

# ENGLISH



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The EBU members' magazine – February 2024 – Issue 304

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ENGLISH BRIDGE  
is published four times a year by the

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**Printer:** Precision Colour Printing

*English Bridge* is also published online  
in the Members' Area at [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)

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Education, in ascending difficulty:



EBU News Quiz   Features   Laws & Ethics   Reports



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## Steering the EBU

A new year comes round and, while it may well be February when you read this, may I wish you all a Happy New Year for 2024.

The start of any year always has its moments of looking back to the year just gone, and with excitement as we look forward to what is to come.

### REWARDING THE VOLUNTEERS

This issue of *English Bridge* looks back to 2023 in the Awards section and it was my privilege to be able, at my first AGM in November, to present a number of these awards personally. Our Clubs, our Counties and the EBU itself are only made possible by the innumerable volunteers – you, the readers of this magazine – who open up the Community Centres, who deal the boards, who direct the movements, who sit on the Club & County Committees and on national Committees etc. The EBU's awards are one way in which we can say thank you and this is so important. I highly recommend you read the stories behind last year's award winners.

### NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2024

May I also bring to your attention a couple of initiatives for 2024. The first is currently a trial, details of which you'll find on page 50. A handful of clubs are helping with a 'results project' which means that, following a bridge session, players (who have email addresses and who have not opted-out) will receive a note describing their performance including their percentage score, how that compared to the par result, the player's new NGS

and their position in the field. This immediate snapshot will, we hope, be useful to players for lots of different reasons. Once feedback has been considered, and where necessary acted upon, it is planned to roll this out to all affiliated clubs. The second initiative is the Festival of Bridge which was mentioned in the editorial in December, and which is planned for September. Do look at the article 'It's a Big Deal' on page 51 and do please start to think about what kinds of activities your club and your county might deliver.

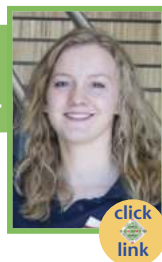
I'd also like you to look at the 'Generation Game 2024' initiative on page 21 which is being led by EBED. This is designed to encourage different generations of families to play bridge online, and dovetails very nicely with the final readers' letter on page 60, which talks of teaching grandchildren to play bridge. We are all acutely aware that, especially given the demographic profile of bridge players, unless we actively encourage new players to join us then the average of those still playing just increases!

### LET'S AIM FOR GROWTH

The three initiatives in this issue – EBED's Generation Game, the idea of encouraging young people to play bridge, and the EBU's Festival of Bridge – are all pointing in one and the same direction: let us shout out loud about how wonderful this game is, and let us share it enthusiastically with those who are not current players. Let us open our doors and our classes and our playing sessions to new players and let's make growth of our numbers the mission for 2024! ☐

## DIARY REMINDER & DEADLINE

There are still a few people missing out on their free EBU diary Please remember **if you would like to receive a free diary** with the September issue of *English Bridge* you need enough magazine points (earned through play) and you will need to positively opt in. The deadline is 30 June 2024. You can do this online through MyEBU, or by ringing 01296 317200, or by sending an email to [karend@ebu.co.uk](mailto:karend@ebu.co.uk)



## Opener's Rebids with a Minimum Hand

What counts as a minimum hand for an opener who starts with one of a suit? First let me clarify that I open 1NT with *all* hands which are balanced 12-14 points, even with a five-card major, no matter how strong it is, and this is considered standard these days. Thus a minimum opening of one of a suit *must* be distributional – at least 5-4 or a 6+-card suit.

At the bottom end is a hand with 12 points or a hand with fewer points which you upgraded, perhaps using the Rule of 20.

The upper bound requires an understanding of responder's strength. Remember that a weak hand for responder is loosely 6-9 points and an invitational hand is in the 10-12 range. A minimum opening hand will never expect to make game when partner is weak – even when responder has nine points there is no prospect of the magic 25 combined points to bid game. That puts opener's hand at 15 HCP at most. So, a minimum opening hand is normally considered to be 12-15 HCP.

### OPENER'S REBID OVER A 1-LEVEL SUIT RESPONSE

Whether you are bidding a new suit or a previously bid suit is usually the main indicator of whether the bid you are making is forcing. New suits are often forcing; previously bid suits are usually non-forcing.

The reason for this is that you need to work out two things during the auction: firstly, the best strain; and secondly, the best level. If you are making a bid in a suit that has already been bid by your side, it is because you think that you know the best strain (no trumps, spades, hearts etc). This will either be because you have support for your partner's suit or because you have a single-suited hand and feel that it would be best with your suit as trumps. Once the question of strain has been solved the most important thing is for your partner to be able to determine the best level – which might involve passing.

When rebidding a suit that has already been bid, whether by your partner or by you, bidding that suit at the lowest available level always shows a minimum opening hand. Compare these auctions:

1	West	East	2	West	East
	1♥	1♠		1♥	1♠
	2♥			2♠	

In both cases, you have been forced to bid by partner's change of suit. This means that your rebids are at the lowest possible level for those strains and, as the suits have already been bid, are strictly limited to minimum opening hands. The point range for both rebids is 12-15; the difference is the shape information you are giving: in (1), you are showing a hand with 6+ hearts, whereas in (2), you are showing spade support (usually four spades but could just be three if your hand contains a shortage – I recommend discussing when it is acceptable for you to do this with your regular partner).

If you are bidding a new suit, you should be careful to check whether that new suit might be a reverse because if it is, your minimum opener is not strong enough to make that bid. I shall discuss reverses in detail in a later article but the important part to note is that a reverse is a bid of a new suit that would force your partner to the three level when giving preference to your first suit. So:

3	W	E	4	W	E	5	W	E
	1♦	1♠		1♦	1♠		1♦	1♥
	2♥			2♣			1♠	

**Auction 3** is a reverse because East would have to bid 3♦ to go back to diamonds.

**Auction 4** would not be a reverse because partner could still give preference to 2♦; and

**Auction 5** would not be a reverse for the same reason, despite spades being higher-ranking than diamonds. *Rebidding a second suit at the one level is never a reverse.*

How do we use this information? Well, as long as bidding your second suit is not a reverse, you can do it with a minimum opening hand; it shows 5+ cards in your first suit and 4+ in your second. If that does make it a reverse, you should simply bid your first suit again to show 5+ cards in that suit.

When you rebid your suit it can be difficult to know whether you are promising 6+ cards in your suit, as in Auction 1 above, or only 5+, as you would be in the following example:

6

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♦	

The key is to consider what a minimum opener could do with a 5-4 shape in each possible auction. Returning to Auction 1:

- With five hearts and four clubs or five hearts and four diamonds, West could bid two of a minor without reversing;
- With five hearts and four spades, West could show a minimum opener with spade support by bidding 2♠ (as in Auction 2).

Therefore, the only reason for rebidding 2♥ in Auction 1 is if you really do have six. Compare that to your options after 1♦ – 1♠ as in Auction 6:

- With five diamonds and four clubs, you could bid 2♣ without reversing; and
- With five diamonds and four spades, you can show a minimum opener with spade support by bidding 2♠; *but*
- With five diamonds and four hearts, you cannot bid 2♥ without reversing.

So, 2♦ may be to avoid a reverse into 2♥ and could be just a 5-card suit (with hearts concealed).

### OPENER'S REBID OVER A 1NT RESPONSE

Similarly, be careful bidding a second suit (which, with 5-4, is the action you will have been intending to make) when partner has responded with 1NT for two reasons:

- You will often be required to reverse since the whole one level has been eaten up;
- Partner will often be denying four cards in the second suit by bidding 1NT.

Consider the auction 1♦-1NT. Partner has denied four cards in a major, so you already know that you

don't have a fit even if you happen to have a 4-card major. Reversing into two of a major will be even more dangerous than normal: you are forcing partner to bid 3♦ almost all the time!

### OPENER'S REBID OVER A 2-LEVEL RESPONSE

The principles over a two-level response are similar to those over a one-level response but it is important to remember that partner has now promised at least an invitational hand. With partner's known 10+ HCP, a hand with 15 HCP should now force to game. As such:

7

West	East
1♠	2♣
2♠	

8

West	East
1♠	2♣
3♣	

**Auction 7** West is showing a minimum opening with 6+ spades; and

**Auction 8** West is showing a minimum opening with 5+ spades and 4+ clubs.

... but the minimum range is now 12-14 HCP (unless your 15-point hand is truly awful!) as East has shown 10+ or equivalent points.

As before, bidding a new suit which is not a reverse can be done with any minimum hand, whereas hands whose second suit is higher-ranking than their first must simply bid the first suit again. Over a 2-level response, far more first-suit rebids might potentially be 5-card suits, simply due to space constraints. Look at the following examples:

9

West	East
1♥	2♣
2♥	

10

West	East
1♦	2♣
2♦	

**Auction 9** will normally promise 6+ hearts but could also be a hand with five hearts and four spades; *but*

**Auction 10** could be a hand with five diamonds and either four hearts or four spades, so it will less frequently be a 6-card suit. The rebid of 2♦ confirms the hand is not strong enough to reverse.

The key is to run through your options with each possible second suit to determine whether your first suit rebid is promising 6+ cards or only 5+. □

**Have you got it? India's quiz is online p67**



## Setting up a side suit ~ 4

This article continues the theme of setting up dummy's side suit in a trump contract. Here, though, the theme of entries is paramount and may need you, as declarer, to think about how you may set up and reach your established winner(s).

In the first example, you have opened the bidding with 1♥, West has made a takeout double and you have eventually arrived in 4♥. West cashes the two top diamonds before exiting passively with the ♥8. How might you play the hand?

**Hand 1**  
South plays in 4♥.  
West leads the ♦A.

♠	7 6 3
♥	K 6 4
♦	Q J
♣	A K 7 6 4

♠	A Q 5
♥	A Q J 10 9 7
♦	10 5
♣	10 3

Your initial analysis (your essential *Count and Plan*) reveals nine easy winners (one spade, six hearts and two clubs). A count of losers tells you that you may lose two spades and two diamonds, so at least the winners and losers balance – nine winners and four losers. You might bank on the spade finesse for your contract, but how likely is that given the bidding? West's takeout double pretty much marks him with most of the missing high cards – and that includes the ♠K.

Well, the theme of these articles is to ruff out a long suit, and there are five clubs in dummy that look ripe for development. So, you should win the trump switch at trick three in hand and play three rounds of clubs, ruffing the last in hand? Not so fast.

If clubs were 3-3 all would be fine – you'd romp home with one spade, six hearts, and four clubs for

an overtrick. However, if clubs break 4-2 (the more likely split, you should note) you'd be a trick short, and the perversity of the heart pips means that you have only one entry to dummy. This line of play would leave you with no way of ruffing out the last club and reaching it. You'd have to rely on the spade finesse, with minimal chance of success.

Making your contract is more important than fripperies such as overtricks, so you should aim to make ten tricks, not hope for eleven. Can you see how?

The winning line is to take the trump switch in hand at trick three and duck a club at trick four. This is a common enough play in a no-trump contract, but it looks unnatural in suit play. However, it's the only winning line here.

Let's go through the play in detail: after two rounds of diamonds West switches to a heart. You win that in hand (it's essential to keep the ♥K on table for a later entry). Now you duck a club, probably won by East, who will lead a spade. Eschewing the finesse, you take the ♠A, cash the ♣A, ruff a club in hand, cash the ♥A, play a heart to the ♥K (drawing the last trump), and cash the remaining clubs. Ten tricks come from one spade, six hearts and three clubs. Here's the full deal:

**South plays 4♥. West leads the ♦A**

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

♠	K 9 8 2
♥	8
♦	A K 9 4
♣	Q J 8 2

♠	A Q 5
♥	A Q J 10 9 7
♦	10 5
♣	10 3

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can click  
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Try your hand at this one. You end up in 4♠ after North has opened 1♦ and raised your 1♠ response enthusiastically. West, anxious to prevent some sort of crossruff, leads a trump.

Hand 2  
South plays in 4♠.  
West leads the ♠2.

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

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

♠  
♥  
♦  
♣

N  
W  
E  
S


Your *Count and Plan* may see only three possible losers (one heart and two diamonds) but the winners are somewhat on the short side (which emphasises why you must count both winners and losers in a suit contract).

With insufficient winners in sight (just four spades and two aces plus a ruff or two) it would be wrong to draw trumps. Instead, you must develop those insipid diamonds. (No long suit in dummy should ever be ignored). Thus, you win the opening lead (it matters not where, let's say you choose to let the ♠8 hold trick one). Now you lead a diamond. East eyes you suspiciously and takes his ♦A before playing another trump. You win that somewhere and patiently play another diamond. You take a third round of trumps on table to play a third round

AA

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of diamonds, ruffing with your last trump. When both spades and diamonds prove to split 3-2 you are home and dry; dummy is high apart from the last, losing heart. Graciously, you concede that to the opposition and claim your contract. Here's the full deal. No defence beats this one, provided you play to set up the diamond suit. ☐

EBU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrian Darnell was confirmed as Chairman at the EBU AGM held on 29 November, and will serve a three-year term. The current elected Board of Directors is as follows: Adrian Darnell (Chairman), Paul Gibbons, Kay Preddy (Treasurer), Patrick Shields, Tony Russ (Vice-Chairman), Ian Sidgwick, Abbey Smith and Gayle Webb. In addition to those elected the Board of Directors may appoint three Directors for one year at a time. Appointments for 2024 will be considered at the meeting of the Board in mid-January, after *English Bridge* goes to press.

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♠2

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

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

♠  
♥  
♦  
♣

N  
W  
E  
S

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

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

Online readers can click here

Have you got it? Paul's quiz is online p68

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February 2024 English Bridge

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## Coping with Pre-empts ~ Part 2

**C**oping with pre-empts is never easy because whenever you overcome the first hurdle of deciding what to do, partner then has a decision about what to reply.

The most common decision you will face as responder is when partner has doubled for takeout and you will have to decide what to do.

Although you have exactly the same tools available to you after a pre-empt as after a 1-level opening, the way in which you apply them might be completely different.

Let's imagine the auction starts in simple fashion, with both sides vulnerable. The opponents open 3♣ and your partner makes a take-out double.

South	West	North	East
3♣	Dble	Pass	?

What are your choices?

You are basically saddled with picking the trump suit and also the level. Unlike a double at the one level where you can respond at any level with each carefully showing how many points you have, you basically have to pick game or not game, and also try and work out the strain.

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

**Hand 1** has only six points, and while it is pleasant (perhaps the three small clubs coincide with a useful singleton in partner's suit?) it would be too

ambitious to bid a game contract. However you should bid 3♠ rather than 3♦ and give partner some encouragement. If partner does have a helpful shape such as 4-4-4-1 then he might stretch to raise 3♠ to 4♠ with a little bit extra.

**Hand 2** has eight points but more importantly it has both major suits and a singleton club. It is pretty surprising that you hold a singleton club (when there has been no club raise) as it suggests partner is more balanced than usual. That in a way is more encouraging, as if partner is lacking in shape then they will have good values. On balance it is right to press for game, and the best bid to make is 4♣, asking for a suit (with emphasis on the majors). If partner is say 4-3-4-2 then 4♠ might be better depending on honour structure, and it will be advantageous for partner to be declarer. The last thing you want is the pre-empter on lead to fish out a singleton and get ruffs to beat you before you've even begun.

**Hand 3** has 16 points a rare treat indeed! Should we assume partner has a fair hand and go shooting off to slam? Absolutely not. When there has been a pre-empt the suits are not going to break well, and this hand is a very poor 16 points for slam purposes. For starters, the ♣AQ are worth nowhere near as much as they were a moment ago, since the king is certain to be sitting over them. You might well get a friendly club lead in 3NT and score an extra trick, but unless the pre-empter was born yesterday he will find something passive if you try 6NT. You have no long suit and if the slam depends on a key finesse in diamonds it might well be wrong.

So should we settle for 3NT then? That will no doubt be safe for 630 or 660, but a pass offers fair chance for +800, which means holding declarer to just six tricks. Presumably he has KJ10xxxx and probably an outside high card as well, but your wealth of high card points means that there is a good chance dummy won't have more than one

entry. Even if declarer can lead a club from dummy you can rise with the ace and exit passively, and declarer must lose two trump tricks. On balance I think pass is clear, and if you get only +500 it will not be a disaster as many will no doubt have forged on to a doomed slam.

**Hand 4** is a tricky kettle of fish, as you hold enough points to make game certain (or at least certain that you want to be in it!) but so terrible a major suit that you must consider not showing it at all.

Our two choices are to bid 3NT, (suppressing the heart suit forever) or bid 4♣ asking partner for a suit, hoping that if we don't have a 4-4 heart fit then we can escape to diamonds.

The trouble with 4♣ is that even if we have a heart fit, we might not make 4♥. If there is a 4-1 trump break (as often there is after a 3-level pre-empt) then you might well lose three trumps and an outside top card, assuming partner has something like:

♠AQxx ♥KQxx ♦Qxxx ♣J.

On balance I would plump for 3NT, as Axx in the pre-empter's suit is a great holding for no trumps – you can duck one round and shut them out completely. (It is rare that people open KQJxxxx and an outside ace at the 3 level, as that gives too great a chance of missing 3NT when partner has a 4-4-4-1 12 count for example).

It is worth mentioning pass once more, and at rubber bridge I might well take the money in the bank by passing. Declarer will probably make six trump tricks and an outside trick in the dummy for +500, although sometimes dummy has two tricks (♥AQ over partner's king for example) and we might only beat it one.

**Hand 5** has just a dull five count. Can it be right to bid more than 3♠? In a word, yes. The fact you have a great 6-card suit (only one loser even if partner has just three small) means that you will put too much pressure on partner to bid again if you bid 3♠. Partner might hold a good hand such as: ♠Qxx ♥AKQx ♦AJxxx ♣x and will pass 3♠ like a shot, expecting to be off in top tricks.

