming sessions with times and dates, as well as a map and important details such as disabled access and where to park.

The directory also shows a description of the club, written by the club itself. It is great to see these

being submitted as they are a chance to show that every club has its own special character. Please take a look at the directory here:

www.ebu.co.uk/explore/clubs/

and give your club a nudge if we do not yet have a description for it!

Find another club

Wimbledon Bridge Club


Wimbledon Bridge Club welcomes players of all abilities. We have a wide variety of sessions - from supervised, gentle sessions through to high standard, competitive, duplicate sessions. We mainly play face to face but we also run online sessions several times a week. See the weekly programme for our session times and descriptions. We generally have a host but please check on the calendar. We have an excellent licensed bar where light refreshments can be ordered. The club no longer accepts cash so visitors should bring a debit card for payments. We use Bridgemates and computer scoring so results are available immediately. Special events are held throughout the year and we run many ladders and competitions. We have a strong teaching programme. The 57 and 131 buses stop outside the Club.

For more details or to contact us, visit our website.

Club location and upcoming Sessions

Where possible, we show forthcoming sessions below, drawn from the club's web site with thanks to Bridgeweb. Note that some clubs have more than one venue, so contact the club or view the club website to check the session location before travelling.

Session	Date	Time
Friday pm Online Duplicate	Fri Aug 26 2022	13:15
Friday am F2F Duplicate	Fri Aug 26 2022	10:30
Saturday pm F2F Duplicate	Sat Aug 27 2022	14:00
Monday pm Online Duplicate	Mon Aug 29 2022	13:15
Monday am F2F Supervised Play	Mon Aug 29	12:30



Address: Wimbledon Bridge Club 56a Worple Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4EY

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LICENSED BRIDGE

WHEN you see the 'LB' sign in an advertisement in the magazine, it means that:

- The organisers of the holiday have applied for, and received, a licence from the EBU.
- They may choose to give Master Points in accordance with EBU scales.
- These Master Points will be accepted and added to player records.
- The bridge will be played in line with EBU regulations and bye-laws, thus affording all players the protection of playing within the jurisdiction of the EBU.

All county events advertised have an EBU licence.

NOTE: Members playing in events licensed by another National Bridge Organisation will not be able to have Master Points credited to their records save for events in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. The conversion of Green Points to Gold Points will only happen at English events, the BGB Gold Cup and Home Internationals.

2022 Summer Meeting at Eastbourne

Mixed Pairs for the London Duplicate Club Cup

11 August 2022

- 1 Huey Daly & Sonya Hillis
- 2 Debbie Sanford & Gad Chadha
- 3 Louise Selway & Norman Selway

Open Pairs

11 August 2022

- 1 Eran Assaraf & Lee Rosenthal
- 2 Alan Sparkes & Eric Campbell
- 3 Gerard Carpay & George Dragt

Swiss Teams for the Brighton Bowl

12 August 2022

- 1 Kevin Castner, Phil King, Stephen Kennedy, Charles Bucknell
- 2 Kieran Dyke, Michael Byrne, Tom Townsend, Ben Norton
- 3 Roger Mallinson, John Griffin, Paul Madden, John Squibb
- 4 Michael Keeping, Yves Lebre, David Benjamin, Matthew Read

John Carter Senior Team

- 7 Ian Hamilton, William Hamilton, Tony Elliott-Kelly, John Ferguson
- 35 Mervyn Wotton, Helen Kent Mark Randall, Carol Randall

Swiss Pairs for the Harold Poster Cup

13-14 August 2022

- 1* Richard Plackett & Mia Deschepper
- 2* Tony Verran & Brian Gladman
- 3* Brian Senior & Nigel Bird
- 4 Kieran Dyke & Michael Byrne
- 5 Mike Bell & James Bond
- 6 Sarah Bell & Jon Cooke

Mercian Bridge Trophy - Senior Pair

- 12 Liza Furnival & Peter Randall
- 28 Konrad Mau & John Gibbons

Highest B stratification pair

Highest C stratification pair

(Brighton Plate)

- 42 Lawrence Wang & Yining Yang

* The Swiss Pairs Championship for the Harold Poster Cup finished with a three-way tie. First place was resolved based on the number of matches won. Richard Plackett & Mia Deschepper were awarded the trophy having won the most games.

Friday Fast Pairs

12 August 2022

- 1 Glynn Meredith & Geoff Smith
- 2 John Prust & Victoria Haines
- 3 Andy Cope & Graham Cope

Swiss Pairs Lite (1 day)

13 August 2022

- 1 Kirsty Platts & Marianne Tudor-Craig
- 2 Liz Kelly & Martin Johnson
- 3 Giles Thompson & Chiho Thompson

Saturday Fast Pairs

13 August 2022

- 1 Nicholas Greer & Phillip Taylor
- 2 Diana Rosslee & Chris Child
- 3= Kath Stynes & Ned Paul
- 3= Antoinina Mauve & Anton Mauve

Swiss Pairs Lite (1 day)

14 August 2022

- 1 Anthony Collins & Simon Porter
- 2 Mike Skelly & Hilary Stewart
- 3 Giles Thompson & Chiho Thompson

Swiss Pairs Lite combined

13 & 14 August 2022

- 1 Giles Thompson & Chiho Thompson

Harold Poster Cup



Floral Hall entrance



John Carter Seniors



Swiss Pairs - 2nd



Mixed Pairs



Play under way



Sunday Swiss Pairs Lite



Mercian Trophy - Senior Pair



CROSSWORD NO 36

Compiled by MERMAN

Answers online, p68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
10					11		
				12	13		
14							
		15	16		17		
18						19	
20				21			
22							
		23					