Alternatively partner might have the right shape but modest values:

♠Qxxx ♥AKxx ♦Axxx ♣x

and be surprised that 4♠ is there on top.

When you hold a good 6-card suit and three small of the pre-empter's suit it is the perfect moment to shade the point count a little and take the pressure off partner.

**Hand 6** is a dreadful hand with a choice of terrible bids to make. Passing is far too risky (although sometimes -670 will be our cheapest option!) and we should bid a smooth 3♦. Why 3♦ and not 3♠? You know partner has a good hand, and the last thing you want to do is give them any encouragement to stretch for game. If partner has a 4-4-4-1 shape with 19 points, if you bid 3♠ they will raise to 4♠ which will be a car crash, whereas if you bid 3♦ you might slow partner down a bit. Certainly if partner is 4-5-3-1 then over 3♦ they might bid 3♥ which you can pass, whereas over 3♠ they will just raise.

What have we learnt from these hands? 3NT is often right after a pre-empt, as it negates the bad breaks you are likely to encounter, and especially if you have the ace of the pre-empter's suit.

If you are not sure what contract to go for then bidding the opponent's suit will at least get you to the right game, even if you have to push your side to make ten tricks in order to get there.

### The Dos and Don'ts of defending against 3-level pre-empts

**Do** remember that you are not alone in choosing a trump suit. If partner doubles for takeout and you have two possible suits, you can always bid the opponent's suit and elicit partner's help in choosing one.

**Do** push the bidding up when you have a long suit, even if your point count is modest. Partner will appreciate the decision being taken off their shoulders.

**Don't** think of slam unless you have a long suit and shapely hand. Just because you have a surplus of values does not mean you will make 12 tricks – after a pre-emptive opening suits tend to break badly which will make your task an uphill struggle.

**Don't** be afraid to pass for penalties when you have one trump trick and lots of values – it is putting the money in the bank. Getting 500 against an uncertain game (worth 600) is not normally a disaster, even at duplicate pairs. □

TRY MICHAEL'S QUIZ, ONLINE PAGE 70

# Heffalump Traps

In each of the following hands you are sitting South. You are playing in a teams match with IMPs scoring. You should 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

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



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

You are in 7♥. West leads the ♠Q. Plan your play.

Hand 2

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



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

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♥3 and East plays the ♥Q. Plan your play.

Hand 3

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



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

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♥10. Plan your play.

Hand 4

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



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

You are in 4♣. West leads the ♥10. Plan your play.

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 44

# 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

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

W	N	E	S
	3♦	Dble	5♦
?			

Hand 2

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

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
?			

Hand 3

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

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♣
?			

Hand 4

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

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
?			

<sup>1</sup> cue bid, <sup>2</sup> two key cards

Hand 5

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

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1♠
Dble	4♣	5♣	Pass
?			

Hand 6

♠ A  
♥ A K 10 2  
♦ 6 5  
♣ K 10 7 6 4 2

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 63

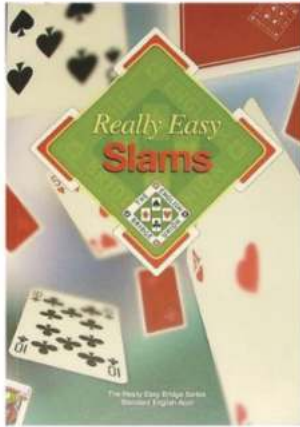




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# Beat Today's Experts

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.

## FEBRUARY 2024 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Love All                      ♠ Q 5 2  
Dealer West                    ♥ J 9 5 4  
                                      ♦ A K Q 10 7 2  
(Haffer)                        ♣ –
2. E/W Game                    ♠ 5 2  
Dealer North                   ♥ A Q 10 8 6  
                                      ♦ K 9 8 5 3  
(Wiltshire)                    ♣ J
- \* North opens 3♠
3. Love All                      ♠ A Q J 7 5  
Dealer South                   ♥ 10 6 5  
                                      ♦ 4  
(Nowosadzki)                ♣ K 8 7 6
- \* South passes
4. N/S Game                    ♠ A 10 8 6 2  
Dealer East                    ♥ A K 8  
                                      ♦ 9 7 5  
(Palma)                        ♣ J 8
5. Game All                     ♠ K 10 7 5 4 3  
Dealer North                   ♥ 2  
                                      ♦ A K 10 8 4  
(Ravenna)                    ♣ J
- \* North passes
6. Love All                      ♠ K J 10 6  
Dealer South                   ♥ Q J 10 7 3 2  
                                      ♦ –  
(Byrne)                        ♣ 10 5 3
- \* South bids 3♦, North 5♦

Did you beat the experts? – page 38

# 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.

## FEBRUARY 2024 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Love All                      ♠ A 7  
Dealer West                    ♥ A 7  
                                      ♦ 9  
(Markey)                      ♣ A Q 10 9 6 5 4 2
2. E/W Game                    ♠ A 9 8  
Dealer North                   ♥ 9 7 4  
                                      ♦ A 6 2  
(Ashton)                      ♣ A 9 5 4
- \* North opens 3♠
3. Love All                      ♠ 3  
Dealer South                   ♥ A K Q 9 7 2  
                                      ♦ Q J 9 8  
(Kalita)                        ♣ A 2
- \* South passes
4. N/S Game                    ♠ K  
Dealer East                    ♥ J 10 6 4  
                                      ♦ A J 10 8 6 3  
(Chagas)                      ♣ A 4
5. Game All                     ♠ –  
Dealer North                   ♥ A K Q 10 9 6 5  
                                      ♦ J 5  
(Thoma)                        ♣ A K 7 6
- \* North passes
6. Love All                      ♠ A 7 2  
Dealer South                   ♥ A K 9 8 6  
                                      ♦ A 7  
(Dyke)                        ♣ 9 7 2
- \* South bids 3♦, North 5♦

Did you beat the experts? – page 38

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# Crocs on Defence

by Stephen Kennedy

## Smith Peters



Over the course of my articles on defence I have gone over various signalling methods, ranging from count to attitude and even to suit preference.

But why do we play signals? The simple answer is to avoid guesswork. As defenders, we lack the insight afforded to declarer. With partner's hand hidden, we must make use of signals to guide us, and the intelligent use of signals is key. One of the more nuanced signals is a Smith Peter.

A Smith Peter is a type of signal applied to declarer's lead *in no trumps* that is similar to both count and attitude. It's similar to count because you use it when following suit and similar to attitude because it tells partner whether you like the suit.

But hang on a second? In a previous article, I once said that giving attitude on declarer's lead was a bad idea. After all, why are you telling declarer if you like the suit that declarer is playing on. If declarer is playing it, he probably likes it.

That is where the nuance of Smith Peters comes in. Playing Smith Peters, instead of count, you give *attitude for the suit that was led at trick one* – not the suit currently being played. This may seem rather peculiar, but I assure you it is worth playing.

Consider the sort of guessing you'll need to do on the following hand without such an agreement.

**Hand 1**

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

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

♠ ? J 7  
♥ 8 5 2  
♦ 9 5 3  
♣ ? ? 9 8

♠ K ? 2  
♥ A 9 6  
♦ K 7 6 2  
♣ ? ? 3

Online readers can click here

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			

On our ♠5 lead, partner plays the ♠J and declarer wins with the king. Declarer's next move is a diamond to the queen, partner following with the ♦9. Declarer then calls for the ♥Q which is run round to our ♥K.

What now? The simplest play would be to continue the spades, but what do we make of partner's ♠J at trick one. It could be their highest spade honour, or it could be their lowest from ♠QJ. These are the sorts of hands partner could hold:

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

In the second case, we can cash four tricks and beat the contract immediately if we continue spades. But in the first case, continuing spades will concede a trick to declarer's remaining queen, and we would be better off switching to a club in the hopes that partner may win and lead a spade through declarer's holding.

So which is it to be? As I alluded to, it seems that

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we will have to guess. And if you like winning at bridge, guessing is something to be avoided. If only partner could have given us an attitude signal at trick one. But alas. They had to follow with the ♠J and so an attitude signal was impossible. If only we were playing Smith Peters...

Okay, you knew where this was going. Playing Smith Peters, this hand is trivial and solves the problem caused by partner having to follow third hand high at trick one. Playing Smith Peters, partner will give us attitude for spades on declarer's *next* lead. If they like spades, they follow high, and if they dislike spades, they follow low.

On this hand partner followed to declarer's first lead with the ♦9 which is clearly a high card. That means that they must like spades and that must mean they have the queen alongside the jack. The correct play, after all, is to lead a spade at trick four.

You see? Using Smith Peters is easy. Now we just need to figure out when to use them. You can play Smith Peters along with normal count and attitude with only a little adjustment. The rules are as follows:

- ♣Smith Peters are only played against NT contracts.
- ♣Smith Peters are only played on declarer's first lead – after that it reverts to count.
- ♣Smith Peters only count when the card played does not contribute to the trick.

The only other concern is when to give positive or discouraging 'Smith'. But luckily, there isn't a strong need for hard and fast rules. If you like the suit led more than partner would expect, encourage. If you don't, discourage.

Smith Peters are most useful on the types of hands where partner is unable to give a signal at trick one. This is often the case when we need a signal from the player who made the opening lead.

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

W

N

E

S

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

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			

This time partner is on lead, and their ♥J is captured by declarer's queen. Declarer then plays the ♦3 out of hand. Partner follows with the ♦7, and dummy's king is captured by our ace. One's natural instinct is to return partner's suit but let's take a moment to consider the layout.

Partner's ♥J could be the top of an interior sequence – something like KJ10xx or AJ10xx. In either case, we should return a heart, and in the latter case we can beat the contract immediately by returning the suit.

Of course, partner's lead may be more mundane, simply top from J109xx. If that's the case, partner is likely to hold a card elsewhere and we should switch to a spade in the hope of cashing that suit instead. The two hands we are considering are:

Hand 1	Hand 2
♠ A 10 5 4	♠ 10 8 5 4
♥ J 10 9 7 2	♥ A J 10 9 2
♦ 8 7	♦ 8 7
♣ 8 4	♣ 8 4

In the first example, partner should appreciate that their heart suit is not better than expected. The lead has already promised a sequence and there is a card outside of hearts that could be more useful to us (the ♠A). In the second example, the heart suit is much better than expected and there is no other suit with interest.

On the first hand, when declarer switches to a diamond at trick two, West should discourage with a low diamond and encourage with a high diamond on the second. And with that, all our problems are solved. Aren't Smith Peters useful? All we have to do is look at partner's signal and return the right thing. Partner followed with the ♦7, which is clearly a high card. Right?

Perhaps not. The ♦7 is certainly higher than most spot cards, but it may not be the highest card partner could play. Let's consider what cards are missing. The diamonds you can't see are the ♦5, the ♦6, the ♦8, and the ♦10.

Ah... The ♦7 is right in the middle and that means it's just as likely to be a high card as it is to be a low card. We have reached our worst-case scenario. We will have to guess...

Or we could wait for more information. After all, there was no rush to take the ♦A, was there?



## Norma Doulton's Discard

During the Headmaster's long partnership with the Reverend Benson, he had rarely looked forward to the weekly school duplicate. He had generally managed to drag the elderly cleric into the top half of the field, but the occasions when they actually won had been very well-spaced. The situation was much brighter, now that he was partnering his wife, Norma. He had started to realise what a great game bridge was.

The seventh round of the event saw the Headmaster face his previous partner, now sitting opposite the Head of the History Department, Arnold Palmer. The players picked up these cards:

E/W Game. Dealer North.			
		♠ K 6 4	
		♥ 9 2	
		♦ A K Q 10 2	
		♣ 7 6 4	
♠ 9 8 7 2		♠ 5	
♥ Q J 3		♥ A K 8 7 5	
♦ 7 4		♦ J 9 8 5 3	
♣ Q J 9 5		♣ K 2	
		♠ A Q J 10 3	
		♥ 10 6 4	
		♦ 6	
		♣ A 10 8 3	

West	North	East	South
The Headmaster	Arnold Palmer	Norma Doulton	Rev Benson
2♥	1♦	1♥	1♠
All Pass	2♣	Pass	4♣

The Headmaster led the queen of hearts, continuing with the heart jack. Norma Doulton paused to plan her defence. How did the diamonds lie? If Alfred had a singleton diamond, he might well have led it. The most likely scenario was that he

held two diamonds to declarer's one. If he also held four trumps, which was entirely possible, the defence might be in business.

At trick two, Norma overtook with her king of hearts and made a surprising switch to the ♦9. The Reverend Benson blinked. Had Norma meant to play that card? Surely it would make more sense to lead up to the club weakness in the dummy? If she had pulled a wrong card, which was easy to do, it would be a friendly gesture to let her replace it with a club.

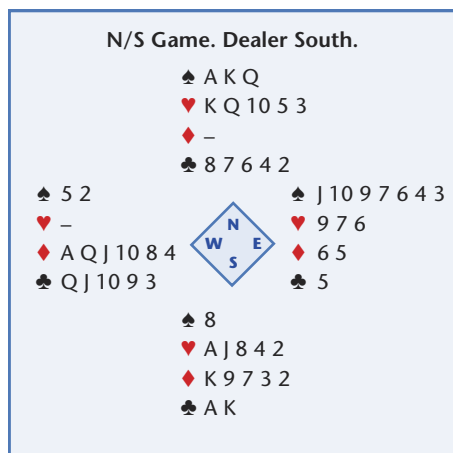
When no 'Oh, dear...' emanated from his right, Benson won with dummy's ♦10 and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen. He was not overjoyed to see East show out on the second trick, discarding a heart. Unable now to draw trumps and run the remaining diamonds, he ruffed his last heart with the trump king and reverted to diamonds. He discarded one club on the diamond king and another on the queen. His luck ran out when the Headmaster ruffed the third diamond. Rev Benson lost two hearts, one diamond ruff, and a club. He was one down.

It dawned on the Headmaster what a great defence Norma had found. On any other return at trick three, declarer would have scored five trumps, a heart ruff, and the club ace. With the diamond entry intact, he could then add three diamond tricks, making the game.

Arnold Palmer sighed as he inspected the result sheet. 'Everyone else made it,' he informed his partner. 'Still, I'm sure you tried your best.'

'It wasn't Charlie's fault,' declared the Headmaster. 'Norma found the only defence to beat it.' Palmer nodded politely. He was sure he would have made the spade game. Had there not been ten tricks on top?

A round or two later, the Doultons faced one of the stronger partnerships from the fifth form. This was the deal before them:



West	North	East	South
John Hutson	The Headmaster	Neil Phillips	Norma Doulton
4NT	5♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	7♥	All Pass	6♣

The Headmaster's wife opened 1♥, and John Hutson's Unusual 4NT showed a big two-suiter in the minors. The Headmaster peered disapprovingly at the youngster. If he thought this disrespectful overcall would stop them from bidding a slam, he would be sadly disappointed. 'Five Diamonds,' he said.

Norma Doulton could not suppress a smile. Alfred's level of play had improved considerably since they started playing together; he presumably had first-round diamond control and great support for her heart suit. She had some good cards, too. Maybe they could even make a grand slam. 'Six Clubs,' she said.

Much to the amazement of the two boys, the Headmaster then bid a grand slam. They shared a brief glance. There was a first time for everything!

Hutson led the queen of clubs and Norma won with the king. When she continued with the ace of trumps, West showed out, discarding a diamond. She paused for thought. Suppose she drew the two remaining trumps now. How many tricks would she have? Five trump tricks, two diamond ruffs in the dummy, three spades and two clubs. She would be one trick short. Since she needed a total of eight trump tricks, rather than seven, she would have to play a cross-ruff instead.

Norma Doulton ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♥5 and continued with the ace and king of spades.

Her husband's mouth fell open as she discarded the ace of clubs from her hand. On the third spade winner she threw a diamond.

The Headmaster's wife displayed her remaining cards. 'The rest are mine on a cross-ruff,' she said. 'I'll ruff three more diamonds with dummy's top trumps, and four clubs in my hand.' She turned towards Neil Phillips in the East seat. 'If you ruff in at any stage, I can overruff with my jack-eight.'

For a few seconds, there was a stunned silence. 'I couldn't believe it when you threw that ace away,' the Headmaster exclaimed. 'It was a necessary move, of course. I see it now.'

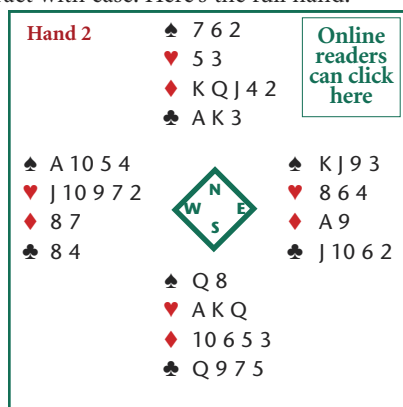
'It could hardly be more obvious after the boy's 4NT,' Norma replied. 'Managing to bid the grand was the main thing. Your five diamond bid was wonderful, Alfred.'

The Headmaster inscribed a proud 2210 on his scorecard. One thing was for sure. He had certainly married the right woman! □

## Smith Peters, cont' from p17

The correct play on this hand is to duck the ♦A. I find it difficult to believe that ducking will let the contract through, and declarer's next play will surely be to play another diamond. In with the ♦A, partner will follow with a second diamond and that will tell us what was meant with their initial signal. In this case, partner follows with the ♦8, confirming that the ♦7 was intended as low card, signalling disinterest in their initial lead.

With clarity of information on our side, we confidently switch to spades, and would you know it, partner has the ace – allowing us to defeat the contract with ease. Here's the full hand. □





## Clever play

### E/W Game. Dlr North

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



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

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

This deal is from the Premier League. North opened 1♥ playing 5-card majors, and South responded 3♣, a Bergen raise showing 10-12 points and 3-card heart support. North bid 3♦ which was a general game try (having no room to make any specific try), and South rebid 3NT, offering a choice of game, which North passed.