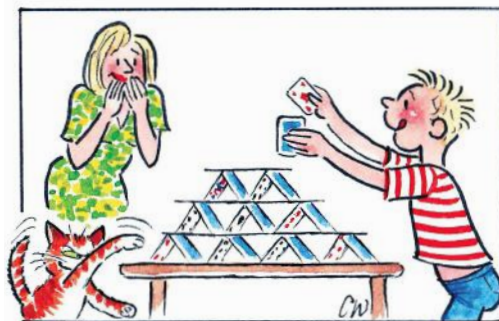
ACROSS

- Soothes away disappointment with boards (8)
- What jumpers might use to accommodate slope on course (10)
- Further visit to Niagara Falls held back (5)
- Trick to take piece back (4)
- Grovelled for a share of the eight per cent return (5)
- A player's no alternative to picking up shelves and a nasty disease (7)
- Let the wine breathe before serving Charles de Gaulle, perhaps (7)
- Still works the land (5)
- Stonework — a lithological introduction (4)
- Push one's way onto boat (5)
- A source of amusement concerning adverse reaction (10)
- All the first singing brother left out (8)

DOWN

- Pairs peg on, becoming prominent features in the Royal Albert Hall (10, two words)
- Anna's baked bread (4)
- Merman starts with this puzzle — such a craftsman (5)
- Desperately, Noel Coward got rid of one probable loser (7, two words)
- Alarm knight's opponents (5)
- Flower god's upsets continue to be tedious (10)
- A month before maybe Merman's boundless pursuit of group (8)
- Roads apt to facilitate flexibility of use (8)
- Flying saucer available with one's bottle opener on board (7)
- Find a buyer for soft fabric (5)
- Blended a type of whisky like this (5)
- A group of patriots (4)

CAPTION COMPETITION



Send your entries for the cartoon above to lou@ebu.co.uk or Editor, Raggett House, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DD by 15th October.

Thank you for all the captions I received for the one below. Congratulations to Brian Gladman for my favourite, shown below the picture. Other close contenders were Alan Marco's 'Always ignore the advice of a kibitzer' Malcolm Dale's '... and then on hand 23 you shouldn't even have opened, let alone rebid ...'; and Lydia Stanford's 'It's either one more online game or dinner'.



*Weak, and could be short –
that sums you up perfectly*

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CORWEN TROPHY

Daniel Baines & Robert Miller, from Northamptonshire, won the Corwen Trophy at the end of May. The event is for the leading pairs in the most recent pairs championship of each County Association of the EBU. In second place were Andy Hughes & Jeremy Dhondy from Hants and the Isle of Wight. John Sansom & Richard Jephcott from Worcestershire were third.

GARDEN CITIES TROPHY



Mayfield Bridge Club (Surrey) has won the 2022 Garden Cities Trophy for club teams of eight. They finished 12 VPs ahead of second-placed Torquay Bridge Club (Devon). Menagerie Bridge Club (Oxfordshire) were third.

The team comprised: Julian Hemsted, Neil Gayner, David Dawson, David Norman, Peter Lee, Mike Scoltock, Andrew Southwell & Richard Fedrick.

HUBERT PHILIPS

The Hubert Phillips Bowl, the National Championship for Mixed Pivot Teams, was won by Frances Hinden's team (Jeffrey Allerton, Jon Cooke, Tony Forrester, Frances Hinden, Chris Jagger & Graham Osborne), who beat Sally Brock's team (Sally Brock, Phil King, Barry Myers & Rob Sheehan) in the final played over 60 boards at the The MindSports Centre in London in May.

The Hubert Phillips Plate – the consolation event – was won by the team of Barbara Hackett, Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett & Martin Taylor. They beat Neil Crawford, Bob Holder, Joan Murphy, David Owen & Phil Thornton in the final.

INTER-COUNTY LEAGUE

The National Finals of the Inter-County Leagues took place online in May. Champions from each of the five regional Inter-County leagues were invited to compete alongside last year's national champions. Congratulations to Kent 'A', Surrey 'B' and Hertfordshire 'C' who won their respective divisions. The winning Kent team was: Norman Selway & Kay Preddy; Steve Auchterlonie & Peter Law; John Amor & John Hemington; Gerald Soper & Colin Wilson.

SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES



The *Hinden* team of Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne & Tony Forrester won the Schapiro Spring Foursomes.

The team beat *Orca* (Alexander Allfrey, Peter Crouch, Espen Erichsen, Zia Mahmood, Richard Plackett & Andrew Robson) in the final. The defeated semi-finalists were *Castner* and *Black*. The event is part of the Player of the Year Championships.

PUNCHBOWL

The main consolation competition, the Punchbowl, was won by *Knottenbelt* comprising Mike Bell, Fiona Brown, Ollie Burgess, Michael Byrne, Maggie Knottenbelt & Ben Norton

HAMILTON CUP

The Hamilton Cup – a Swiss Teams for those eliminated from the Punchbowl, or joining the event on Monday – was won by *Aardvarks* made up of Paul Barden, David Kendrick, Sara Moran & Claire Robinson.



NICKO 2019-20



Michael Byrne, David Barton, Gary Hyett & John Holland (pictured) (not pictured are Raymond Semp and the late Michael Newman who played in earlier rounds) won the final of the 2019-2020 NICKO (National Inter Club Knockout) in mid 2022 at Coventry BC as part of the Cheadle Hulme A team. They beat the Young Chelsea I team (Mike Bell, Paul Russell, Susanna Gross, Phil King, Sarah Bell & John Cox) by a margin of 41 IMPs over 48 boards. Some 200 teams entered the competition.

PACHABO CUP



The Pachabo Cup took place in mid-June and was won by Middlesex who were represented by Neil Rosen, John Atthey, Richard Hillman & Keith

Bennett (and Anne Rosen, not pictured).

The event is for the winners of the county teams championship of each County Association of the EBU. London (Ollie Burgess, Susanna Gross, Phil King & Kevin Castner) were second and Gloucestershire (Patrick Shields, Garry Watson, Daniel McIntosh & Robert Myers) were third.

TELTSCHER TROPHY

The Teltscher Trophy – the 'senior Camrose' competition – took place in May, hosted by Northern Ireland in Belfast and also broadcast live on RealBridge. Scotland finished top of the table. The England team of Patrick Shields, Richard Chamberlain, Gary Hyett, John Holland, Malcolm Pryor, David Kendrick & NPC David Jones, finished a close second.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS

The Spring Bank Holiday Congress was held online in early June. The Swiss Pairs was won by Celia Oram & Derek Oram. Second were Norman Selway & Kay Preddy. The top two pairs were initially tied when they had both finished play, but one of the last results at another table gave the Orams an extra VP to win outright. Paddy Murphy & Mark Roderick finished in third place.

IMPROVERS PAIRS

The two-session Improvers Pairs was won by Linda Holroyde & Mollie Temple. Daphne Lesley Twinberrow & Janet Patrick finished second.

RIVIERA CONGRESS

Ollie Burgess & Catherine Seale won the Mixed Pairs at the English Riviera Congress online in early July. In second place were Jim Hay & Jackie Davies.

The Stratified Mixed Swiss Pairs was won by Nichola Cockerill-Smith & Ivan Leung. Just behind in second place were Angela Treen & Mark Mortimer and, in third place, were Paul Barden & Claire Robinson.

SCARBOROUGH CONGRESS

David Stevenson & Liz Commings were the victors in the Scarborough Summer Congress's main Swiss Pairs in mid-July. In second place were Graham Cox & Pat Barton, with Chris Jagger & Jane Jensen coming third.

The Multiple Teams event was won by John Atthey, Diana Nettleton, Andrew McIntosh & Sara Moran, ahead of the team of Steve Raine, Chris Cooper, John Sansom & Jason Hackett.

The Seniors Pairs was won by Sue Woodcock & Nick Woodcock. In second place were Andrew Petrie & Veronica Petrie.

The Pre-Congress Open Pairs was won by Gary Hyett & Margaret Howe with Barrie Partridge & Linda MacFarlane second.



MEMBER SUSPENDED

An EBU Disciplinary Committee considered the following charges against Trupti Shah at a hearing in November 2021:

- ❖ That on up to ten occasions between 20th March 2019 and 24th July 2019 at the Leverstock Green Bridge Club, she changed the scores via the ArcScorer scoring tablets in use at the club, with the result that the score recorded in the scoring software for the boards in question was more favourable to her side than the score earned at the table.
- ❖ That on up to sixty occasions between 6th June 2017 and 29th May 2018 at the Watford & Bushey Bridge Club, she changed the scores via the Bridgemate scoring devices in use at the club, with the result that the score recorded in the scoring software for the boards in question was more favourable to her side than the score earned at the table.

The defendant denied the charges, and a disciplinary hearing was held. The Disciplinary Committee found the charges proved to their comfortable satisfaction, and that the defendant's conduct constituted an offence under paragraphs 3.2(iii), 3.2(iv) and 3.2(v) of the EBU Disciplinary Rules, being a breach of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge and unfair or dishonest play.

The Committee imposed a sanction of a ban on becoming a player member of the EBU for a period of four years. The defendant appealed and the Appeal Committee upheld the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

WINS FOR BRITISH AUTHORS

Three British authors were recognised in the 2022 American Bridge Teachers' Association awards in mid-July.

Test Your Bridge Judgement by Barry Rigal won the Advanced Category. Presented in quiz format, each deal tests the reader's decisions at crucial steps in the bidding and play.

Bridge Cardplay: An Easy Guide (Master Point Press) by David Bird & Marc Smith was named as an Outstanding Collection (Intermediate). The series includes ten booklets that teach basic skills for declaring and defending.



Cecil Leighton

Cecil Leighton, who has died aged 92, was a recipient of the EBU Silver Award in 2011 following nomination by London Metropolitan Bridge Association in recognition of his truly exceptional services to the county and to bridge.

Cecil served on the LMBA Committee in a number of different capacities, including a period as Chairman, for some 54 years until his retirement in the summer of 2011. Such length of service deserved very special recognition in itself, but it is worth emphasising that he was a very hard and active worker on behalf of bridge in the capital during all that time. Cecil was also awarded a Dimmie Fleming Award in 1992.



Maureen Hiron
1942 – 2022

As well as being the widow of Alan Hiron, Maureen was a well-known bridge player in her own right, and succeeded Alan as bridge correspondent for the Independent.

Long resident in Spain, Maureen enjoyed great success at creating games. Perhaps the best known were Continuo and Quizwrangle. She also set questions for early seasons of the TV quiz show Fifteen to One, and devised puzzles for The Krypton Factor. At the bridge table she was on the winning England team in both the 1974 and 1975 Lady Milne Trophy and represented Great Britain in the 1974 European Championships.

Photo: Jeremy Freedman

Photo: Peter Hasenson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the editor, Lou Hobhouse, Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk. The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Publication does not mean the EBU agrees with the views expressed or that the comments are factually correct.

PAPER MAGAZINE

I know that many on the EBU have wanted to scrap the paper edition of the magazine but, following objections from members the EBU continued with the paper version. Even so, the online version includes some extra articles which some members cannot read.

However the online only *Discovery* magazine seems to be a way of proceeding with an online-only magazine through the back door. I am sure that many members would like to read the articles in this magazine but cannot do so. **John Josephs**

This was actually the second year that we published Discovery – an online only magazine – and we have been simultaneously publishing the paper magazine online since June 2013 – nearly 10 years. It costs an enormous amount to print and post the magazine – £20,000 per issue and rising – so we are delighted whenever a member chooses to receive it online only (via My EBU). As the technology to read magazines on screens is so good and relatively cheap I think we have a duty to avail ourselves of it. For readers who prefer the paper magazine, I don't believe there are plans to change to online only at the moment, but we are all aware that technology drives change. Ed

LONGEST COMPETITION

With regard to Dave Robinson's letter in *English Bridge* (May 2022/p59), 2½ years isn't close to being a record for delayed completion of a bridge event. The country-wide tournament

organised in 1940 under the aegis of the Red Cross to raise money for the Lord Mayor of London's Fund was not completed until December 1945. Per a report in the *Western Morning News*, the prizes included eight motor cars.

Richard Fleet

TEAM SELECTIONS

Not even the most fervent England supporter could take much comfort from the results of the recent European Championships.

The Open team at least finished above average, 12th of the 30 teams, though well short of the score needed to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl. The Womens team were 12th out of 19 – the worst result by England or Great Britain for 60 years. And the Senior and Mixed teams had equally uninspiring results, finishing respectively 11th out of 19 and 10th out of 22.

This letter is not intended as criticism of the players, captains and coaches, who I am sure did their best. But the selectors should surely look at the mechanisms that were put in place to select the teams: in all cases, these were trials for pairs (open to all comers), scored on a cross-IMP basis, with the first three pairs guaranteed selection.