The lead was the ♣4, taken by East with the ace. The ♣10 was returned and declarer won the third round of the suit, with everyone following. A heart to the king holds the trick. How do you plan the play? This is where you have got to:

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



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

The only potential problem remaining is a bad break in hearts. Guard against that by crossing to hand with a spade. Now lead another heart to dummy's queen. When East discards, your careful play pays dividends. You can cross back to hand again in spades and lead a third heart towards dummy, ensuring that the suit is established for the loss of one trick. Given the location of the king of diamonds, your choice of game has also proved a good one. This was the full deal:

### South plays 3NT. West leads the ♣4

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

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



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

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

Cont/...

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## HEATHER'S HINTS

- ♣ If you choose to play 5-card majors, you can obviously support partner with three, but it can be useful to know whether you have an eight or a nine-card fit when looking for game (or slam), and also deciding on which game to play. Playing Bergen raises, you give up the opportunity to make a strong jump overcall in a minor, but you gain the chance to show three and four-card limit raises and also to make a pre-emptive raise to the three level. On this deal it assisted the pair to reach the only makeable game.
- ♣ Play contracts as safely as you can, and if it is possible to guard against a potential bad break, you should do so. A lazy declarer would have continued with a second top heart from dummy, and lived to regret it when East discarded. On many occasions this declarer would get away with it as the suit would break, but careful play gives you those extra few chances that can make a difference. ☐



**Easter Congress**  
**29 March - 1 April**  
**London**

**Swiss Teams | Swiss Pairs**  
**Championship Pairs**

**For more information visit:**  
**[ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london](http://ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london)**



**THE GENERATION GAME 2024**

A friendly bridge practice game for young people and family members, in the company of other people like you.

One Sunday a month, starts at 6:30, lasts an hour. Would you like to join us to see what it is all about?

EBED are starting an inspiring new and very casual bridge event on RealBridge, initially once a month, to give families the chance to play bridge together (even if they may be geographically separated). During and after the session you will have a chance to compare your bidding and results against others playing the same boards at the same time. The first few games have provided a lot of laughs.

EBED has identified at least 20 bridge-playing families including grandparents and grandchildren and there must be many more. It's a wonderful chance to see family from across the country and give both players a chance to socialise while playing the game.

Please contact Joan Bennett for information if you are interested or wish to play on 07548 782538 or by email to [joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk).

# New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

**R**emember that with the new format, if you think it matters you need to specify which card of a suit you are leading.

To help you with your leads, it will be assumed that we play top from a sequence, top from a doubleton, second from three or more small cards and fourth 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, kindly donated by **Gibson Games** is the prize on offer. For information visit [www.gibsonsgames.co.uk/collections/all-cards](http://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](mailto:lou@ebu.co.uk)  
by 15 March 2024.

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

**ANSWERS TO DECEMBER'S QUIZ: page 48**

## TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

### Hand 1

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

South	West	North	East
4♠	All Pass	3♥	Pass

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

\* \* \* \* \*

### Hand 2

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

South	West	North	East
3NT	All Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass

<sup>1</sup> weak with diamonds

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

\* \* \* \* \*

### Hand 3

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

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5♠	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Limit raise with 4+ trumps; <sup>2</sup> Cuebids

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?



# EBU Awards 2023

These awards were announced at the 2023 AGM at the end of November. The Silver Award is given in recognition of long service and an outstanding contribution to the administration of the game of bridge. The Bronze Award acknowledges a specific and significant service to English bridge at national level. The Tony Priday award is given for outstanding contribution to bridge and enhancing the game in all its aspects. The Dimmie Fleming Awards are given in recognition of hard work for bridge as volunteers in administration at county level, typically giving 10 or more years of service.

## **GILLIAN FAWCETT**

**Silver Award**



Gillian served on the Board of the EBU for four years, two of which were as Vice-Chair, and on the Selection Committee for five years of which she chaired it for four.

Gillian was particularly hard-working and effective in shaping the EBU board's response to the Covid pandemic, both from a public-health perspective and in dealing with the online cheating cases that arose from it. She still remains on the EBU Disciplinary Panel.

For this exemplary contribution the EBU is pleased to present Gillian with the Silver Award.

## **CLIVE OWEN**

**Bronze Award**



Clive was on the selection committee in the early part of the millennium and at that time was a great supporter of junior bridge. He was on the Appeals Referees' panel for many years as well as more recently being on the Prosecution Panel of the L&E Committee.

He has recently stood down from the Tournament Director's Development Group, of which he was a diligent member for the last ten years, and it is in recognition of this tireless voluntary work for the EBU that we are glad to give Clive the EBU Bronze Award.

## **SANDRA CLARIDGE**

**Tony Priday Award**



Sandra has been a volunteer for Oxfordshire for more than forty years. During that time, she also gave long service to the EBU as the secretary of the Laws & Ethics Committee and the Selection Committee and was also for a number of years the EBU Office Manager.

For most of its existence, Sandra has been the secretary of Bridge Great Britain. She has single-handedly organised the Gold Cup and Silver Plate each year as well as overseeing the Camrose, Lady Milne, Teltscher, Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies. Whenever the EBU and other NBOs of the British Isles have had any part in organising international events, Sandra has been involved.

The international good standing of British bridge is in no small part due to the tireless efforts of Sandra Claridge.

**MORE AWARDS OVERLEAF**



# EBU Awards 2023



**JIM PARKER  
(DERBYSHIRE)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Jim has been secretary of the DCBA for 20 years – perhaps longer. He works tirelessly for bridge in the county, organising all the county competitions and the calendar, preparing meetings and writing up the minutes. He goes out of his way to meet and engage key people in all the constituent clubs, encouraging them to run events and to participate in the county's events.

He also runs British Rail Bridge Club's weekly sessions, which have been increasingly successful since evening bridge in the county has become a much sparser commodity

He has been an enthusiastic contributor to the Midlands Counties working group and brings the fruits of that collaboration to local meetings.



**PAUL CUTLER  
(STAFFS & SHROPS)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

No one on the County Committee can remember a time when Paul Cutler was not there. He started in the late 1980s taking responsibility organising the three inter-county leagues, and organising the team for the Tollemache qualifier and the final, when needed.

In 2020 Paul volunteered to



**FRED KISSACK  
(ISLE OF MAN)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Fred has been the Secretary of the Manx Bridge Union for 16 years, which is an extraordinary effort!

Fred has been part of the team that has organised the Isle of Man Congress, keeping everything glued together. He has also been instrumental in helping organise the majority of the local MBU competitions during his time as MBU secretary.

Fred is a founder of a local club on the Isle of Man that promotes beginners bridge, giving players a chance to learn and fostering their development before moving on to wider MBU events and other clubs.

He has organised regular lessons/seminars over his tenure, contributing hugely to the growth of the game on the Isle of Man. In so many ways, Fred has strongly promoted bridge and added significantly to the success of our association.

run the inter-county event online, which has continued.

Prior to Covid, the county entrants for the Midlands Counties Challenge Bowl and the Edgar Foster Cups had always been dealt with by the Competitions Secretary, but over the last couple of years, Paul has been liaising with our Secretary with regard to those events.



**RUTH  
EDMONDSON  
(DEVON)**

**Dimmie Fleming**

Ruth Edmondson has been an enthusiastic and hard-working champion of bridge in Devon since she moved to the area more than thirty years ago. Her special area of expertise is in computer technology. Ruth wrote scoring programmes and was responsible for setting up and running the websites of the Devon Bridge Association (DBA) and Plymouth BC. She has continued to develop them over twenty years and recently finished uploading a complete online archive including all the DBA official paper documents dating back to 1955.

Ruth was on the committee of the West section of the DBA and represented it on the central committee. She took on the role of County Treasurer in 2017 and, despite standing down a few years later, agreed to continue doing the accounts until a replacement was finally found in 2021. In addition, she taught Beginner and Improver classes at Plymouth Bridge Club for many years, including online during the pandemic, and has helped run 'supported play' sessions at the club.

Paul is a key member of the County Committee and it's hoped he continues in his role for the foreseeable future.





# EBU/EBED Awards 2023



**LESLEY MILLET (YORKSHIRE)**  
Dimmie Fleming

Lesley has been proactive at all levels of bridge, encouraging and assisting those she has worked with to give of their best.

She was a director of Leeds BC for 12 years, including a stint as Chair, and developed the club's teaching programme in association with neighbouring clubs.

Lesley has undertaken similar roles for the past 15 years for Yorkshire CBA and is an active member of the Tournaments Committee.

Lesley has also pursued her interest in the benefits of bridge to ward off dementia.

She was a member of the EBU Education Working Group for two years and has been an EBU shareholder for YCBA since 2009.

She is Chair of the EBU Northern Counties Working Party (NCWP) and led on the establishment of inter-county tournaments played in two or three locations.



**CHRIS DAWE**  
Tom Bradley Award

Chris is an unusual recipient of the Tom Bradley award in that he has never taught children in a club or school.

However, he has made a huge contribution to youth bridge over the last few years, in particular in helping youth bridge to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. In early 2020, when all face-to-face bridge had stopped, he was one of those who worked to support the monthly online events attended by up to 44 pairs of U18s. Moving on from this, he was instrumental with the introduction of the youth Grand Prix in 2022, a flagship multi-session youth competition.

Chris's IT skills and expertise as an EBU panel level TD have been crucial in administering the annual programme of youth bridge events including setting up and updating the bridge4schools website (now the junior standard), and liaising with the EBU regarding Master Points for junior events at all levels. Chris has resolved many junior administrative problems making future planning much more straightforward.

## YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR



The Young Player of the Year award went to Imogen La Chapelle who has produced fantastic results over the last year – the quarter-finals of World Championships with the U26W team and a bronze medal with her

partner Charlotte Bedford in the European Youth Pairs Championship. Beyond her strong play record she has been a fantastic senior partner/mentor for Lottie. In Poland, at the adult World Transnationals 2022, Imogen made the last 32 of the Mixed Teams and the A semi-final of the Mixed Pairs. She also achieved impressive results in open mixed events playing with Stefano Tommasini.

## YOUNG PAIR OF THE YEAR



Tom Furness and Henry Rose are the 2023 Young Pair Award winners. They were key members of the U21 squad and the U21 team that reached the quarterfinals of the World Youth Teams Championships in summer 2023. They have been instrumental in the team's success, coming second in the U21 pairs ranking after the Round Robin.

# Bridge with a Twist

by Simon Cochemé



## Dumb and dummy

David Bird and I played in the first Minorca Congress in 1972. (The island has since had its English spelling changed to Menorca.) There were two celebrity pairs, Tony & Jane Priday, and GCH & Betty Fox. Priday and Foxy both wrote about the event when they got back to England.

The Foxes already had two London experts as team-mates for the main event. The Pridays probably surveyed the remaining players with no great enthusiasm, eventually asking me and David to join them.

Priday described the action on this deal in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

**E/W Game. Dealer West**

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

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

West	North	East	South
Bird	Mrs Fox	Cochemé	Foxy
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Foxy's 2♠ bid will look strange to modern eyes; the Jacoby 2NT had yet to become popular, and a so-called Swiss bid of 4♣ or 4♦, widely used at the time, would not do justice to the hand.

'Fox needed luck and skill on this hand,' wrote Priday, 'The slam is a poor one, but once North had supported South's spades, it seemed difficult to hold back. Knowing there was an ace missing, South bid the slam in spades rather than hearts, in case his ♣K needed protecting. East realised just too late that his hand was ideal for a Lightner double, calling for the lead of an unusual suit, in this case obviously hearts.'

I don't think I realised it at all at the time, let alone 'just too late'. A Lightner Double sometimes asks for the lead of dummy's first-bid suit, but I am not sure that David would have deduced from my double that Foxy had concealed 5-card support for his partner's hearts. We will never know.

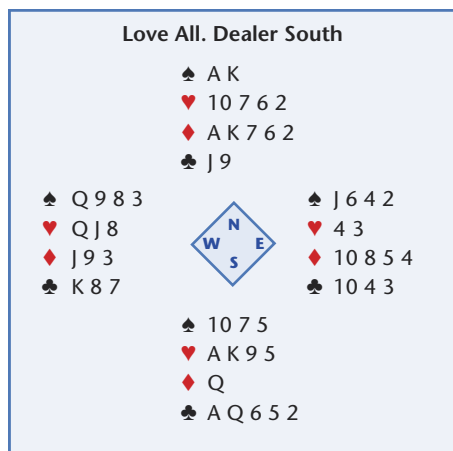
Anyway, David made the natural lead of the ♦K. Foxy won and called for the ♠Q from dummy, playing for the only distribution which would allow him to pick up the trump suit without loss. I played the king, the jack was pinned, and now he needed to get back to dummy to take another spade finesse. Instead of playing a heart, he led the ♣K from hand. David showed me an even number of clubs, so I ducked. Now Foxy played a club to the 10. I won with my ace, but could not prevent him getting to dummy, and the slam was made. Skilful indeed.

Why didn't Foxy cross to dummy with a heart instead of finessing the ♠10? Maybe he deduced that the clubs were 4-4 from our carding, and that diamonds were 5-6 or 6-5 from our failure to bid. In that case, East, who was known to hold three spades, could well have a void heart. And if I had held the ♣J, he could ruff the ♣A return and play a heart now.

The swing on this board was just enough for the Foxes to pip our team and win the teams event. Priday was kind enough not to mention that I was East.

Foxy included two Minorcan deals in his column in *The Daily Telegraph*. His introduction to the first one started with ‘Cochene (sic) played well to make a borderline slam.’

I don’t recall the bidding, but the final contract was 6♥ by South. West led the ♠3 to dummy’s ace.



With an almost certain loser in trumps, it appears that the club finesse must succeed for the contract to be made.

At trick two declarer led the ♦2 to his queen, and returned to dummy with a spade. After ruffing the ♦6, South cashed the ♥AK and ruffed his last spade. He now played dummy’s winning diamonds, discarding clubs from his hand. If West ruffs with the ♥Q, he has no safe return. He could either lead a club into the ♣AQ, or a spade, conceding a ruff and discard. In fact, he threw the ♠Q and the ♣7.

‘Reading the end position accurately,’ wrote Foxy, ‘Cochene played the ♥10 and forced West to lead into his club tenace. Had East held the master trump, the club finesse would still be available to try.’

You are probably surprised, even amazed, that I have managed to find a deal that I played well. But I must be honest with you; Foxy got it wrong – David Bird was the declarer. Now I can leave this world with a clear conscience. (That’s me with the clear conscience, not the world.) □



Photo: Daily Mail

## PETER DONOVAN 1934 – 2023

Peter Donovan was a passionate Yorkshireman, known for his sometimes cantankerous yet really affable nature, who was devoted to cricket, beer, and bridge in equal measure. That he affectionately called his French wife Michèle ‘the Frog,’ is testament to his playful banter. In response, Michèle and his bridge team ‘The Barrels’ fondly nicknamed him ‘Toad’ and their flat ‘Toad Hall’.

Peter’s time at Sandhurst, for which he played rugby and where he also boxed, was followed by a commission in the 4th Queen’s Hussars. Later he had a highly successful business career pioneering direct marketing.

His commitment to grassroots bridge and nurturing newcomers was unwavering. The enormous success of the Daily Mail Schools Cup in the 1960s and 70s, attracting over 150 schools, was due in large part to Peter.

In 1969 the Young Chelsea Club welcomed Peter as an early member. Later he joined the inaugural MCC bridge committee, playing a pivotal role for three decades from 1993. He represented the MCC at bridge, chess and backgammon, and his ashes are scattered on Lord’s cricket ground. In his memory, the Lord’s Bridge Trophy has been renamed the Peter Donovan Trophy.

Peter served on the EBU Board from 1979-1982 and received the prestigious Tony Friday award in 2020 for his exceptional service to bridge. However, his enduring legacy lies in his near six-decade tenure as the Daily Mail’s bridge correspondent, with his first column published on 31 January 1966.



# Christmas Quiz Answers

by Zia Mahmood

**B**idding. You are playing Acol with a weak no trump and weak two openings in spades, hearts and diamonds.

**Q1** Game All, IMPs. What is your opening bid?

♠ A J 9 8 7  
♥ A Q  
♦ A K J 10 8 3  
♣ –

**A1** This hand has enough playing strength for a 2♣ opening, and it wouldn't be wrong to do that. But opening 2♣ and rebidding 3♦ uses a lot of space and makes it very difficult to show the nature of your hand at a low enough level. I'd open 1♦ and – as long as it doesn't go all pass – jump in spades at my next turn. There are some people who think that you need to open a 5-card major before a 6-card minor – on a very few hands this can work well, but there's no reason to distort your shape with this much strength.

**Marks:** 1♦ 10; 2♣ 7; 1♠ 1.



**Q2** E/W Game All, IMPs. What call do you make?

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

W	N	E	S
			1♥
Pass	1♠	1NT	?

**A2** You could rebid your hearts, but East's 1NT is natural and would usually show a heart stop as well as a spade stop with a balanced 16-18 or so. Can he really have a heart stop, or is he gambling with something like ♥10986? If he does have a heart stop we probably don't want to play in hearts ourselves, and if he's gambling then we can take at least six tricks against no trumps as well as whatever partner can provide. North may have a decent hand and West nothing whatsoever, in which case the opponents could be in real trouble. I'm not saying you should double yourself, but if partner does you'll be very happy.

**Marks:** Pass 10; 2♥ 5; Dble 3.

**Q3** What is your opening lead?

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

Game All. IMPs. Dealer West

W	N	E	S
1♥	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>3</sup>	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Asking for a heart stop;

<sup>2</sup> Showing a heart stop;

<sup>3</sup> No special agreement.