I served on the EBU Selection Committee for almost twenty years, and as Chairman for five of these. I was also a British Bridge League selector. So I like to think that I have at least some idea of what I'm talking about. I agree with Terence Reese's view: the trials should be held to aid

the selectors, not to bind them. Holding a trial open to all with guarantees to the three leading pairs is the selectorial equivalent of washing one's hands and walking away.

Sending teams overseas to take part in international championships is an expensive business (even if not all the players' expenses are covered) and EBU members can reasonably demand value for their money; the selectors need to think again! **Richard Fleet**

First, my thanks to the players and officials for their contributions in the European Championships: while all members of the England teams love the game and are grateful for the privilege of being selected to represent our country, no one should underestimate the amount of time and effort they put into these events.

Second, I share Mr Fleet's disappointment in the England teams' results. All four teams had reasonable hopes of qualification for the World Championships, and fell short. The Selection Committee remains conscious of its share of the responsibility.

Third, there is no perfect method to choose a team, or we would have stumbled upon it by now. We will think again about our methods, and hope to be more successful in the next cycle.

*Finally, I welcome feedback and suggestions, which can be sent to me personally, or, so long as they are polite, to the Secretary to the Selection Committee – louise@ebu.co.uk. **Paul Barden**
Chair, EBU Selection Committee*

Landmark Promotions April 2022– July 2022

Congratulations to the newly promoted

Premier Grand Master:

David Barnes, Berks & Bucks

Grand Masters:

Lesley Lewis, Dorset

Nigel Wolfendale, Berks & Bucks

Avon

Regional Master

Michael Clarkson
Stuart King

Master

Jane Barrett
Gwen Spear
Ray Watson

Bedfordshire

Regional Master

Peter Scott

Master

Maria Hall

Berks & Bucks

Premier Grand Master

David Barnes

Grand Master

Nigel Wolfendale

Master

Pauline Cooper
Julie Flower
Toby Griffiths
Roger Heppleston
Tony Hoare
Andrzej Kwiatkowski
Tinta Leach
Lynda Mattinson
Kumar Patel
Julian Pettit
Mark Smith

Cambs & Hunts

Master

Jim O'Hare
Patti Parker
Alan Savell
Ann Savell
Jean Watson

Cornwall

Regional Master

Rob Jones

Master

George Buckingham
Suzanna op de Weegh

Derbyshire

Master

Susan Browne
Wallace Bryce
John Oliver
John Thorpe
Chris Woodhouse

Devon

Master

Gareth Morgan
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Anthony Knight
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Paul Clark
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Gordon Atkinson
Rowan Lytheer
Helen Tempest

Hants & IOW

Regional Master

Lindsay McDougall

Master

Janet Hunter

Herefordshire

Regional Master

Keith Stait

Master

Richard Siddall

Herts

Life Master

Sara Barnett

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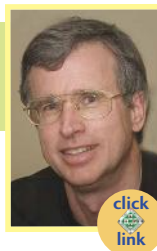
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Robert Spode
Sara Spode
Daniel Ungar
Iwan Williams
David Winterburn

Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



Julian's answers to questions from page 12

Hand 1
 ♠ J 10 9
 ♥ A K
 ♦ 6 5 2
 ♣ A K 9 8 5

W	N	E	S
?			1♣

2♣. This is a tricky hand. Your balanced shape suggests a 1NT overcall while the lack of a spade stopper does not. You cannot make a takeout double with a doubleton in the unbid major (unless you have a very strong hand). This leaves 2♣, although you would prefer to have six of them.

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

W	N	E	S
1♣	2♦	Pass	Pass
?		2♥	Pass

4♥. Partner's 2♥ response indicates a five-card or longer heart suit, which means three-card support is adequate. If partner were not a passed hand, you might take a stronger action (a 3♦ cue bid then 4♥ next time) but a slam is unlikely facing a passed hand.

Hand 3
 ♠ J 10 8 5
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ 8 7 3 2
 ♣ 8 5

W	N	E	S
?	1♦	Dble	1♥

1♠. Although South's 1♥ response relieves you of the obligation to bid, you have nothing to be ashamed of with this hand. Your partner was prepared for you to bid 1♠ if South had passed, so with a few values and four spades you make the same bid.

Hand 4
 ♠ J 9 7 4 2
 ♥ K 9 4
 ♦ K 7 3
 ♣ 10 3

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
?	Pass	2♣	Pass

2♥. By doubling and then bidding clubs, partner has shown a hand too strong for a 2♣ overcall, so typically 18 points or more. Passing is therefore out of the question. 2♣ denied four spades and does not promise three spades, so you cannot bid 4♠. While you could bid 3NT, a 5-3 spade fit might play better, so take things slowly.

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

W	N	E	S
?		Pass	1♣

1♠. Since partner did not open, the four-card heart suit is no barrier to making a weak 2♠ overcall. What should deter you from bidding 2♠ is the poor quality of the spade suit. You could be in trouble if you bid 2♠ and partner has a weakish hand short in spades. The compromise is a simple 1♠ overcall.

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

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
?			2♣ ¹
			¹ Majors

Dble. While the usual rule is not to bid again after making a limit bid unless partner forces or invites you to do so, here it is fine to double the artificial club bid to show clubs and give partner the option of competing.

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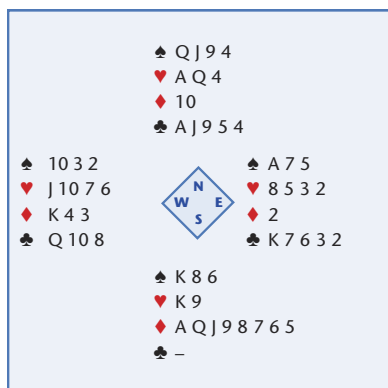




More daylight robbery!

Several pairs over-reached to 6♦ on this board from a daily Drop-In-Drop-Out competition, though 5♦ doesn't get good Match Points when an overtrick is available in 3NT. Well, that was my excuse, anyway!

Chatting afterwards with my partner while reviewing boards that we had just played, I saw that one South player, Shropshire's Claire Marsh, had made 6♦, so I looked at the play.



West led a heart against 6♦ and declarer took the trick in hand with the ♥K and cashed the ♦A. No king! Drat! So now she led her ♥9 to ♥Q and cashed ♣A and then ♥A, discarding first a low spade and then the ♠K.

Now she led ♠Q. It would seem that declarer had thrown all her losers from hand and had only trumps left, and she was '*obviously*' going to ruff ♠Q, so there was no need for East to play ♠A, was there? Well, that was the idea, but East should still play ♠A as it can't be wrong and it can be essential.

But declarer had managed to catch East napping and the ♠Q won the trick. When you are in a desperate contract, you sometimes have to take desperate measures, and that can include giving opponents a bit of rope. Well done, Claire, for this fine piece of daylight robbery! □

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Beating BBO's robots

When you don't have enough real players to make up a game, but you want to play, BBO offers Robots to play with. The BBO Robot is called 'GIB' - Ginsburg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer, named by its original developer, Matthew Ginsburg.

You can simply play casually with your Robot partner, but there are also several competitive formats on offer. Challenges are fun: you play the same hands as your challenge opponents, sitting in the South seat against three other Robots; you can challenge a 'Star' or a friend or make a group challenge. Over the last few months, I have been playing regular group challenges against three other strong English players. We record the results and play 'seasons' of twenty challenges for bragging rights against each other.

There are also Robot Tournaments where you play hands against the Robots which are compared against many other players taking the same seat as you. For example, each day the English Bridge Union runs a Daylong challenge, usually entered by 50-100 players at \$BBO 2.20 for 12 hands. At the end of every month prizes are awarded to the participants with the best six aggregate results from the month. I have topped that monthly leaderboard twice, in large part by exploiting the Robots.

To play effectively with or against the Robots, it's useful to understand how they make their decisions. I will take this in two sections: firstly bidding and secondly cardplay.

ROBOT BIDDING USES SIMULATIONS

GIB has a database of rules that determine which bid to make in a particular auction based on certain hand features: high card points and suit lengths mainly, but also other evaluation metrics. It also has rules that tell it whether or not to 'simulate' for each decision it faces. You can be sure that if GIB opens 1NT it will have a balanced hand in range – it will not simulate in that position. However, later in the auction, for example after it opens the bidding and

partner makes some call that limits their hand, GIB will 'simulate': it deals cards out to all the other players several times, consistent with their earlier bidding and it sees how the auction will go depending on what it bids – it will see if it scores better on average across all the simulations by making the 'book' bid or by making a bid for a different, closely-related hand. This lets it exercise a degree of judgement, and is responsible for GIB's hand not always matching up with its bid description.

So, how can we use this knowledge to get the best results from a GIB partner? It's useful to understand when GIB's simulations lead to good judgement and when they don't. If GIB, as your partner, simulates a range of hands for you that is very consistent with what you actually hold it will do an excellent job of picking the best continuation. This means that if you hold cards close to a typical hand consistent with GIB's bid rules, you should just make the book bid.

It also means that if you have a weird hand that GIB is not likely to simulate accurately, you should be more creative. The biggest mistakes GIB makes is when it fails to trust your judgement. You elicit the information you think you need to determine the final contract and GIB then overrules you based on simulating hands you actually would never have. Try to help it simulate hands that lead it to assess the best final contract correctly. Perhaps that means bidding very strong suits as if they are longer than they are, or perhaps it means not telling GIB about a fit if you have a hand where no trumps is very likely to be best. The most important thing is to keep checking the bid descriptions for your bids. Those are what GIB will use to run its simulations.

CHECK OUT THE DESCRIPTIONS VERY CAREFULLY

Have a look at the first illustration overleaf. The 4NT bid is Keycard in hearts according to the Robot's description. Clearly, given diamonds were agreed with the 3♠ bid, this is a bit odd, but it is

what it is, and you see here what can happen if you don't check the descriptions before selecting a bid.

<div>6</div> <div>D</div>	N North		W N E S
	♠ 965		P P P P
	♥ KQJ103		2♠ 3♠ X
	♦ KQJ97		P 4♥ P 4NT
W West		E East	
♠ AJ10742		♠ Q83	
♥ 98		♥ 654	
♦ 10		♦ 64	
♣ 6532		♣ KQ984	
S South		7♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0	
♠ K			
♥ A72			
♦ A8532			
♣ AJ107			

Check the bid descriptions before you bid

TAKING A DECISION YOURSELF

If you were playing with a human, you'd probably bid 3♠ with the hand below. With the computer, 3NT is more tempting. Your human partner, with this 5-2-2-4 and weak spades is quite likely to bid 3NT themselves over 3♠ and trust you to judge accurately. The Robot will not realise that you are going to judge sensibly when to pull to 4♠, so it won't offer 3NT – that means you can only get to 3NT if you bid it now. The computer will still bid over 3NT if it is very distributional – it knows you have a club fit, after all – so you won't always play 3NT. Note that here, 3NT is much better than 4♠ on a diamond lead.

<div>5</div> <div>D</div>	N Robot		W N E S
	♠ Q8742		P 1♠ P 2♠
	♥ A2		P 3♠ P 3NT
	♦ 76		P P P
W Robot		E Robot	
♠ 1053		♠ KJ	
♥ J73		♥ 108654	
♦ A1083		♦ K942	
♣ J95		♣ 62	
S mugsmate		3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0	
♠ A96			
♥ KQ9			
♦ QJ5			
♣ K1087			

Taking a decision yourself

CARDPLAY

GIB decides a card by solving double dummy problems of many possible simulated layouts and selecting the card which works best on average across all of them. The advanced Robots simulate more hands than the basic Robots, which is why they play better but a little more slowly. The biggest

difference to human play because of this is the Robot's choice of opening lead. One of the reasons humans lead aggressively against no trump contracts is because it helps their partners get the subsequent defence right. Maybe an aggressive lead will cost a trick, but at least partner knows where your long suit is. The Robots don't consider this: in their double dummy analysis world, their partner will always get the defence right, and if their aggressive lead gives declarer an obscure way to pick up the suit led, they assume that declarer will manage just that.