**A3** Not a heart – that will travel round to declarer's king and may well be his ninth trick. Probably not a diamond – that will be dummy's solid suit so it won't give a trick away, but the opponents may be able to take nine tricks before we can take five. Partner's double of 3NT surely means he has an ace, and if we can find it he may be able to push the ♥J through declarer. But if he can't do that we'll need to take three black-suit tricks and a couple of hearts. Though the club looks tempting I prefer a spade. It needs less from partner so we should hope partner's ace is in spades where our ♠K can help him.

**Marks:** ♠3 10; ♣7 7; ♦9 2; ♥A 1.



**Q4** What is your opening lead?

♠ Q 7 5 2  
♥ –  
♦ K J 4 3 2  
♣ K Q J 3

Game All. IMPs. Dealer South.

W	N	E	S
			1♥
Dble	2NT <sup>1</sup>	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♦ <sup>2</sup>	Dble <sup>3</sup>	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Strong heart raise;

<sup>2</sup> First-round diamond control;

<sup>3</sup> Lead a diamond, partner.

**A4** This was a calamity from the final of the Bermuda Bowl. I was East with a diamond void and the ace of trumps, so I was sure that the 'obvious' diamond lead would beat the contract. But a double of a slam often asks partner to make an unusual lead – had my double of 6♥ cancelled

my earlier double of 6♦? My partner thought so, led a club from his sequence, and let the contract make. Amazingly, the same thing happened at the other table and the board was flat. You want to lead a low diamond showing suit preference for clubs.

**Marks: low diamond 10; top club 7.**



**D**efence. You are sitting West, playing Teams.

**Q5**

**Love All. IMPs. Dealer North.**

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

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

W	N	E	S
	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Playing strong NT;  
<sup>2</sup> Forcing for one round;  
<sup>3</sup> Five+ spades, three+ diamonds  
<sup>4</sup> 11-12 points, balanced, not forcing.

You, West, lead the ♣K. The ♣4 is played from dummy, partner plays the ♣2 and declarer ♣3. If partner had ♣A or ♣J he would have played an honour to trick one, so declarer has ♣AJ3. What do you lead to the second trick?

**A5** Another club is clearly out, and the question is: how can we put partner in to lead a club through declarer while having an entry to our winning clubs after he has done so? The answer is to lead a spade, despite that mighty suit in the dummy and our own well-placed honours. If declarer has the ♠A this will give him nothing he could not already take, while if partner has the ace our switch will give declarer a headache. He may go right, but if he puts up the ♠K and partner wins to play a club, we will have achieved both our objectives.

**Marks: ♠2 10; ♥7 5; a diamond 4.**

**Q6**

**N/S Game. IMPs. Dealer North.**

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

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

W	N	E	S
	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Playing strong NT and 5CM

You, West, lead the ♦A. Dummy plays the ♦3, partner the ♦J, and declarer the ♦2. Partner's card shows the ♦J109 and perhaps another, but denies the ♦Q so declarer still has that. You cash the ♦K, on which dummy plays the ♦8, partner the ♦5 and declarer the ♦Q. Describe your plan for the defence.

**A6** You have a couple of diamond tricks and you may well make a spade. But your ♥Kx is an unpromising holding, and partner can't really have a club trick – to make any sort of game try South must have the king of clubs since he has only six points in the other three suits. When you can't beat the contract by normal defence, try something abnormal – in this case, a shift to your 'singleton' spade. You don't have a singleton spade, but declarer doesn't know that. If he has something like:

♠A10854 ♥10987 ♦Q2 ♣KJ

he will win dummy's ♠Q and – believing the spade finesse to be right – play ace and another heart rather than finessing into East's hand and suffering a spade ruff. And that will be one down, since you will make both your major suit kings.

**Marks: ♠9 10; a club 5.**

*Cont/...*





Q7

N/S Game. IMPs. Dealer South.

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

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

W	N	E	S
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
<sup>1</sup> 12-14 ish.			

**A7** On your opening lead of the ♦Q dummy plays the ♦5, partner plays the ♦2 (discouraging) and declarer wins with ♦A. South now leads the ♣8. Describe your plan for the defence.

You don't have a great deal of planning to do – South has a couple of diamond tricks and the chances are he has something like ♥AQ or ♥AK. In that case he needs five club tricks for his contract, and since he is marked with a doubleton for his 1NT opening he is going to make them by playing low on this first round of the suit. He will later finesse the ♣10 and claim. Your only chance is to hope that he is greedy enough to be distracted from his plan – put ♣J on this trick and see if he has the discipline to duck anyway.

**Marks:** ♣J 10; ♣9 (which might also work) 7.



**D** eclarer play. You are sitting South, playing Teams (IMPs).

**Q8** ♠ A Q  
♥ 7 4 3  
♦ K J 7  
♣ K Q 7 6 5



♠ J 9 3  
♥ A 8 2  
♦ A Q 9 8  
♣ J 9 8

N/S Game. IMPs.

South	North
1NT	3NT

West leads the ♠6, playing fourth best from suits with honours and second best from bad suits.

Describe your planned line of play.

**A8** If your line of play started with a spade finesse, it finished there. East will win the ♠K and switch to a heart. Since he began with the ♥QJ109 and the ♣A you will have no way to make nine tricks before conceding five. Of course, you didn't do that – you put up the ♠A at the first trick and, requiring only three club tricks for the contract, started carefully with dummy's ♣K. Not that it will matter more than one time in a hundred, but if either opponent has a void in clubs you will be grateful that you played this way.

**Marks:** ♠A then ♣K 10; ♠A then a low club 8.



Q9

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

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

N/S Game. IMPs.

W	N	E	S
5♦	6♣	All Pass	1♠

West leads the ♦2. Describe your planned line of play, catering for as many contingencies as possible.

**A9** If you planned to squeeze East in hearts and clubs, or you planned to take a ruffing heart finesse through West, or you planned to play off two rounds of this before finessing in that, I'm sure you were right. But, isn't it odd that a player who bid 5♦ could find no higher card to lead than the ♦2? As they say ... Something is not right in the state of Denmark ...

In fact the brave West holding

♠xx ♥xxx ♦AKQJ10652 ♣–

has led the ♦2 ... a great attempt to get partner in ..so don't let his partner holding the ♦84 win the trick and give his partner a club ruff.

**Marks:** Play the ♦9 on trick one 10; play the ♦7 0.



## Q10

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

N  
 W S E

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

N/S Game. IMPs.				
W	N	E	S	
	1♣	Pass	1♠	
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	
Pass	2♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♣	
All Pass				
<sup>1</sup> 15-17;				
<sup>2</sup> Checkback, asking for info;				
<sup>3</sup> Max with three spades.				

West leads the ♥Q, on which East plays the ♥2, the opponents using standard honour leads and signals. Describe your planned line of play.

**A10** With five spade tricks and a couple of ace-kings, your main chance for a tenth trick is the king of diamonds. But if West has the ace that won't work, and you may instead be able to set up dummy's long club for a discard. To do that you cannot afford to allow East to gain the lead, so the correct sequence of play is: duck trick one; win the heart continuation; play a high trump from hand and a low trump to dummy; cash the ♥K to throw a club; cash the ♣AK and ruff a club high; cross to dummy's ♠A and cash the thirteenth club (fingers crossed), otherwise you have to fall back on the diamond finesse, hoping the ♦A is with East.

**Marks:** Duck trick one **10**; Win trick one and lead the ♣2 **7**; anything else **3**.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### First place

**Ian Pagan – 97%**

### Second place

**Andy Macnair – 92%**

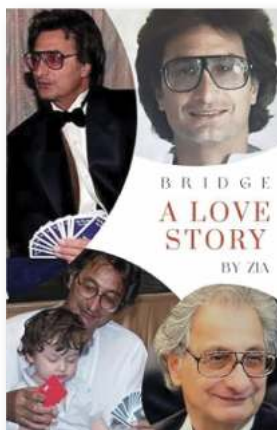
### Third place

**Simon Mostyn – 91%**

**Two limited edition gilded packs from The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards**



**£50 EBU vouchers**



Many thanks to Zia for compiling our great 2023 Christmas Quiz. The first three winners all receive a signed copy of Zia's critically acclaimed memoir, described as fast-paced, irreverent, humorous and instructive. Indeed some of the hands from the quiz appear in the book. It is

suitable for all levels and if you didn't get one in your stocking it's time to go out and buy one. Available from Amazon and ARBC.

## COMPETITION NEWS

### EASTER FESTIVAL, LONDON

Join us for this fun Easter Bank Holiday bridge competition for everyone! This year's Easter Festival will take place in London, at the Marlborough Primary School, South Kensington, London.

The format will remain very similar to 2023, with Championship Pairs taking place on Friday and Saturday, Stratified Swiss Teams on Sunday and Swiss Pairs on Monday. For full information see:

[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/easter-london).

### SPRING FOURSOMES

We are excited about this year's event, taking place at DoubleTree by Hilton Bristol, in the heart of Bristol city centre and within walking distance of the train station, shops and restaurants. Bristol also has its own airport if you are travelling from further afield.

The event takes place from the 3rd to 7th May and is one of the most prestigious and toughest events in the EBU calendar. It is part of the Championship Series, in which points can be earned towards the Player of the Year Championship. The Spring Foursomes Trophy is played on a double-elimination lines basis over nine sessions consisting of 32 boards each, with a secondary event, the Punchbowl, open to teams eliminated before Saturday evening. For a more relaxed event teams can participate in the Hamilton Cup on the Monday. For more details:

[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/spring-fours](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/spring-fours)

### NATIONAL PAIRS

Following last year's successful new format, the National Pairs will again be played in an exciting three-stage format in 2024. To qualify for the regional finals on 24th March, play in any of your regular club games and achieve a score of over 55% between the 4th and 17th February. We will contact all qualifying members via email with an invite to play in the Regional Finals.

There will be five Regional Finals, run by counties on both BBO and RealBridge, with trophies awarded for each region. Combined scores will determine the top 50 pairs who will be entitled to play in the National Pairs Final on the 13th-14th April on RealBridge.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Red – Anticipated F2F Events

#### ■ FEBRUARY 2024

- 9-11 European Womens Trials, Stage 1, YCBC
- 9-11 Harrogate Spring Congress, Harrogate
- 16-18 Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer, N Ireland
- 16-18 2024 WBF Online Women's teams
- 17-18 Tollemache Finals, Coventry BC
- 18 OODGP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 23-25 North Devon Congress, Barnstaple
- 24-25 Ranked Masters Pairs, RealBridge
- 25 Masters Pairs, F2F, BBO, RealBridge

#### ■ MARCH 2024

- 1-3 Camrose Trophy, 2nd weekend, England
- 1-3 European Womens Trials, Stage 2, TGRs
- 2 Young Bridge Challenge, Loughborough
- 2 Leicestershire GP Swiss Pairs, Leicester
- 2 Manchester Swiss Pairs, Altrincham
- 2-3 Norfolk GP Congress, Norwich
- 2-3 Wiltshire GP Congress, Bath
- 3 Kent GP Swiss Pairs, Tunbridge Wells
- 4-7 Club Stratified Sims, various clubs
- 4-11 EBU Overseas Congress, Majorca
- 8-10 European Seniors Trials, Stage 1, West Midland BC
- 9-10 Hampshire GP Congress,
- 15-17 Cumbria GP Congress, tbc
- 16 OODGP Swiss Teams, RealBridge
- 23-24 Spring Junior Bridge Camp, Cheltenham
- 24 National Pairs regional heats, club venues
- 29-1 Easter Festival, London

#### ■ APRIL 2024

- 5-7 European Seniors Trials, Stage 2, TGRs
- 7 Portland Pairs, RealBridge
- 8-11 British Spring Sim Pairs
- 12-14 Devon GP Congress, Torquay
- 13-14 National Pairs Final, RealBridge
- 19-21 Lady Milne Trophy, Northern Ireland
- 20-21 Portland Bowl Finals, London
- 21 Jack High Pairs, RealBridge
- 26-29 World Bridge Games Open Trial, tbc

#### ■ MAY 2024

- 3-7 Spring Foursomes, Bristol
- 7-12 Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge
- 10-13 World Bridge Games Women's Trial, tbc
- 11 Garden Cities Regional Final, various
- 13-16 EBED Spring SIMS Pairs, various clubs
- 17-19 Teltscher Trophy, Scotland
- 18 Northants GP Swiss Pairs, Northampton
- 18 Merseyside & Cheshire GP Swiss Pairs, Christleton
- 19 Dorset GP Swiss Pairs, Canford Magna
- 19 Derbyshire GP Swiss Pairs, tbc
- 25-27 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Reading



# EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed (GP) unless stated. BP – Blue Points, LP – Local Points

Enter via 01296 317203, [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk) or at [www.ebu.co.uk/members](http://www.ebu.co.uk/members)

## Harrogate Spring Congress

9 – 11 February  
Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate



**Really Easy Pairs – BP**  
**Swiss Pairs**  
**Swiss Teams**

## Ranked Masters Pairs

24 – 25 February  
RealBridge

For 2024, for purposes of movements, Premier Life Masters merge with Life Masters, and National Masters with Regional Masters. All groups have separate ranking lists, trophies and prizes.

### Separate competitions for:

Premier Grand Masters  
Grand Masters  
Premier Life Masters  
Life Masters  
National Masters  
Regional Masters

## Masters Pairs

25 February  
For players below Regional Master  
Regional clubs

The Masters Pairs will be held at host clubs. Entry fees will be set by the clubs which retain part of the entry fees, so you're supporting your local club.  
List of venues and entry information at [www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/masters-pairs#clubs](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/masters-pairs#clubs)

## Majorca Overseas Congress

4 – 11 March



**Swiss Pairs**  
**Swiss Teams**  
**Pre-Congress, Open & IMP**  
**Pairs – BP**  
**Pivot Teams – BP**

## EBU National Pairs

Regional Finals 24 March  
National Pairs Final 13 – 14 April

Any pair that gets over 55% in a club game between 4th Feb and 17th Feb is entitled to play in one of the five online (BBO & RealBridge) Regional Finals on 24th March, with trophies awarded.

Combined scores will determine the top 50 pairs who will be entitled to play in the National Pairs Final on RealBridge.

## Easter Festival

29 March – 1 April,  
Chelsea, London  
(South Kensington tube)



**Championship Pairs**  
**Stratified Swiss Teams**  
**Swiss Pairs**

9-High – F2F & online – BP

Player of the Year

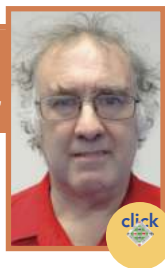
## Portland Pairs

7 April  
RealBridge



The EBU Mixed Pairs  
Championships.  
Scored over the entire field.





## Trouble at the table

**P**eter Rice asks: Three times recently, when counting my cards, I have found one card was face up. Each time I turned it back holding the cards under the table, then checked if anyone had noticed anything and when no player had seen what happened I explained and we continued.

But what if someone had noticed the face-up card? It was not exposed by a player at the table, so a penalty card seems unfair (partner 'could' have seen it). Law 16D (Extraneous Information) may apply, which suggests the director should be called. But I have asked several other directors and none of us knows what the correct action would be.

**Law 16D1** is the one which applies:

*When a player accidentally receives extraneous information about a board he is playing or has yet to play, as by looking at the wrong hand; by overhearing calls, results or remarks; by seeing cards at another table; or by seeing a card belonging to another player at his own table before the auction begins (see also Law 13A), the Director should be notified forthwith, preferably by the recipient of the information.*

This law applies if another player sees the card which is face up before any player makes a call, and the director should be called.

The director may be able to adjust the positions at the table; or otherwise allow the hand to be played if the card is inconsequential or may adjust the score.

**R**oy Milnes asks: At our bridge club last night, one pair sitting East/West, somehow either retained, or drew again, the same cards for two consecutive hands, and bid them again, reaching the same contract.

It was only when my partner led the ♦4 and

dummy put her hand down, also containing the ♦4, that the error was noticed, no one had looked at the board sitting in the centre of the table with two hands still in it. My partner and I passed throughout both auctions.

As far as I can see the only law covering this is Law 22 End of Auction, which would require declarer to play the contract he had declared with the cards he should have held.

This is covered by **Law 15 A. Cards from Wrong Board**

1. *A call is cancelled (together with any subsequent call) if it is made by a player holding cards that he has picked up from a wrong board.*
2. (a) *If the offender's partner has subsequently called, the Director shall award an adjusted score.*

At least one of the players with cards from the wrong board has called and that offender's partner has subsequently called, so the Director awards an adjusted score – usually AVE-/AVE+.

If the cards were from a board they have yet to play then Law 15A3 explains what happens when that board is played by the offenders.

**A** club director asks about an incident at one of the weekly club sessions.

Having won the trick in dummy, declarer was considering which card to play to the next trick when dummy inadvertently played the ♠3 (dummy thought declarer had 'nodded' her head towards spades.) Left hand opponent immediately followed suit with the ♠10 before declarer announced she hadn't called for the ♠3 lead.

There was a similar question from Philip Webb in the space of a week or so. Declarer called for the 'five'; but dummy heard 'high' and put the queen in the played position.

The correct law is **Law 45D1**. The ♠3 was a card which declarer did not call for, yet was placed in the played position. Declarer drew attention in time, so this can be corrected. The ♠3 is returned to dummy, and the ♠10 is not a penalty card. Declarer names the card they want to play and the next hand plays a card, picking up the ♠10. The ♠10 is unauthorised information to declarer.

In some circumstances, dummy touching a card can suggest a play to declarer, but this does not seem the case here (*See Law 45F*).

Joyce Bianconi asks: When there is an insufficient bid by the opposition, is only the next bidder entitled to bring attention to it, or may their partner point it out. That is, if South makes an insufficient bid, can East draw attention to it?

When there is an irregularity in the auction (such as insufficient bid), any player can draw attention – the offender, their partner or either opponent. When someone has drawn attention to an irregularity, someone should call the director – not necessarily the player who drew attention.