If you play against the Robots a lot you will see that they frequently lead passively in unbid suits rather than making normal attacking leads. This has card-reading implications for you (in general play the opening Robot to hold honours in suits that they chose not to lead.)

STEALING A MARCH

It can also change the odds in the auction. It certainly becomes much more tempting to open 1NT rather than 1-major with a five card major if you know that the Robot on your left will frequently lead one from two small against 3NT rather than lead their long suit. If larceny is your thing, you can do things like open your weaker minor with 18-19 balanced and reap rewards from the Robot leading into your good suits. This swindle is especially safe third or fourth in hand.

The second big difference to human play is that the Robots' double dummy thinking causes a failure to give declarer guesses or losing options. Defending, GIB will make plays that concretely defeat contracts by force on certain layouts. This results in it covering honours too often, and not defending passively enough on messy hands where declarer can only make their contract if they guess well. Let's look at the hand below: *Cont/...*

<div>4</div> <div>D</div>	N North		W N E S
	♠ Q4		P 1♠ P 2♠
	♥ 85		P 3♠ P 6♠
	♦ QJ9742		P P P
W West		E East	
♠ J652		♠ 9873	
♥ Q106		♥ A7432	
♦ 53		♦ 6	
♣ Q943		♣ J87	
S South		6♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0	
♠ AK10			
♥ KJ9			
♦ AK108			
♣ 1065			

AQ guess saved

<div>D</div> <div>4</div>	<div>N North</div> <div>♠ Q4</div> <div>♥ 85</div> <div>♦ QJ9742</div> <div>♣ AK2</div>		<div>W N E S</div> <div>P 1♦ P 2♦</div> <div>P 3♣ P 6♦</div> <div>P P P</div>	
	<div>W West</div> <div>♠ J652</div> <div>♥ Q106</div> <div>♦ 53</div> <div>♣ Q943</div>	<div>click to play online</div>		<div>E East</div> <div>♠ 9873</div> <div>♥ A7432</div> <div>♦ 6</div> <div>♣ J87</div>
		<div>S South</div> <div>♠ AK10</div> <div>♥ KJ9</div> <div>♦ AK108</div> <div>♣ 1065</div>	<div>6♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0</div>	

AQ guess saved (diagram repeated for ease of reference)

The slam is on the king-jack heart guess. Discard a heart from North on a spade after drawing trumps and lead a heart towards your hand; the Robot will rise with the ace, saving you the guess. A strong human may find the duck.

How should you play AJT9x in hand opposite Kxxx in dummy against the Robot? Cross to hand and advance the jack. It may cover from Qxx. If you don't get a cover, overtake and finesse on the way back.

FINAL THOUGHTS

To summarise, the Robots play well, but there are ways to exploit them, and they do have some idiosyncrasies. In this article I've shared some of the lessons I've learned from over 1,000 hands playing against them. New algorithms in artificial intelligence are often invented specifically to tackle games and human intellect is fighting a losing battle to keep up. Deep Blue beat Kasparov at Chess in 1997; Chinook learned to play perfect draughts in 2007; Google's Deep Mind cracked 'Go' in 2016; robot solvers now teach humans how to play poker at a level inconceivable even ten years ago. Artificial intelligence is like an army on the march and, doubtless, eventually the land of bridge will be conquered too. For now, though, we can beat the bridge Robots. I find it immensely satisfying when I succeed with a special 'anti-robot' weapon based on understanding how the Robot is calculating its decisions. Give the Robot games a try and, when you do, make sure you put the silicon monsters in their place. □

CROSSWORD NO 36									
Compiled by MERMAN					Answers from p57				
1	C	O	N	S	O	L	E	S	S
9	T	R	A	M	P	O	L	I	N
10	A	G	A	I	N	W	T	R	A
	D	A	N	T	F	C	R	E	P
14	A	N	T	H	R	A	X	N	D
	P	P	P	A	I	R	P	O	R
18	T	I	L	T	S	D	E	T	A
20	O	P	A	L	B	B	A	R	G
22	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O
	S	S	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N

Rita Keable 1936 – 2022



Rita was a recipient of a Dimmie Fleming Award in 2005 for her work with Bedfordshire BBA. She was 86 years old, had been playing bridge for 60 years, and was a key member of Bedfordshire (BBA) for more than 40 years. Rita was a member of the County Committee for more than 25 years, holding various roles including Congress Secretary and Committee Chair. Prior to this she ran the Acol Club with her former husband.



Funbridge Competitions

by Marc Smith

However the Cards May Lie

Whether the contract is a lowly 1♥ or a lofty 7♠, it is essential that you make a plan before even playing to trick one. Counting your losers (and double-checking the process by ensuring that you have sufficient tricks) is a vital part of that planning process. Identifying how you can reduce your losers to an acceptable number is not the end, though. What often gets lost in this process is the question of entries. Playing the hand through mentally will enable you to sidestep problems in that department. Take a look at this deal from a Funbridge Daily IMP game.

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

You reach 6♥ and West, who has overcalled in spades, leads the ♠K. How would you play?

One possible solution is to run the ♥J at trick two, which will work against most layouts of the trump suit, whether the finesse wins or loses. If the finesse loses, you will be able to win the return, draw all of the remaining trumps, and subsequently discard your black-suit losers on dummy's diamonds.

If the finesse wins, you will continue with a second trump. Your contract will be in jeopardy only if East shows out, or if West discards and East began with a singleton diamond. (If East played low

from Qxxx on the first round of trumps, you will still be able to make the contract as long as he follows to at least two diamonds. Leaving one high trump in dummy, you then play diamonds to discard your spade losers, overruffing if necessary.)

Those are fairly good odds, but is there an even better line of play?

How about ruffing a spade with dummy's low trump, returning to hand with the ♦A and ruffing a second spade. You can then cash dummy's remaining high trump and come back with the ♣K to drive out the ♥Q. That line, though, will also fail if West holds four trumps to the queen: he wins with the ♥Q and plays a club, removing the last outside entry to dummy's diamonds. You would then have no choice but to try to cash the diamonds to dispose of your club loser. West ruffs the third round of diamonds and you are one down.