Randall Williams asked for help with the interpretation of ‘comparable call’ in the following bidding sequence.

W	N	E	S
	1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
2♥	2♦ <sup>2</sup>		

<sup>1</sup> Stayman, <sup>2</sup> Insufficient

In correcting the insufficient bid, it could be argued that Pass is a comparable call in that a 2♦ response to Stayman and Pass after an overcall both mean ‘I have no four-card major’. What is the correct ruling on this?

Yes ‘it could be argued’, but the director would need to investigate.

If the director is content that the offending side have the understanding that after 1NT-(P)-2♣-(2♥)-Double shows four hearts, and 2♠ would show four spades. and (therefore) Pass denies a 4-card major; then Pass is comparable to the intended meaning of 2♦.

Law 27B1 (b) ‘..., if the insufficient bid is corrected with a comparable call (see Law 23A) the auction proceeds without further rectification.’

Turning to **Law 23A**

*A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call,*

...

First, the director offers East the option of accepting the insufficient 2♦. If East does not accept, 2♦ is withdrawn. If the director finds that N/S have the understanding that Pass would deny a 4-card major, then Pass is comparable to the withdrawn 2♦ bid, and if North chooses to Pass, South is not silenced.

David Wilson asks about this insufficient bid.

W	N	E	S
	2NT	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass <sup>2</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> Insufficient, <sup>2</sup> Pass by West accepts the insufficient bid

2NT is 20-21 balanced.

2NT – 3♦ would be a transfer to hearts.

What happens now. Must North treat 2♦ as a transfer?

If the director is called, they will check whether South intended to bid 2♦. If 2♦ was a mechanical error, South would be allowed to correct their bid, even though West has passed.

If 2♦ was intended (loss of concentration by South), then it is insufficient, and West has accepted it. This means the 2♦ bid is treated as legal. This is all the laws say – they don’t give North-South any help on how to deal with the auction – this is often why West will choose to accept!

North can respond at the two level or three level, pretending that South has bid 2♦ in response to 1NT, or has bid 3♦ in response to 2NT. As a practical matter, as North, I would bid 2NT again (this is a legal sufficient bid over 2♦) and hope that partner can respond to 2NT.

**If you have a question for Robin please email him at [robin@ebu.co.uk](mailto:robin@ebu.co.uk)**



## Keep listening: I have two suits

The Tollemache is the EBU's inter-county event for teams of eight – or at least eight at a time, with many counties fielding teams of ten or twelve. The qualifying event is played online via RealBridge, with the field divided into two groups of 15 or so from which eight (four in each group) will reach the face-to-face final in February.

Teams of eight scoring means that if you are, say, one of your county's East-West pairs you compare your scores with both of its North-South pairs. It follows that the Tollemache is the event in which you are least likely to want to incur a disaster, since with three pairs of team-mates rather than the usual one, you will have three lots of explaining to do and six people wondering why the county selectors made so glaring an error. Of course, disasters happen to all of us, but with each of them costing twice the usual number of IMPs it is important to stay awake to see whether anything can be rescued from the wreckage. On today's deal West, though not the major contributor to the fiasco, nevertheless had the chance to salvage a few points at the finish.

Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dble <sup>2</sup>	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	Dble
5♣	Dble	Redble <sup>4</sup>	Pass
?			

<sup>1</sup> Weak, about 5-9, usually six cards,

<sup>2</sup> Some pairs play that 3♠ in this position is not Michaels but a so-called 'Western Cuebid', asking partner for a spade guard for 3NT. They also play that a jump to four of a minor shows that suit and the unbid major (a convention that works poorly when 3NT is your side's best contract, and on other occasions). You could overcall 3♥, but East resorted to a different treatment: the so-called Equal Level Conversion take-out double. The idea is that if partner bids clubs, you bid diamonds and that shows both red suits. I don't know what this East was actually playing – all I can report is what he did.

<sup>3</sup> This will initially be interpreted as the minors, but East was following though with his plan: over partner's 5♣ he would bid 5♦ to show the red suits.

<sup>4</sup> It is rare that a player has three different chances to show a two-suited hand without actually bidding either of them, but here East's redouble asked West to choose between hearts and diamonds.

West cannot have viewed these proceedings with much enthusiasm, and it is hard to blame him. In the event, after long thought, he decided not to give preference to diamonds (which, after all, were stronger than his hearts) but to take his chances in five clubs redoubled. These, as you can see, were on the slim side and the upshot was five down – he could have saved a trick, but one might forgive him for having rather lost interest in the whole business.




At the other three tables the contract was 4♠, reasonably enough. This was makeable on the lie of the cards, but one North player found a way to go down. He was actually pretty unlucky – after the lead of the ♥K he won dummy's ace, crossed to his ♣A and led a spade towards the table (East had overcalled, so this guarded against singleton ♠A on declarer's left). East won with the doubleton ♠A, cashed a high heart and led a low heart. West ruffed and gave her partner a club ruff, so poor North had to report minus 100 to his team.

Fortunately for him, even had he scored plus 620 he would have had to compare it with minus 2800 from five clubs redoubled, so his lapse did not cost nearly as much as it might have done. But can you see what unusual manoeuvre might have saved East-West at our featured table a few points?

West should indeed have rescued five clubs doubled, as his partner asked – but not to five of a red suit. Had he bid six clubs, and had he not lost concentration in the play, he would have conceded 'only' 1400 and, more importantly, have been able to claim total command of the moral high ground in the team post-mortem. □

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## EBL WOMEN'S BRIDGE

The European Bridge League is calling for your help after 18 months of intensive work by the Women's Bridge Committee and the National Women's Coordinators.

Take the survey to help them know if you feel the wind of change and give them your thoughts and ideas about what else can be done to promote and develop Women's Bridge. Here's the link:

<http://tinyurl.com/EBLWomensSurvey>



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have finished with it**



## 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.





## Beat Today's Experts

### 1. Love All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
Haffer	Ashton	Markey	Wiltshire
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	5♣	All Pass

We start at the final of the Australian Spring Nationals in Sydney. What should Phil Markey bid on the second round, with his unwieldy but powerful hand? Those who play 2/1, where a 2♣ response is forcing to game, have life easy. They rebid 3♣ and will have time and space to investigate. Others use 2♥, the next bid up, as game-forcing and artificial (known as third-suit-forcing, or the Bourke Relay). Not blessed with either of these methods, East leapt to 5♣, hoping this would be the right level. It was a sensible compromise.

Markey won the heart lead with the ace, played the ♣A and turned to the diamond suit. He ditched the ♥7 and overruffed North's ♠J with the queen on the next round. A trump and a spade had to be lost, but +400 was there.

At the other table East 'invented a bid' on the second round, risking a natural 2♥. The auction was 1♦ – 2♣; 2♦ – 2♥; 3♥ – 4♣; 4♥ – 4NT; 5♣ – 6♣. It misfired, as you see. They were too high and went two down on the ♠J lead.

**Awards:** 5♣/3NT (10), 5♦ (6), part scores (5), 6♦/6♣ (3).

### 2. E/W Game. Dealer North

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

West	North	East	South
Wiltshire	Haffer	Ashton	Markey
4♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Not so long ago, the North hand would be an automatic weak 2♠ opening. Nowadays, disrupting the opponents' auction by consuming bidding space is a top priority. At both tables in the Australian final, North opened 3♠. Many would describe this bid as 'automatic' at favourable vulnerability.

What should West do after two passes? There is no good answer; that is the whole point of the 3♠ opening. David Wiltshire bid a courageous (select your own adjective) 4♥, and Sophie Ashton judged excellently to pass. The game was made for the loss of a spade, a trump and a diamond. Swap the South and East cards, and 4♥ might have cost 800. 3♠ was passed out for two down at the other table, and Wiltshire gained 11 IMPs for his side. The lesson is more in the 3♠ opening, rather than how the two East/Wests happened to react in this match.

**Awards:** 4♥ (10), 3♠ (N) dbled (7), 3♠(N) (5), 3NT (2).

3. Love All. Dealer South

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

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

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

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

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Nowosadzki	F Combescure	Kalita	B Combescure
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT <sup>A</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>A</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>A</sup>	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Next we will admire Pierre Zimmermann’s Bermuda Bowl repeat champions, playing in the French Division Nationale. Michal

Nowosadzki opens 1♠ on his 10-count, with all points working hard. Jacek Kalita responds 2♥, forcing to game. Now comes a surprise. West appreciates the power of his hand in support of hearts. He rebids 3NT showing an unspecified splinter raise. East’s 4♣ asks ‘which short suit?’ and 4♦ tells him. RKCB draws a 1430 one key-card response, and they reach the slam. Dazzling stuff!

Baptiste Combescure leads the ♦A, switching to a trump. Kalita wins and leads the diamond queen, covered and ruffed. A club to the ace is followed by the ♦9, ruffed with the ♥10. After the ace of spades and a spade ruff, declarer draws trumps and claims. Slightly lucky, perhaps, but wonderful to watch.

West	North	East	South
L’Huissier	Gawrys	Bernard	Klukowski
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

Twelve tricks again, after this less inspiring auction, and 11 IMPs drift away.

Awards: 6♥ (10), 5♥/4♥ (7).

4. N/S Game. Dealer East

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

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

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

♠ Q 5 3  
♥ 5 2  
♦ Q 4  
♣ K 10 7 5 3 2

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Palma	Jaqueline	Chagas	Leão
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass	3♥	Pass

No expense is spared where *English Bridge* is concerned, and we continue our world tour at the Brazilian Championships. This deal is

an echo of Problem 1. Antonio Palma keeps the ball rolling with 2♥. When he hears 3♥ from partner, it is clear that clubs may be a weakness in 3NT. He jumps to 5♦, reaching the optimal spot.

Noting that the opponents have swerved round 3NT, South finds the ♣5 lead. Gabriel Chagas wins with the ace, unblocks the ♠K and crosses to a heart to discard the ♣4 on the ♠A. He makes the game, losing a trick in each red suit.

West	North	East	South
Thoma	Branco	Ravenna	Villas-Boas
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

A club lead is found again, and this time it is deadly. Marcos Thoma wins and ditches dummy’s club loser on the ♠A, as before. He then sets up the diamonds, playing ace and another. A second club reduces dummy’s trump length, and declarer runs the ♥10 unsuccessfully. A trump return pulls his remaining trumps and 4♥ goes three down, for a loss of 11 IMPs.

Awards: 5♦ (10), 6♦/4♥ (5), 3NT (4).

5. Game All. Dealer North

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

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

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

W N  
E S

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

West	North	East	South
Ravenna	Villas-Boas	Thoma	Branco
2♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass	6♣	Pass

Having travelled so far, we will stay in Brazil for another deal. When a 2♣ opener bids his long suit and rebids it, this should set the suit. Pablo Ravenna uses RKCB to discover three key-cards. The 5♦ trump-queen-ask identifies that card, also the ♣K. Surely no self-respecting internationals would miss such a great slam.

West	North	East	South
Chagas	Leão	Palma	Jaqueline
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

Chagas is South America’s greatest ever player, but he lapsed here. All Palma heard about the West hand was a rebiddable spade suit, which was useless to him. East had forced to game with a very strong heart suit. Surely West should realise the value of his cards in support?

Awards: 6♥ (10), 7♥ (5), 5♥/4♥ (4).

6. Love All. Dealer South

♠ 9 8 5 3  
♥ 5  
♦ K Q 8 3  
♣ K Q J 6

♠ K J 10 6  
♥ Q J 10 7 3 2  
♦ –  
♣ 10 5 3

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

W N  
E S

♠ A 7 2  
♥ A K 9 8 6  
♦ A 7  
♣ 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
Byrne	Hinden	Dyke	Jagger
Pass	5♦	Dble	3♦
5♥	All Pass		Pass

We end with a deal from division 1 of England’s Premier League. Chris Jagger quite rightly opts for a pre-emptive 3♦, and Frances Hinden continues the good work with her raise to 5♦. Kieran Dyke doubles, having little alternative, and Michael Byrne then has a big problem. As it happens, passing will net +300 and bidding 5♥ went two down, after a spade misguess. You may think West should have passed. However, my main point is the effectiveness of pre-emptive bidding.

West	North	East	South
Rosen	Jones	Atthey	Handley-Pritchard
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
4♦ <sup>A</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

North-South never showed their diamonds and the opponents scored +420. Declarer misguessed the spades again, but a ♦J lead allowed him to ditch a club loser from dummy. That was an 11-IMP reward for the pre-empters.

Awards: 5♦ (N) Dbled (10), 5♦ (N) (7), 5♥ (4).

Our world stars netted 54/60. Impossible to beat, yes, but close to 40 will be a great score.

TIP TO REMEMBER

❖ The main purpose of pre-emptive openings and weak jump overcalls is disruption. Do not look for an excuse to pass, giving your opponents an easy ride. □



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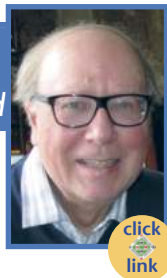
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## Black Day for Premier League

Team *Black* won the 2023 English Premier League by an impressive margin. On the final weekend of three they faced *Knottenbelt* and played in the right game on this board:

**R19. Board 3. E/W Game. Dealer South**

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

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>H-Pritchard</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Crouch</i>
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

On the face of it, declarer has to guess against the odds to pick up the trumps and make the diamond game. However, when Simon Cope played the ♥AKQ, this promoted a certain trump trick for North/South. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ♦6, hoping that North held ♦Q10. Peter Crouch overruffed for one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Black</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Byrne</i>
1♠	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass

David Gold judged well to bid 4♠. Maggie Knottenbelt led out her three top hearts. Andrew Black ruffed the third round with dummy's ♠3, a play that would have succeeded even against ♠109876. South overruffed with the 10, and declarer claimed on the trump return. Team *Black* gained 12 IMPs.

See if you can spot the winning defence on this deal, where *Sandfia* faced *De Botton*:

**R21. Board 5. N/S Game. Dealer North**

♠ A 2  
 ♥ A 10 5 3 2  
 ♦ 10 5 4 3  
 ♣ 9 2

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

Malinowski passed the takeout double for penalties. Bakhshi led the ♦Q, receiving a ♦2 count signal. He continued with the ♦A and ♦8. Tommasini ruffed, crossed to the ♥A and found the winning move of a club to the king. The ♣5 went to the 9 and ace, East switching to the ♠4. Tommasini won with the 6, ruffed the ♣J with the ♠A and claimed the contract for +730.

The winning defence? When West hears of three diamonds opposite, he must risk a lead of the ♦8 at

trick two. East wins with the jack and returns a trump. Suppose declarer crosses to the ♥A, continuing with a club to the king and a second club. East wins with the ace and removes dummy's trump ace. The defenders then score a trump and a second club for one down.

At the other table, Espen Erichsen treated the South cards as a weak two, opening a multi:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarah Bell</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Mike Bell</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦ <sup>A</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>A</sup>	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North's 2♠ meant he was willing to go higher if partner's suit was hearts. The defenders cleared the spade suit, Mike Bell continuing with a heart to the queen and ace. Declarer had to take a second-round finesse of the ♥7 to make 3NT. He played South for ♥108 doubleton, though, expecting him to have opened 3♠ with 7321 shape. When Erichsen showed out on the second heart, declarer tried to endplay North with a club to lead into the ♥J9. That was two down and 12 IMPs to *Sandfia*. These were the final scores:

1ST	<i>Black</i> : Andrew Black, David Gold, Andrew McIntosh, Tom Paske, Simon Cope, Peter Crouch	257.70 VPs
2ND	<i>Hinden</i> : Frances Hinden, John Atthey, Graham Osborne, Neil Rosen, Chris Jagger	217.34 VPs
3RD	<i>Sandfia</i> : Ben Norton, Sarah Bell, Tim Leslie, Mike Bell, Stefano Tommasini	215.15 VPs

The margin of victory is shown well by the IMPs totals:

Team <i>Black</i>	+224
Team <i>Hinden</i>	+44
Team <i>Sandfia</i>	+31



Photo: Peter Hasenson

### DICK SHEK 1950 – 2023

Dick became a bridge pro in the late 1970s and started to manage the ACOL Bridge Club in the early 1980s. He represented Great Britain in the European Championships twice and earned numerous Camrose caps for England. He stopped playing for England in 2003 when he was rushed to hospital during bridge trials. This forced him to cut down on work and he retired to his native Malaysia in 2008.

He subsequently played for the Malaysia open team and also captained the team in Korea.

While in England, where he arrived aged 17 to attend Queen Mary College London, he won the majority of the main domestic titles, including the Gold Cup, Crockfords twice, and Spring Foursomes on four occasions.

He won eight medals in European invitational events including the 1993 Dunhill Cup (plus a second-place finish in 1994), and thirteen medals in Asian events, plus numerous Malaysian events.



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# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



click  
link



## Answers from page 12



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

### 7♥. West leads the ♠Q.

You have bid aggressively to reach a grand slam that will need some luck, so making your contract could easily lead to a positive swing for your team.

You have 10 top tricks, but since you cannot afford to lose a trump trick, you will need hearts to split 3-2. This will bring your trick total to 12, leaving you to find an extra trick.

Trumping in the short trump hand is usually a good way to make extra tricks, but trumping a spade with the ♥Q will leave you with a trump loser even if they split 3-2, so you will need to find another way to make the extra trick.

If diamonds split 4-3, then you can plan to make a winner through length, but you will need to trump two diamonds without being overtrumped, and you will also need an entry back to dummy to play your established diamond winner. How should you proceed if you wish to attempt this line of play?

You win the ♠A, then lead the ♦10 to the ♦K and trump the ♦3 with the ♥2. You cross over to the ♥Q, and then trump the ♦4 with the ♥5. If both opponents have followed to three rounds of diamonds, then dummy's ♦A6 will be worth two tricks, so you now draw two more rounds of trumps. Assuming that the trumps have split 3-2, you can cash dummy's ♦A6 and four rounds of clubs to make your contract.

# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 2

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



## 3NT. West leads the ♥3 and East plays the ♥Q.

You have arrived in a normal looking 3NT contract, so making your contract may be necessary to avoid an adverse swing.

You have five top tricks, and can win an extra trick in hearts, leaving you to make at least three tricks from diamonds. This will be possible no matter how they split, so you should look for any dangers that could arise in the process of making at least five tricks in diamonds.

East's play of the ♥Q strongly suggests that West has the ♥A. If West has at least five hearts, then there is a risk of losing at least four heart tricks and the ♦Q (if you fail to find the ♦Q). You could try ducking the first trick, but East can return a heart, and West can withhold the ♥A. Now if hearts are 5-

3, you will not be able to safely lose a trick to either opponent. However, if you win the first trick with the ♥K, then your ♥J will be protected if West has to lead the second round of hearts, so you should win the ♥K, and play diamonds in a way that ensures that East will not gain the lead. How can this be achieved?

You win the ♥K, then lead the ♦4 to the ♦K. When both opponents follow, you lead dummy's ♦10, and unless East plays the ♦Q, you play low from hand. If West is able to win this trick, then he will be unable to play hearts without allowing the ♥J to win a trick, and you will win at least nine tricks upon regaining the lead. If the ♦10 wins the trick, then you can continue diamonds and you will now win at least 10 tricks since you have avoided losing a trick to the ♦Q.

# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



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

## 3NT. West leads the ♥10.

You have reached a normal game, so making your contract could prevent a loss, or even lead to a gain.

You have seven top tricks, and the possibility of two or three extra tricks in diamonds. However, it is important to notice that the diamond suit is blocked, and that you only have one entry to your hand outside of diamonds.

If diamonds are 3-2, you can win at least 10 tricks if you can overcome the blockage issue, but if diamonds are not 3-2, you can still ensure five diamond tricks, though you will have to lose a trick in the process. To untangle the diamonds, you will need to play the ♦KQ before losing the heart entry to your hand. The safest way to do this is to win the

♥K at trick one. You now play the ♦K, followed by the ♦Q.

If you win this trick in the dummy, you can next cross to the ♥A to continue playing diamonds, but if the ♦J does not fall in three rounds you will have no way to succeed at this point.

However, needing only five diamond tricks, you can afford to overtake the ♦Q with the ♦A. When West discards, you continue with the ♦10 (throwing the ♣3 from the dummy). East can win the ♦J, but you now have nine winners available upon regaining the lead. If the defenders play spades they can only win three tricks at this point, and if East returns a low heart, you should simply win the ♥A and cash your remaining diamonds to guarantee your contract.



# Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 4		
	♠ K 10 7 5 4	
	♥ Q 7 3	
	♦ A Q	
	♣ Q 10 2	
♠ 6 2		♠ 9
♥ 10 5		♥ K J 8 6 4
♦ 10 7 6 5 4 2	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           N E S W         </div>	♦ K J 9
♣ J 7 5		♣ A 8 6 3
	♠ A Q J 8 3	
	♥ A 9 2	
	♦ 8 3	
	♣ K 9 4	

## 4♠. West leads the ♥10.

Though you have plenty of points, your contract could easily fail, so winning 10 tricks could lead to a positive result for your team.

You have seven top tricks, and the possibility of a winning finesse in diamonds as well as one or two extra tricks in clubs. In isolation, there is also the chance of a winning heart finesse, but what inferences can you draw from West's lead of the ♥10?

Holding the ♥9 in your hand, reveals that West has not led from a 109 sequence, so either has the singleton ♥10, or has led top of a doubleton. This means that East can be placed with the ♥KJ. Does this affect your play to trick one?

If you play low from the dummy, then East will also play low, and his ♥KJ will leave you with two heart losers. However, if you play the ♥Q, East will cover with the ♥K. If you later lead towards the ♥9 you can force an extra winner. You should therefore

beat East's ♥K with the ♥A, then draw trumps ending in the dummy, and lead the ♥3.

East does best to win the ♥J and play a third heart to your ♥9, leaving you to make two extra tricks while losing at most two more tricks.

This outcome can be guaranteed from this point. Can you see how?

If you can force the defenders to attack clubs (or concede a ruff-and-discard), then you will only have to lose one club trick, in which case you can afford to lose a diamond trick.

The certain way to achieve this is to lead the ♦3 to the ♦A then play the ♦Q.

Whichever defender wins this trick will be faced with an unpalatable choice at this point. In this case, East wins the ♦K, and either has to concede a ruff-and-discard, or open up the club suit to your advantage, thereby ensuring the success of your contract. □



## Answers to December's Problems

Problems 1 and 2 are from my Gold Cup quarter final match and the third was sent to me by local Manchester player Espen Gisvold.

### Hand 1

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

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	Pass
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			All Pass

Prospects are not great here. Partner is a passed hand, and we have a 5-count, so the oppo definitely have enough for game and maybe considerably more. What therefore is our best shot?

- (a) ♠3 (or ♠8 if you do not treat the 10 as an honour): 8 marks, ♠other: 5 marks.

This is the 'book lead' and what was led at the table, but is it right here? Certainly atimps it looks like it might be too slow to generate enough tricks. Even if partner has four of them and we can set them up, we still need our ace and maybe at least one more trick somewhere, and that seems a tall order. It must be better to try and hit a five-card suit in partner's hand, which is why I prefer this lead:

- (b) ♥2: 10 marks, ♥A: 9 marks, ♥7: 2 marks. Maybe I am influenced by the table result, but I think this is the best chance to beat this contract. I am 100% sure the computer will lead the ace but I still cannot bring myself to do it, but I do think it is a pretty good shot this time. I hope no one leads the ♥7 which is just confusing to partner.

This was a great hand for the weak NT (still thriving in club bridge and completely extinct at expert level!). A spade was led and that was that.

In the other room, the auction began:

Pass 1♣ (short) Pass 2♣ (inverted)

and that allowed me back in as East on:

♠Kx ♥KJxxx ♦J10xxx ♣x

Having telegraphed the heart lead to partner, the opponents no longer had any play for any game. A classic case of careless talk costs contracts, and a real win for the weak NT.

- (c) ♦9: 2 marks, ♦5: 1 mark. Doubtless this will be the computer's second preferred lead. It loves doubletons against NTs almost as much as it loves ace leads. I hate this lead. I just cannot see how it can be right to lead a suit that the opponents will almost certainly be playing on for tricks. If you must lead this suit, then at least lead the right card – the nine – hence the extra mark for this.

- (d) ♣3: 5 marks, ♣other: 1 mark. I prefer this to a diamond, but really with no Stayman enquiry it is a choice between the majors.

**Pairs Bonus: ♠3/8: 5 marks.** Any heart seems too likely to give away a trick. Since this hand is likely to be about overtricks those are the wrong tactics. Hence a spade for me at pairs. Sigh – another game through the slips!

### Computer simulations:

♥A: 23.8% highest chance of defeating the contract (teams) and an average of 3.46 tricks (pairs), with the ♠3 scoring an average of 3.45 tricks.

### Hand 2

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

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Dble
<sup>1</sup> 8-10 with three spades			

This time prospects are much better. Although partner is a passed hand, they have made a takeout double of 2♠ and we have two aces. So there remains two questions: 'What is the best lead' and 'Which ace will the computer lead?' 😊

(a) **♠5: 6 marks, ♠other: 6 marks.** This would be my second choice lead, simply because it is safe. As a technical point you should not lead the highest spade. The pips ought to carry some suit preference overtones and you want either minor, not a heart.

(b) **♥4: 10 marks, ♥other: 6 marks.** Partner has doubled and was quite prepared to hear you bid hearts at the three level, so this seems the natural lead to me. At the table, it was the only winning lead, as dummy hit with AQx and you had to lead a heart through and get a club back before declarer knocked out your diamond ace to create a discard.

(c) **♦A: 3 marks, ♦other: 1 mark.** I see no reason whatsoever to wildly lead an ace, though doubtless the computer will. If you must lead one then I prefer the diamond ace simply because we are liable to have more combined cards in diamonds than clubs so declarer is less likely to have honours which we have just set up, but really I don't like either. Anyone who underleads an ace here is obviously looking for a new partner.

(d) **♣A: 2 marks, ♣other: 1 mark.** The analysis is the same as for a diamond lead.

**Pairs Bonus ♥4: 5 marks.** The same lead for the same reasons.

#### Computer simulations:

♥4/6: 35.7% highest chance of defeating the contract (teams), ♦A/♠A achieve the highest average of 3.15 tricks (pairs).

#### Hand 3

♠ Q 10 7 5  
♥ A 10 2  
♦ A 10 9 2  
♣ Q 6

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> 15-17 rebid

This is a truly horrible hand to lead from, with no good options. Two questions remain: 'What is the least worst lead?' and 'Which ace will the computer flash out this time?'...

(a) **♠5: 10 marks, ♠other: 2 marks.** The spade lead is the best by some distance for me. Often it will be right and when it isn't it probably is not disastrous. Yes, once in a blue moon dummy will have Kxxx and declarer Jxx and you have just given a cheap trick away, but anything can give a trick away.

(b) **♥2: 7 marks, ♥A: 4 marks, ♥10: 1 mark.** If I was not leading a spade, then a heart would be my choice. Declarer may have four, but dummy won't (if so, they would be 5-4 in the majors and so would have bid 2♥ over 1NT). I regard the ♥2 as superior to the ace as you retain some control, whereas the 10 is just weird

(c) **♦2: 3 marks, ♦other: 1 mark.** I see no case to lead round into declarer's suit. If for some weird reason you decide to do so, you should lead low. You are playing partner to have something in the suit, so you want to preserve your high pips.

(d) **♣Q: 2 marks, ♣6: 1 mark.** This is just a shot in the dark! There is no reason at all why partner's clubs should be good enough to make this right.

**Pairs Bonus: ♠5: 5 marks.** A spade seems even clearer to me at pairs.

#### Computer simulations:

♠5: 27.1% chance of defeating the contract (teams) and scoring an average of 5.87 tricks (pairs).

Seeing the computer results I am delighted to have found two hands on the bounce where the computer doesn't lead an ace! □

Full details of the computer simulations can be found online, p71

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Andrew Peel, Leeds  
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## A NEW SERVICE – RESULTS EMAILS



In a small selection of clubs the EBU has been trialling a new service to members. After each session a 'results email' is sent to all players for whom we have email addresses. We plan to extend this to all our clubs when the trial is completed. The message will normally come the next day, after we have processed the NGS (National Grading Scheme) ratings for the session, and includes a summary of your rank, percentage, NGS change, and Master Point achievements.

Why are we doing this? First, a reassurance: we realise that some will prefer not to receive these emails and it is easy to opt out with a simple click on your first email, or for clubs to opt out on behalf of their members. It will also be possible to manage this in My EBU.

We do feel though that there is high value in these emails, even though some clubs already use a results email service. There are several reasons:

- ❖ The EBU has a treasure trove of statistics based on all the session results that are uploaded, from 2010 onwards. With these emails we are starting with the basics but intend to unlock more interesting and fun information as well as taking the opportunity to congratulate our members on their best results. No other bridge organisation in the world has access to the same depth of information about their members' sessions.
- ❖ Awareness of services like My EBU and other EBU resources varies greatly with some members hardly aware that they are part of a national bridge organisation. These emails will help to address that.
- ❖ The EBU is keen to do more for its members across all abilities. These emails are for everyone, from beginner to expert. For example, currently each email includes a link to [www.ebu.co.uk/education/improve-your-game](http://www.ebu.co.uk/education/improve-your-game), our index of thousands of articles from *English Bridge* on bidding, card play, and general bridge tips, to encourage all recipients to further develop their bridge skills.
- ❖ We all play bridge for enjoyment and we plan to celebrate achievements other than just getting good scores. Played at more than 10 clubs over the year? You are a top tourist! This is an example of how we can add some fun to our statistics.

We also want to support club and county websites and will include a link to those as well as to the EBU results pages. We hope that will help to build interest in club news as well as results.

The IT team has worked hard to make this new service possible, both in analysing the data and in the practicalities of sending a large number of personalised emails. We are not sure yet exactly when it will be rolled out to all members, but it will be within a couple of months, and we look forward to comments and feedback so it can evolve into something that every member will enjoy. □





# BRIDGE



## IT'S A BIG DEAL!

I am very pleased to announce that the English Bridge Union (EBU) is preparing for an exceptional event — the Festival of Bridge, themed as 'Bridge – It's A Big Deal,' in collaboration with Cancer Research UK. This nationwide festival is scheduled to take place from 9-15 September 2024, with a mission to merge our enthusiasm for bridge with a noble cause: raising awareness and funds for vital cancer research.

Launched back in January, our invitation extends to bridge players, clubs, county officials, and EBU members to join us in a diverse range of exciting activities and events throughout the week and beyond. If you are involved with a club, please begin planning how you'll join in, and keep us up to date.

The festival is designed to be enjoyable and supportive of clubs, aiming to promote the game, attract new members, and strive to generate £60,000 to bolster Cancer Research UK's life-saving endeavours. Sarah Newman from Cancer Research UK expressed wholehearted enthusiasm for our collaboration, acknowledging the significant impact of cancer and the unwavering support from the bridge community in advancing this cause.

As EBU Festival Manager, I have emphasised the event's potential to unify our bridge community and to draw in new enthusiasts to the game. I hope that by rallying behind this festival, we can introduce a fresh wave of individuals to bridge while

significantly contributing to Cancer Research UK's crucial work.

I encourage all participants to stay updated through the event website which hosts a wealth of ideas and resources. Additionally, there's a dedicated Facebook Group and an email address available for more information and suggestions. The festival promises myriad events, fostering a strong sense of community while championing this critical cause.

I urge clubs, counties, and EBU members to actively participate, contributing to the success of this initiative and I am delighted to announce that the Scottish Bridge Union (SBU) and the Welsh Bridge Union (WBU) have accepted our invitation for their clubs to join us in this bridge bonanza.

Ultimately, the Festival of Bridge stands as a testament to the power of collective action, uniting our passionate bridge community to make a substantial difference in the fight against cancer. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join hands with us in September 2024 for a week-long celebration of bridge and philanthropy. Together, we can leave an indelible mark on both the game and the cause it ardently supports.

[www.ebu.co.uk/festival](http://www.ebu.co.uk/festival)

[www.facebook.com/groups/festivalofbridge](https://www.facebook.com/groups/festivalofbridge)

email: [festival@ebu.co.uk](mailto:festival@ebu.co.uk)

*Tony Russ, EBU Vice-Chair & Festival Manager*





## NICKO



Young Chelsea B won the 2022-23 National Inter-Club Knockout (NICKO), beating Young Chelsea A in the final.

It was a closely contested match, with a final score of 108-80. This was the first win in the competition for the team of Claire Robinson & Cameron Small, Sally Brock & Barry Myers. A team from the Young Chelsea Bridge Club last won the event in 2019.

The defeated Young Chelsea A team was James Thrower & Ingar Hansen, Helen Rose & Sara Moran, and Henry Rose & Richard Bowdery who played in previous rounds.

## ONLINE ONE-DAY GREEN-POINTED SERIES

**Swiss Pairs - November** – Antone Huang & Paul Barton won with Alan Wearmouth & Martyn Harris in second place.

## ONLINE ONE-DAY BLUE-POINTED SERIES

**Jack High – November** – The EBU national event is run by Cumbria CBA. The morning session was won Raith Pickup & Iain Watson (N/S) and Michael Nunn & Iain Mackenzie (E/W). The afternoon session was won by Terry Carpenter & Richard Cummins (N/S) and Stuart Knox & Keith Stewart (E/W).

## Teltscher & Lady Milne Teams

### Teltscher Trophy

Kay Preddy &  
Norman Selway

Trevor Ward &  
David Kendrick

Roger Bryant &  
Nick Smith

NPC: tbc

### Lady Milne

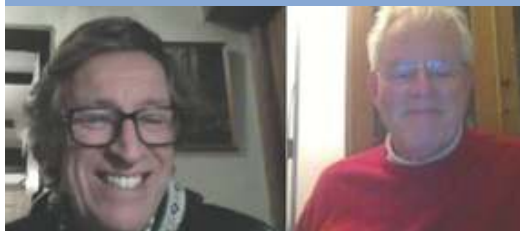
Anne Rosen &  
Nevena Senior

Sally Brock &  
Maggie Knottenbelt

Sally Anoyrkatis &  
Venetia Anoyrkatis

NPC: Heather Dhondy

## SENIORS CONGRESS



The Seniors Congress took place on RealBridge in December. The Championship Pairs was won by Andrew Urbanski & Mike Letts (pictured), who finished ahead of second-placed pair Brian Ransley & Peter Nicholls. In third place was Jim Hay & Jackie Davies.

The Swiss Pairs competition – for those eliminated from the Championship Pairs, or joining the congress later – was won by John Ferguson & Ian Hamilton with Paul Darby & Bogdan Drobný in second place.

The Swiss Teams event was won by the *Chamberlain* – Patrick Shields, Richard Chamberlain, Tony Sowter & Rob Lawy ahead of the *Huggett* team: Steve Preston, David Huggett, Jeremy Dhondy & Fred Hotchen.

## OVER THE POND



Congratulations to Ben Handley-Pritchard & Tom Townsend who finished second in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, held by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) as part of the three annual North American Bridge Championships (NABC). The event is played over three days and is the toughest Pairs event in the USA and of comparable level to the European Pairs.

The winners, were Italy's Aldo Gerli and Andrea Boldrini. The duo, who led the contest after the semi-final round, maintained control in the two-session final to win the contest by a half board.

## YEAR END CONGRESS 2023



The winners in the Swiss Teams were Stefano Tommasini & Sebastian Atisen with Mike Bell & Sarah Bell. The team of Simon Cope & Diana Nettleton with Andrew McIntosh & Sara Moran came second.



Congratulations to Ben Nortoon & Stefano Tommasini who won the two-day Swiss Pairs event. Sally Brock & Jovi Smederevac came

second with Martin Nygren & Jon Cooke in third place.

The Mixed Pairs was won by Mike Bell & Sarah Bell, ahead of Catherine Seale & Ian Pagan with Hanna Tuus & David Burn in third place.



Brian Senior & Neil Rosen were the winners in the Open Pairs with Richard Hillman & Ambrose Holmes-Mackie in second place and Stefano Tommasini & Sebastian Atisen third.

The second day Jack High Swiss Pairs was won by Steve Mai & Mark Simpson, ahead of Paul Saffer & John Melchior. The winners of the final day Improvers Pairs was Andrew Tomlinson & Anthony Corry with Louise Lewis & Patricia Donaldson second.

## CAMROSE WEEKEND ONE

The first weekend of the Camrose Trophy saw two English teams in the event, *England* and *EBU*. The tournament is between the home nations, and takes place over two weekends. *EBU* finished in first place with a score of 69.13, and *England* are in second place with 59.83 VPs.

The second weekend takes place in Altrincham from 1-3 March. The matches can be viewed nearly live on RealBridge (30 minute delay). Look out for the link on the EBU website.

## PREMIER GRAND MASTER

**Congratulations to**  
**John Atthey, Middlesex**  
**on becoming a**  
**Premier Grand Master**  
**the English Bridge Union's highest rank,**  
**requiring a minimum 1,500 Green Points**

## 100 YEARS OF AGE



Congratulations to bridge player Jack Feld who celebrated his 100th birthday in October. Allingham BC held a charity evening to celebrate his milestone for Children in Need which raised £620 and proved a merry evening with wine and cake.

## GROW YOUR CLUB – JAZZ IT UP



One can't help but be full of admiration for Rugby Bridge Club who celebrated Christmas in style. The Committee recognised the tremendous efforts by members to keep going online throughout the epidemic and its success in re-building face-to-face post Covid.

Christmas was celebrated with a 19 table pairs competition, followed by prosecco, canapes, dinner and dancing to a live band!

# Channel Trophy 2023

## Gold and silver triumphs

The annual junior event held between France, Belgium, England and the Netherlands took place in mid-December in Utrecht, Netherlands.

England were represented in three categories: Under 26, Under 21 and Under 26 Women. The events were played as a double round robin, with each country playing each other twice.

The U26s (Daniel Winter, Liam Sanderson, Joseph Clark, Liam Fegarty, Harry Madden, Oscar Selby, NPC: Michael Byrne) took silver, losing in the final match and final boards by only three IMPs.

The U21s (Henry Rose, James Cater, Theodore Sinclair, Tom Furness, Thomas Gardner, Jamie Fegarty, NPC: Ewa Wieczorek) defended their title and came out clear gold medal winners.

The U26W fielded an amazing two teams when Belgium found they didn't have enough players. The 'first' team (Dido Coley, Lily Kearney, Liz Gahan, Imogen La Chapelle, Kim Hudson, Venetia Anoyrkatis, NPC: Claire Robinson) took silver, losing narrowly to France but winning the final match against them with a fine 15-5. The 'second' team (Charlotte Bedford, Raphaella Sinclair, Megan Jones, Bethany Madden, Harriet Cork, Cecilia Birdsall, NPC: Paul Barden) were in contention for bronze but were sadly pipped in the final match.

Congratulations to all teams! □



**Under 21 Gold triumph:** Thomas Gardner, Theo Sinclair, Henry Rose, James Kater, Tom Furness, Jamie Fegarty, Ewa Wieczorek (NPC)



**Under 26 Silver:** Liam Fegarty, Joe Clark, Michael Byrne (NPC), Liam Sanderson, Dan Winter, Oscar Selby, Harry Madden



**Under U26 Women:** Imogen La Chapelle, Dido Coley, Liz Gahan, Venetia Anoyrkatis, Lily Kearney, Kim Hudson, Claire Robinson (NPC)



# FUN FOR THE YOUNG

## Wessex Youth Bridge Camp

23-24 March 2024

Cheltenham Ladies' College & Bridge Club



All levels – beginners to junior experts.  
Come and enjoy a packed weekend of bridge entertainment, tuition, coaching & play for young people from 8-21 years old.

Parents can come too – enquire for prices

£25 rate for local junior non-residentials

♠ Fun competitions, tournaments & prizes ♠

For more info and application forms  
[joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk), 07548 782538  
For registration Google Bridge4Schools



## Young Bridge Challenge

Saturday 2 March 2024

A FREE-ENTRY, one-day bridge event for school-age players of all experience levels played at Loughborough Grammar School



♦ **Schools Cup** for teams of four players all from the same school. ♦ **Swiss Teams** for teams of four players from bridge clubs, schools or mixed teams from more than one school. ♦ **Minibridge Pairs** for players of school age who are just learning the game. Individuals and pairs welcome to enter – we will find partners and make up teams. ♦ **Great lunch!**

Further information from Joan Bennett  
[joan@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:joan@ebedcio.org.uk), 07548 782538

EBED have arranged several fun-packed events for youth players. Three events are planned, which will include plenty of bridge, laughter, competition and other activities.

There are prizes to be won, glory to be gained and an opportunity to learn or improve your bridge and make new friends from across the country.

Bridge for young people is taking off. Give the gift of a great weekend to children and grandchildren – the feedback from previous attendees is excellent. As so many of us know, it's a game for life.

## JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP 2024 Friday 30 August – 1 September



### King's Park Conference Centre Northampton

Join us for a weekend of bridge teaching, competition and fun!

**All levels catered for – beginners to junior international**

A fantastic location, in picturesque woodland  
More competitions and more prizes!

A range of other activities alongside the bridge

**£150 junior rate, 2 nights accommodation, full board**

For more information, including how to book, please contact EBED:

Mark: [mark@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:mark@ebedcio.org.uk), 01296 317218

Lisa: [lisa@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:lisa@ebedcio.org.uk), 01296 317217



## What's the Point?

One of my favourite children's authors is the wonderful Richard Scarry who populates his Busytown with fabulous vehicles shaped to show their function. There's a doughnut-shaped car that sells doughnuts, a chicken who drives an egg-shaped car and a shoe repair van in the shape of an old shoe. Form meets function. Can we say the same for our bridge lessons? Are we designing our lessons around the needs of the content or shoe-horning our material into a shape with which we feel comfortable but doesn't really suit it?

It's all too easy to fall into a regular pattern – typically giving a half-hourish illustrated lecture followed by the class bidding and playing four or so boards. This can work perfectly well – but not always. Different subjects need different treatments and we need to plan our lessons around the subject not the other way. Take the danger hand as an example; my experience is that this is one of those light-bulb concepts – you understand the idea perfectly well when it is demonstrated to you but you can't spot it for yourself. Then, one day suddenly you can, and you can't imagine what the fuss was about. To get to that key moment you need to have been on a learning journey. You need prior knowledge (understanding a two-way finesse) and to see examples in a range of different shaped hands – to a beginner these two layouts look quite different:

♠ A10 8 7	♦ W 5	♠ K J 4 3	♠ K J 10 9 7	♦ W 5	♠ A 8 6
-----------	-------	-----------	--------------	-------	---------

The nature of the 'danger' can also vary – sometimes you have a vulnerable Kx, or the opponents have a long suit to run against you or they might play out the master trump. With the best

will and the brightest brains in the world, it isn't sufficient to give your newly initiated students just one chance to spot and execute this play – and that is all they get in the tired lecture/play-four-hands format. Can we shape the lesson differently?

For concepts such as this (might also include finessing, throw-in plays, etc) you really need all students to be declarer multiple times. Online apps such as Shark Bridge allow for this but it's much harder in the classroom. It's therefore most effective to dispense with any activity which doesn't support your key learning point. Bidding here is irrelevant – worse than irrelevant because you need to ensure that all the tables are in the correct contract. Tell them the contract and let them start from the opening lead. The tricks after the danger hand play can also be irrelevant – ask them to fold the hand after the key play is made or muffed and the key point understood. You will get through a lot more hands this way. (I know that means dealing more in the first place . . .)

The same applies to teaching a bidding technique – it is not always necessary to play the hand at all and you can give out sheets with multiple examples for practice. Both are more effective than playing a few slow hands. Craft your lesson around the key skill you are trying to communicate.

It can be fun and engaging to make the teaching/lecture section of your lesson interactive. Perhaps let them play a hand to discover the problem – explain it and then let them re-do it. Push further with an engaged class – give each table the hand laid out and ask them to work out for themselves how to solve the problem – potentially guided with open questions such as 'Why might declarer be concerned? What would the defenders most like you to do?' This way they will be learning more actively.



Be conscious of how you focus your support during the lesson – it can be very tempting to allow yourself to give guidance about opening leads along the way or to pop in to remind them that second hand plays low. Some of this incidental wisdom-dispensing can be useful but too much and the student’s ability to focus on the key point of the lesson is muddled. The less experienced the class the greater the need for a sharp focus reinforcing only the concepts and language of that day’s topic.

We need to plan backwards – start with the end point of the lesson and work from there – like a good detective writer. It is energising for students to go along to a class not knowing exactly what to expect, and a little deadening if the teacher follows the same pattern every week. The latter is easier for us teachers as it allows the lesson to play to our strengths – some love teaching at the table while some love standing at the front and talking. But we need to play to the strength of the topic, always asking ourselves ‘What’s the Point?’

Any alternative views, teaching tips or ideas are welcome. [marysharp@btinternet.com](mailto:marysharp@btinternet.com)



Illustrations © 2024 The Richard Scarry Corporation AG



**JIM PROCTOR**  
**1935 – 2023**

Jim was the longest serving member of the EBU Tournament Directors' panel when he retired in 2016. He joined in 1974 and had held the top rank of National Tournament Director for several decades. At the Summer Meeting in 2016 he was made a Life Member of the EBU for his services.

Jim was born in Wakefield and became a computer programmer for the civil service in Cheltenham. He gave it all up in 1978 to work full time in bridge.

Jim had a very wide and deep knowledge of the Laws, was known for his meticulous planning and attention to detail, and was highly regarded. Most of his contemporaries acknowledge how much they learnt from him. He once said, ‘I am finicky, fantastically tidy. I keep my eyes open and try to pick up everything’.

Bridge was not his only interest – he used to play football and cricket. Jim had a wry sense of humour, ‘At a congress I had to postpone the play of a board and I said to the table ‘Would you please play Board 6 before 5 so that another table can play it?’. At the end of the round one of the players came up apologetically, saying, ‘We didn’t quite manage it’, showing on his watch that it was two minutes after 5pm’

CAMROSE TEAMS			
Camrose 1st w/e	Camrose 2nd w/e	Camrose 1st w/e (EBU)	Camrose 2nd w/e (EBU)
John Atthey & Neil Rosen	David Gold & Andrew Black	Michael Byrne & Maggie Knottenbelt	Tim Leslie & Mike Bell
Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne	Peter Crouch & Simon Cope	Kieran Dyke & Ben Handley-Pritchard	Stefano Tommasini & Ben Norton
Chris Jagger & Derek Patterson	Tom Paske & Andrew McIntosh	Tom Townsend	Sarah Bell
NPC: David Burn	NPC: Peter Hasenson	NPC: Tom Townsend	NPC: Paul Barden

So what is a limit bid? When we explain to our students that some bids mean that a player's hand has a limited range of points, that sounds easy. Right? But then these limit bids crop up in many bidding sequences. The bid could be an opening bid, a response, a rebid by opener, an overcall or a response by the overcaller's partner (known as the advancer). All of these situations are explained and practised in our *Beginning Bridge book one*. Let's take a look. For 1A and 1B, which bids are limit bids in these sequences?

1A

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

1B

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

2 With this hand you open 1♦. What is your next bid after:

- A) Partner responds 1NT  
B) Partner responds 2♣?

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

3 You are West and hold this hand. The bidding goes:

W	N	E	S
?	1♦	1NT	Pass

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

What does partner's 1NT overcall mean and how will you respond?

### \*\*\* KEY POINTS \*\*\*

- At any level, re-bidding no trumps is a limit bid showing a narrow range of points.
- A response of 1NT to a suit opening bid is a limit bid. It shows 6-9 points and is not necessarily balanced. You wouldn't bid 1NT over 1♠ with four spades.

### 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](mailto:lisa@ebedcio.org.uk)**

not a limit bid but does show at least 10 points, so with your 18 points, your next bid of 3NT shows your hand type and 17-19 points. Your partner's overcall of 1NT shows 15-17 points and is therefore a limit bid. It also shows a good stopper (or two) in the opponent's suit. West can calculate that, although the partnership may be a point short for game, with their good long minor 3NT would be a worthwhile bid.

1A Both West's and East's bids are limit bids. West is showing 12 - 14 points and East is showing 11-12 points.  
1B The opening bid of 1♥ shows at least 12 points but the 3♥ response is a limit bid, showing a range of 10-12 points.  
2A Over 1NT (a limit bid by your partner showing 6-9 points), your rebid is 2NT (showing 17-18 points).  
2B Over partners 2♣ you bid 3NT. Partner's 2♣ is



# HIGHS, LOWS AND STATISTICS



The EBU's terrific tech team has pulled together great facts and figures showing the amazing feats some players achieved in 2023.

Only one pair managed to get over 90%. Sylvia Speirs & Nicky Tranter started 2023 with a bang when they scored a whopping 90.63% on a 12-board BBO session run by Bradford on Avon BC on the 2nd January.



For games with 20 or more boards, Marcus Galea and Lesley Bennett achieved the highest score of 86.25% in what they described as a 'highly informal game on RealBridge amongst Malmesbury BC friends' played in February.



In all, 104 pairs managed to score 80%+ in sessions with 12+ boards, and this fell to just 51 pairs in sessions with 20+ boards, so if you were one of the pairs that managed this – you're in rare company!



How about the biggest gain on a pair's expected grade, based on their NGS? Jacqui Murrells & Sue Parker achieved this in July at Eve's Corner BC,

scoring 34.72 above par! Peter Aughterson was not far behind, scoring 34.69 above par with a robot!



Congratulations, too, to Vinod Khanna & Aceylan Ahmet who achieved 34.25 above par on a 12-board game in October.



And if there has to be a biggest gain, there has to be a biggest drop ... We won't name and shame, but limiting it to games with more than 11 boards, one pair scored 35.37 below par.

The strongest sessions by Strength of Field (SOF) were:

1	Premier League Division 1	65.63
2	Crockfords Cup Final	64.87
3	Teltscher Trophy Trials	64.19
4	Tollemache Cup Final	63.78

Outside of national events, the strongest bridge was the Metropolitan Cup Div A (SOF 63.15), run by Middlesex county, and then the Super League at TGRs in London with 62.9.

The strongest club session was a four-table Tuesday evening at Tunbridge Wells BC with a strength of field of 60.53 in April.

Who played the most sessions in 2023? Three people managed to play over 1,000 sessions – the most prolific player, who shall remain anonymous, played an impressive 1306 sessions. In second place was Anton Mauve (pictured) with 1077.



Many of you may know this chap! Hats off to Paul King who played at 41 different bridge clubs/counties.

Richmond BC ran the most sessions, totalling 808 while Oliver Cowan BC drew the highest number of unique players – 1,100. The largest club session was Huddersfield Swiss Pairs with 132 players online in April. Marylebone Cricket Club Bridge Society drew 120 players F2F for its Mixed Swiss Teams in October. ☐

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## COVER ISSUES



You'd be wrong to think Mr Fletcher (*Letters*, December 2023) may find himself in a minority of one! The coronation was a joyous and happy occasion for monarchists, and Christians, not informed republicans, atheists and agnostics, of which there are many in Great Britain and some are even members of the EBU.

How one interprets symbols depends entirely on one's upbringing, beliefs and knowledge in general. However, one would agree the EBU probably did not intend to insult one, but it needs to be mindful.

Now, how do you think us vegetarians feel seeing the practice of killing innocent turkeys not only celebrated on the December cover of *English Bridge* but also positively encouraged by endorsing the image with the EBU logo? I doubt if carnivorous members thought the cover offended anyone, but they'd be wrong.

At the table, talk of politics, monarchy, and/or religion is discouraged by some clubs. *English Bridge* editors would do well to remember the instruction and apply it equally to the magazine. **Shangara Singh**

I just wanted to say that I think the front cover of the December 2023 issue is very unpleasant and

Send your letters to the editor, Lou Hobhouse, Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or e-mail [lou@ebu.co.uk](mailto: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.

highly inappropriate. A live turkey should not be a symbol of Christmas. I am not a vegetarian but many are and making a turkey the EBU symbol of Christmas is thoughtless and unacceptable. Whoever sanctioned it should be brought to account.

This cover portrays a very sad, depressing and out-dated theme and, for me, brings the EBU into disrepute. **Elaine Cartledge**

*This was a picture of a wild turkey who does not look destined for the pot. Your ed is a vegetarian. Ed*

## HELP IN THE BRIDGE ROOM

Mary Sharp's article in December 'Take the Red Pill' describes exactly how I feel about bridge. I mostly learnt during Covid and when the club reopened I tried to join in with the games, or the 'gladiatorial duplicate club room', and I am gradually improving at coping with it. I love the 'forgive them their hesitations' advice – so often we are told to hurry up and almost accused of passing signals – hilarious when we are just thinking what to do next. It's a journey that takes time.

It's worth noting that the more experienced players allow us a little time and are kind. It makes a tremendous difference to how we feel. I understand it must be annoying, but we all have to learn some time.

I identify so much with the article and definitely would far rather 'risk the highs and lows... than waste an afternoon playing rubber round a kitchen table...'

Onwards and upwards . . .