There is only one line of play that guarantees the contract against all but the most extreme of distributions. You need to ruff your two spade losers in dummy, but you must do so with the ace and the king of trumps. Let's see how the play goes: win the ♠A and ruff a spade with the ♥K. Return to hand with either the ♦A or the ♣K and ruff your remaining spade with the ♥A. Now play dummy's low trump: you will keep playing trumps until one of the defenders takes the ♥Q. The minor-suit entry situation is now robust enough to ensure that you can draw any outstanding trumps before playing diamonds to discard your club loser.

West's 1♠ overcall makes it only marginally less likely than normal that he will hold four hearts including the queen. It is certainly not impossible, so taking a line that will work against even that distribution is statistically worthwhile. When you made your plan at trick one, it was important to realize that you are quite prepared to lose a trick to the ♥Q. That realisation should then lead you to the winning line of play. □

Sarah's Weak 2 response quiz from page 6

Have a look at these hands and decide what you would do if partner opened a Weak 2♥. In all cases let's assume you are not vulnerable, and the opposition are silent.

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

Hand 1 – Bid 2♠. You have a great suit and might make game in spades on a good day, but probably won't in hearts. If partner passes this, however, you haven't missed anything.

Hand 2 – Bid 4♥. You probably won't make it – you don't have many points – but it's likely that the opponents can make something in spades and this might make it a bit harder for the next hand to act. With four-card support and a weak, but not dire, hand, bid to the level of your fit.

Hand 3 – You have a reasonable hand for hearts but no ambitions for game. I would bid 3♥ to further partner's pre-empt. Again, bid to the level of the fit.

Hand 4 – Pass. You have 16 points but this hand looks like a total misfit and I wouldn't expect to be making much opposite something like

♠87 ♥AQJ754 ♦97 ♣653

which is a very respectable hand for partner.

Hand 5 – Bid 2NT. That second heart makes a big difference to the quality of the hand, and game is now very much in the picture. I'd bid 2NT to find out how good partner is, planning to pass if they rebid 3♥ and bid game otherwise. If partner bids 3NT, showing a solid suit, I'd pass that: we have eight top tricks and are likely to get a 9th immediately on the lead. If the defence do lead a club and I don't have nine immediately I can always play on diamonds, and would be very unlucky to go off.

Hand 6 – Bid 4♥. This one isn't a 'bid to the level of your fit' hand, it's an 'I think we can make game so I bid game' hand. Yes, it is possible that the defence will cash three spades and a club, but it's much more likely that partner doesn't have many spades and we can cash lots of red suit winners. □

Michael Byrne's Quiz from page 8

You are sitting East – what is your next bid?

West	East
1♥	1NT
2♠	?

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

ANSWERS

Hand 1 should bid 3♥, giving preference back to partner's five-card suit. This doesn't promise three-card support, as you would often have raised 1♥ to 2♥ on your first go. With only one honour in the minors, and no pips, it is not tempting to try 2NT.

Hand 2 can bid a natural and weak 2NT. You have clubs well held and sufficient length in diamonds to slow down the opponents.

Hand 3 should bid 4♥. You have the values for game, and a load of wonderful fitting honours in partner's suits. One of the minors will surely be

wide open if you play in no trumps, and you have a ruffing value in spades. Facing something like:

♠KJxx ♥AQ10xx ♦AQJ ♣x

4♥ will be easy and 3NT will be in danger.

Hand 4 should bid 3♦, suggesting a long suit and no other sensible call to make. You'd like to have a six-card suit really, but no other bid describes your hand as accurately.

Hand 5 should bid 2NT. You don't quite have enough fitting honours to bid 3NT, although you do have a lot of stoppers in the minors. □

Paul Bowyer's Quiz from p10

Hand 1

South plays in 3NT.
West leads the ♠K.

South	North
1♣	1♠
1NT	3NT

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ Q J
♦ 9 7 6 3
♣ K 10 7



♠ 5 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A K Q
♣ A Q 9 8 6

Hand 2

South plays in 3NT.
West leads the ♠K.

South	North
1NT	2♣
2♦	3NT

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ Q J
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ K 10 7



♠ 5 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A K 9
♣ A Q 9 8 6

Your *Count and Plan* reveals seven top tricks (one spade, three diamonds and three clubs). If clubs came in for five tricks the contract would make easily. How might you play the suit to best advantage?

Your *Count and Plan* reveals seven top tricks (one spade, three diamonds and three clubs). If clubs came in for five tricks the contract would make easily. How might you play the suit to best advantage?

ANSWERS

Relieved to have escaped a heart lead, you must aim to cash the first nine tricks. You take the ♠A at trick one (you cannot afford to hold up as a heart switch would be lethal) and must play to run the clubs. If they break 3-2 the hand is easy, the problem is if they split 4-1.

To cater for East holding four cards in the suit you must start with the ♣10, no other card will do as you have no further outside entries to the table. You can't afford to run the ten; you take a high club in hand and play back to the ♠K. Now you are in the right place at the right time to pick up a 4-1 club split (should it exist) with the clubs unblocked.

If West has the long clubs the contract is unmakeable. Here's the full deal:

Once again, you are thankful that West has not found a heart lead. You take the ♠A and now must play clubs to best advantage. The difference between this hand and Q1 is that you have an extra entry in dummy in the guise of the ♦Q.

This allows you to play the ♣K as your first play in the suit. If all were to follow you'd play the ♣10 next, unlocking the suit. You would, of course, overtake with the queen and, if clubs were 4-1 onside, would return to the ♦Q to take the marked club finesse for the contract.

The play of the ♣K first does allow you to pick up a 5-0 club break as well as a 4-1 split. In the event of a 5-0 split you could run the ten on the next round and then finesse the nine. Here's the full deal: ☐

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ Q J
♦ 9 7 6 3
♣ K 10 7

[click to play online](#)

♠ K Q J 10
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ 4

♠ 8 6 4
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ J 5
♣ J 5 3 2

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A K Q
♣ A Q 9 8 6

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ Q J
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ K 10 7

[click to play online](#)

♠ K Q J 10 4
♥ 10 9 4
♦ J 8 5 4 2
♣ -

♠ 8 6
♥ A K 8 5 2
♦ 10
♣ J 5 4 3 2

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A K 9
♣ A Q 9 8 6

COMPUTER SIMULATION OF MAY LEADS QUIZ RESULTS

By Nathan Piper

Hand 1

♠ J 9 7 2
♥ Q J 9
♦ 8 5
♣ J 10 6 5

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Choose from: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥Q; (c) ♦8; (d) ♣J

ASSUMPTIONS

South has 6+ diamonds, 4+ spades, 19+ HCP.

North has four spades, 4+ hearts, 9+HCP.

Best lead in each suit:

♣J 17.5%, 0.89 tricks *

♥Q 16.4%, 0.85 tricks

♦8 13.2%, 0.79 tricks

♠2 7.0%, 0.45 tricks

Other leads:

♣10 17.5%, 0.89 tricks *

♣6 17.3%, 0.88 tricks

♣5 17.3%, 0.88 tricks

♥J 16.4%, 0.85 tricks

♥9 15.3%, 0.83 tricks

♦5 13.2%, 0.79 tricks

♠7 6.1%, 0.41 tricks

♠9 3.2%, 0.32 tricks

♠J 2.1%, 0.27 tricks

Comments:

Nothing was put in about South's suit quality in diamonds – but we should be assuming they are pretty good. We might also have assumed that North doesn't have a club singleton – or might have splintered.

South elected not to check for key cards. The two most likely explanations for this are:

- * South has a void (and either doesn't play exclusion keycard or doesn't want to reveal information)
- * South has 4+ keycards and so doesn't care how many his partner has. In this case though he may have used keycard to try for a grand – unless perhaps playing a simple system with an unfamiliar partner

South has also not cue bid. Why this is will depend on our assessment of the opposition:

- * If South is a sound bidder he will have at least 2nd round control of every suit
- * If South is a gambling bidder he could have a hole somewhere that he doesn't want to reveal (along with a source of lots of tricks)

It would be possible to run this multiple times with various combinations of the above but on this hand it may not matter much because the main hope of defeating the contract looks to be to make a trump trick along with partner's ace.

A club lead seems clear because, apart from it being the unbid suit, partner may have KQ (or K over dummy's Q) with declarer unable to ditch dummy's clubs on their diamonds before we ruff in (ie 4-4-2-3 opposite 4-1-6-2).

One point of interest is that the ♥Q isn't so dreadful as it might appear because, in the nightmare scenario of eg A10xx(x) opposite Kx, declarer could always have ruffed out the ♥QJ anyway. So in that case the lead principally fails because we haven't hit partner's ace rather than because it gives away a trick in the suit led. It does sometimes give away the contract to A10xx(x) opposite Kxx but in this case declarer has a club void and may have been able to pitch a heart on dummy's ♠A or ♠KQ (established via a ruffing finesse).

I reran it with the additional assumption that declarer has a void somewhere. The results were:

amounted to 0.2% of all deals.

A low spade can gain over a big one but principally only if all of the below are true:

- * Partner has a singleton club;
- * The spades couldn't be picked up even after leading them - partner has a singleton 10; and
- * The spade loser can't be discarded on dummy's red winners.

Hand 3

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A Q J 6
♦ K J 5 2
♣ 6 4

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

This was an Acol style auction so 2♣ was natural and 9+ and 3♠ was not forcing.

Choose from: (a) a spade; (b) ♥A; (c) ♦2; (d) ♣6

ASSUMPTIONS

South has 5+ spades, 4+ hearts, at most three clubs and 13-18 HCP.

North exactly three spades, at most four hearts, at most four diamonds and at least four clubs, and 9-11 HCP.

East has fewer than eight diamonds or hearts, fewer than seven of each red suit to at least two of the top four honours, fewer than 5-5 in the red suits with at least one of the top three and two of the top five in each suit.

Best lead in each suit:

♠2 30.7%, 2.84 tricks *

♦2 26.3%, 2.69 tricks

♣6 25.9%, 2.71 tricks

♥A 10.4%, 2.29 tricks

Other leads:

♠6 30.7%, 2.84 tricks *

♠5 30.7%, 2.84 tricks *

♦5 26.3%, 2.69 tricks

♣4 25.9%, 2.71 tricks

♦J 25.6%, 2.67 tricks

♦K 25.4%, 2.65 tricks

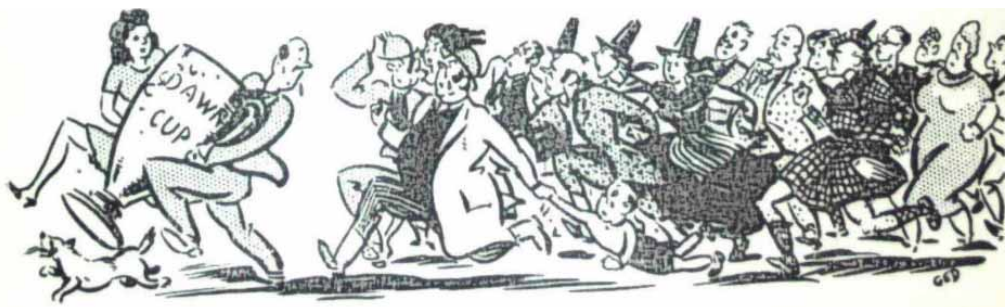
♥6 8.6%, 1.94 tricks

♥Q 8.3%, 1.94 tricks

♥J 8.3%, 1.94 tricks

COMMENTS:

A pretty easy hand for the simulator as the auction is fairly standard. The best lead and the worst lead seem clear so it was interesting to see the race for second place. □



Contract Bridge Journal, October 1946: 'It was a grand performance on the part of Bob Frith and Doreen Hopewell to win the 'Dawn' Cup, which carries the title of the South of Ireland Pairs Championship . . . A homeless white terrier attached himself to their party and, acting as a mascot, 'saw them through', returning with them to Nottingham. Bob is incidentally a good fisherman as well as a disciple of the 'Vienna' system, and fresh trout for breakfast at the Lake Hotel was an added treat.'

ETON COLLEGE – WINNERS OF THE INTER-SCHOOLS LEAGUE – VISIT
THE HOUSE OF LORDS TO CLAIM THE LORDS TROPHY



Tea on the Terraces



Playing the Peers



Eton College Bridge Team