**Rosemary Coffey**

## IT'S A BIG DEAL

I was really pleased to read Adrian Darnell's comments about the EBU initiative *It's a Big Deal*. Anything that helps recruit new players is welcomed. However, at the Stratford upon Avon bridge club we start all new teaching courses in September so the timing of this initiative may be a bit on the late side for us. I wonder whether the EBU would consider running this initiative a little earlier than initially stated.

**Oliver Winters**

## TEACHING GRANDCHILDREN

As I was reading about the efforts to recruit new members, I remembered my grandfather teaching us many card games from as little as 8. At that age we very much enjoyed both playing and learning new things. Quite often my grandfather would say something like 'Take it back. Think again. What's going on here? What do you need to do?'

I learned bridge from my uncle though, who advised us that 'if you fight with your partner you do poorly'. That helped moderate our sibling habit of fighting, which as boys we did quite a lot.

I would therefore urge readers to teach their grandchildren bridge. Don't underestimate children's ability to learn or to enjoy a new experience. Keep it a game not a lecture and you will all have a great time.

**Nick Misoulis**



# CROSSWORD NO 42

Compiled by MERMEN

Answers online, p73

1		2		3		4	5		6
	7							8	
9					10				
11									
			12	13	14				15
16							17		
18		19		20					
21						22			
	23								
24						25			

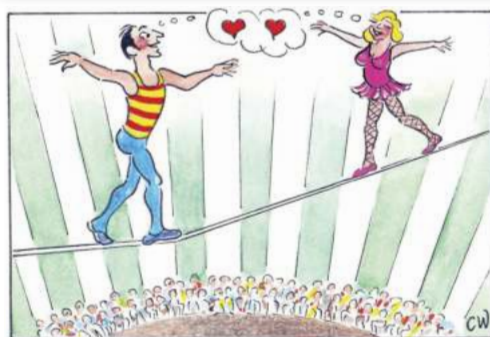
## ACROSS

- 1, 8d Judge tournament director having the balls to summon preemptive bid (12, two word)
- 3 Taps note out about dance music (6)
- 7 Signal to keep an eye on premature extinction of peaceful demonstration (8)
- 9 See 5d.
- 10 Search inside the model very precisely (5)
- 11 King's intriguing thing with Galahad, perhaps (6)
- 13 Capers about part of the fortifications (6)
- 16 Railway workers in support of occupancy (4)
- 20 Masterly acceptance of each reverse (6)
- 21 Irritable — that is what cook gets (5)
- 22 Having a laugh about the special event (4)
- 23 Taking everything into account, put heart into the abuse (8)
- 24 Take-away was spilled over me (6)
- 25 I love Latin mass to be included in soldier's armoury (4)

## DOWN

- 1, 15 Given sudden price increase, opt to eat when mashed or baked (12, two words)
- 2 Deserve to get involved in welcome ritual (5)
- 3 Tie-up that's finally cut gas supplies (6)
- 4 Leading pair of clerics with short dash to church make a fist of it (6)
- 5, 9a Race around in grip of poker player's secret (8, two words)
- 6 Uncork and pass round some fine port (4)
- 7 Politician in dread of something like Covid 19 (8)
- 8 See 1a
- 12 Question initially alternative route to be replaced by the A4 (6)
- 14 Judge stuck with the bubble (6)
- 15 See 1d.
- 17 Trueman's field (5)
- 18 Flyers starting to arrive back from a distance (4)
- 19 Four players, maybe, one of them wearing hat (4)

# CAPTION COMPETITION



Send your entries for the cartoon above to [lou@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lou@ebu.co.uk) or Editor, Raggett House, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DD by 29th February.

Thank you for all the captions I received for the one below. Congratulations to Lydia Stanford for my favourite, shown beneath the picture. Other close contenders were Jerry Lee's 'Hi mate, you called 5NT and asked for Kings'; Chris Duncan's 'They may be Kings but that doesn't mean you have to do their bidding'; and Paul Higgins' 'Why is he offering you an invitational hand with just three Kings?'.



**WE three kings are looking for a fourth**

Our sponsor Fortnum & Mason will be rewarding the winner with some wonderful Handmade English Chocolates. Created entirely by hand by Fortnum's master confectioners, these chocolates are made to a unique recipe, unchanged since the 1920s.

## FORTNUM & MASON

EST 1707





# Landmark Promotions November – December 2023

## Congratulations to the newly-promoted Premier Grand Master John Atthey, Middlesex

### Avon

#### Master

Miriam Hollingdale  
Lily Kearney  
Clifford Simpson

### Berks & Bucks

#### Master

Helga Armstrong  
Victor Bhalla  
Liz Hayes  
Suzanne Morrell  
Adrian Petch  
Shirley Todd  
Jeremy Woolf

### Cambs & Hunts

#### Life Master

Ross Midgley

#### Master

Darren Cotterell  
Mervyn Rogers

### Channel Islands

#### Master

Chris Davey

### Cornwall

#### Master

Jack Jeffrey  
Steve Parsons  
Geoffrey Plowman  
Geoff Tomlinson

### Cumbria

#### Master

Dawn Collinson  
Debbie Marston

### Derbyshire

#### Master

David Tyers

### Devon

#### Master

Elizabeth Saunders  
Anne Underwood

### Direct UK

#### Master

Elizabeth Jones  
Pauli Laumen  
William John Sims

### Essex

#### Master

Derek Boston

### Gloucestershire

#### Master

Richard Bestall  
Wendy Leich  
Tony Reeves  
Louise Wilkinson

### Hants & I.O.W.

#### Life Master

Jenny Ashby

#### Master

Sue Gore  
Farid Motamed  
Patricia Robinson  
Gill Woodward  
Steve Woodward

### Herefordshire

#### Master

David Grace

### Hertfordshire

#### Regional Master

Simon Woolf

#### Master

Michelle Davis  
Fiona Langridge  
Mary Wilkinson  
Tony Yip

### Kent

#### Master

Graeme Akhurst  
Lesley Carter  
Paul Goldsmith  
Lee Guy  
Barry Harris  
Florian Weiß-Selway

### Lancashire

#### Regional Master

Philip Meadowcroft

#### Master

Judith Howard  
Edwin James

### Leicestershire

#### Master

Anthea Byrne  
John Dignan  
Jane Smith

### Lincolnshire

#### Master

Rosemarie Proudlove

### London

#### Life Master

Andrew Black

#### Master

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Emma Robinson  
Magnus Spence-Jones

### Manchester

#### Regional Master

Paul Morrell

#### Master

Paula Berens  
Peter Collinson  
Christine Richardson  
Maureen Seddon

### Middlesex

#### Premier Grand Master

John Atthey

Simon Cope

#### Life Master

Niall Igoe

#### Master

Ian Crawshaw  
Marilyn Warren

### Norfolk

#### Master

Hazel Denslow  
Carol Morfoot  
Jill Norris  
Reg Pfrang  
Chris Pickering  
David Price

### North East

#### Regional Master

Joan Crompton  
David Gunn

#### Master

Paul Maguire

### Northamptonshire

#### Master

Victoria Valentine  
Rob Wilton

### Nottinghamshire

#### Master

May Scott  
Jeff Watkins

### Oxfordshire

#### Master

Nieell Grew

### Somerset

#### Master

Chris Archer  
Bruce Critchley  
Anna Croydon  
Jane Hall  
Annie Holder  
Sheree Pavey  
Bettina Pescod  
Richard Whittaker

### Staffs & Shropshire

#### Master

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Jonathan Harrison

### Suffolk

#### Master

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Barnett  
Terry Howard  
Jackie Over

### Surrey

#### Master

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Gerry Duggan  
John Ewens  
Rita Gallinari-Jones  
Jean Guano  
Margosia Haughian

Hal Hazine

Michael Sadler

Susan Sadler

Martin Samuel

Smita Shah

Theodore Sinclair

### Sussex

#### Life Master

Stephen Kennedy

#### Master

Ann Brooks  
Sylvia Drury  
Millie Fawcett  
Wendy Wigley

### Warwickshire

#### Master

Jill Minett

### Westmorland

#### Life Master

John Ellwood

### Wiltshire

#### Master

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John Bradbrook  
Peter Cornthwaite  
Theresa Franklin  
Janet Goldson  
Marion Kirk  
David Land  
Margaret Monk

### Worcester

#### Master

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8 Sep

National Handicap Championship

13 – 16 May

EBED Spring Sim Pairs

7 – 10 Oct

British Autumn Sim Pairs

# Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



## Julian's answers to questions from page 12

Hand 1
♠ K J 10 8 5 3
♥ J 5
♦ 6
♣ A Q 6 5

W	N	E	S
?	3♦	Dble	5♦

5♠. With a good 6-card suit, an opening hand and some shape on the side, it is right to take the rare decision of bidding five over five. Part of the reason for bidding 5♠ is that partner might have a strong hand and be able to raise you to 6♠.

Hand 2
♠ A J 8 6 2
♥ 7
♦ A J 7 4
♣ Q 7 2

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
?			

5♥. Partner's 4NT asks for aces or key cards, whatever your methods. 4NT is a 'captain' bid. It is your duty to answer the question asked, showing two. While 5♥ takes the bidding beyond five of the agreed suit, your partner should be prepared for this. Likewise the fact that you have a singleton heart is irrelevant.

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

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♠
?			

Dble. Your hand is balanced, which indicates defending. If you could, you would have rebid 4♥ – but you would not have been certain of making 10 tricks and you certainly cannot be confident of making 11 tricks. While the penalty from doubling 4♠ might not score as well as 4♥, a plus is definitely better than a minus.

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

W	N	E	S
2♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
?		5♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass

<sup>1</sup> cue bid, <sup>2</sup> two key cards

5NT. Now that you know your side has all key cards, you can think about a grand slam. If partner holds the ♥K, 7♣ should have good play. Even if you do not play specific king responses to 5NT, you can work out that a one king reply would mean the ♥K because partner failed to cue bid 4♦.

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

W	N	E	S
Dble	4♠	1♦	1♠
?		5♣	Pass

5♦. Partner has bid two suits, which makes it your duty to give preference. The two suits may be of equal length or the diamonds may be longer. In case partner's first suit is indeed longer, you should go back to diamonds.

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

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

5♣. You cannot bid 3NT with no diamond cover. Your choices are therefore to sign off in 4♣ or to bid game. Even if you picture partner with the ♣A and nothing else, you have a chance of making 5♣ despite the diamond losers. In real life partner might well have the ♥Q or ♠KQx or a doubleton heart and 5♣ will be cold. ☐



◆ Barcelo Concorde Green Park Palace , Port El Kantaoui

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## A Slam and a Squeeze!

More than 50 Bridge Club Live members participated at the annual reunion weekend held at Kenilworth in October. Seven sessions of bridge were played and a visit to Warwick Castle was arranged for one morning.

Back at home, one of our Dutch members found a neat play to make 6♠ on this board from a daily Drop-in Drop-out Match Pointed Tournament.

**Love All. Dealer South**

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

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

♠ A K Q 10 5
♥ J 8 6
♦ K 10
♣ K 7 5

West	North	East	South
4♦	4♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			6♠

West started the defence by cashing the ♦A and switching to the ♥9, taken with the ♥A from dummy. Declarer played a trump to the ♠Q and the ♠A revealed the inconvenient trump break.

Declarer took a successful finesse of the ♣J to return to hand by a trump finesse, and then played the ♠K to remove East's last trump. Declarer then played out his own last trump with defenders happily discarding diamonds and we were here:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ K 4	♥ Q 10
♦ -	♦ -
♣ A 8 2	♣ 10 9 6

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

♠ -
♥ J 8
♦ K
♣ K 7

When declarer now cashed the ♦K, throwing the ♥4 from dummy, East was squeezed. He threw the ♣6, allowing declarer to take three more club tricks. East would have done no better to throw the ♥10 as declarer would have crossed to the ♥K in dummy and then back to his preserved ♠K to enjoy the ♥J and finally the ♣A.

This would have been a top score had a West at another table not gone five off in 5♦ doubled! □

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- A free area for teachers and their students.





# Funbridge Competitions

by Marc Smith

## Don't Rely on Partner's Brilliance

When playing with a human partner, it would be a mistake to rely on them doing something brilliant. The same is just as true when you are playing with a robot on Funbridge. If you can see the right defence, play in such a way that gives partner the least chance to go wrong. Take the West seat on this month's deal and see if you would have spotted how to defeat South's game contract.

N/S Game. Dealer East. IMPs			
<div> <div>♠ 7 5 3</div> <div>♥ A 7 4</div> <div>♦ A 7 5 2</div> <div>♣ K 8 2</div> </div>			
<div>♠ K J 10 8</div> <div>♥ Q J 8</div> <div>♦ 10 6 3</div> <div>♣ A J 5</div>	<div>♠ 9 6 2</div> <div>♥ 5 3</div> <div>♦ K Q J 9 8 4</div> <div>♣ 10 4</div>	<div> <div>♠ A Q 4</div> <div>♥ K 10 9 6 2</div> <div>♦ —</div> <div>♣ Q 9 7 6 3</div> </div>	

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	3♦	3♥
		All Pass	

Your partner opens with a pre-empt in diamonds and you lead his suit against South's heart game. Declarer plays low from dummy, ruffs the first round of diamonds in his hand, and leads a club to dummy's king. He then plays the ♣8 and ducks it around to you, partner playing high-low with the ten and four. How would you defend?

You now have a clear picture of declarer's hand. Partner's high-low signal in clubs confirms that declarer has five cards headed by the queen in that suit. If he has six hearts and thus only two spades, he

will be able to throw his only spade loser on dummy's ♦A, so you must assume that his shape is 3-5-0-5. Partner might hold the ♠Q in addition to his diamond honours, but is that necessary? How can you defeat the contract even if declarer has all of the missing honours outside the diamond suit?

Let's think about how the play is likely to go if you woodenly win with the ♣J and continue diamonds. Declarer will ruff again, draw two rounds of trumps with the king and ace, cash the ♦A throwing his low spade, and exit with a third round of clubs. You will be able to cash your trump winner, but you will then be left only with spades. Your enforced lead into declarer's ♠A-Q will be followed by his two remaining club winners and you will soon be inscribing -620 onto your scorecard.

To defeat the contract, you must also score a spade winner in addition to two clubs and one trump. For that to happen, you need partner on lead to play a spade through declarer. Yes, if after winning the second round of clubs with the jack, you then continue with the ♣A, your partner will be able to ruff and play a spade. How sure are you, though, that partner will recognise the need to ruff your ace? That would, indeed, be an excellent play, a brilliancy even. Rather than relying on your partner making a spectacular play, how can you force him to do the right thing?

The answer is to win the second round of clubs with the ace and then continue with the ♣J. Partner is then forced to ruff, and it will then surely be obvious (even to a robot) to play a spade. However, declarer plays thereafter, he will be able to make only nine tricks. One down: E/W +100 and 12 IMPs to the good guys. Your robot partner will probably not recognize the brilliancy of your play, but surely all of the kibitzers will! □



# India's Quiz on suit responses from p6

**Q** What should you rebid with the following hands as West?

West	East
1♥	1♠
?	

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

**Hand 1 – Rebid 2♦.** It doesn't matter that your diamonds are not very good: you are just showing your 5-4 shape.

**Hand 2 – Rebid 2♥.** You don't have a second 4-card suit and you have a minimum hand, so you bid your hearts again at the lowest level. You cannot jump because your hand is still a minimum, despite containing seven hearts.

**Hand 3 – Rebid 2♠.** You have support for partner's suit. This is not a reverse because it is not a new suit.

West	East
1♥	2♣
?	

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

**Hand 4 – Rebid 2♥.** The priority is to show your long major, partly because it is cheaper than 3♣ and partly because it describes your hand more accurately. You do not have 4-card support for clubs and the suit-quality discrepancy does not change that.

**Hand 5 – Rebid 2♥.** 2♠ would be a reverse, so 2♥ is your only option with a minimum hand.

**Hand 6 – Rebid 2♦.** It is not a reverse (as your partner has 2♥ available), so you can show your 5-4 shape.

**Q** In each of the following auctions, at least how many cards is opener promising in the first-bid suit? (Bonus question: if it is only five, what shape/s could opener be?)

1	W	E
	1♦	1♥
	2♦	

2	W	E
	1♣	1♥
	2♣	

3	W	E
	1♥	1NT
	2♥	

**Auction 1** shows 6+ diamonds as West could bid 1♠, 2♣ and 2♥ without reversing, so 2♦ is a real single-suiter.

**Auction 2** shows 5+ clubs. Although 1♠ and 2♥ are not reverses, 2♦ would be. Therefore, opener either has 6+ clubs or five clubs and four diamonds.

**Auction 3** shows 5+ hearts. Although 2♣ and 2♦ are not reverses, 2♠ would be; 2♠ is extra unappealing here because responder's 1NT bid denies four spades (as 1♠ has been skipped). Therefore, opener either has 6+ hearts or five hearts and four spades. □

# Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 8

## Q1

Hand 1  
South plays in 4♠.  
West leads the ♥10.

W	N	E	S
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

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

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



**Preliminary analysis:** You have reached a pushy 4♠ game after North's thin raise to 2♠. With eight winners (five trumps, a heart after the ♥10 lead, a diamond and a club), you might think of ruffing two losers in dummy. However, East takes the ♥A at trick one and meanly switches to a trump.

Were you to concede a club, little is more certain that the defence would play a second trump, preventing more than one ruff on table. Is there an alternative plan?

## ANSWER

Given the theme of these hands, the solution must be to set up the long diamonds. After the ♥10 lead to East's ♥A and a trump return, you should take the ♠J and duck a diamond.


The defence may play another trump (not that it matters), which you must win in hand (to preserve the ♠10 on table as an entry). Now, play the ♦A, ruff a diamond with a high trump, cross to the ♠10 and run the remaining diamonds.

Amazingly, this line produces an overtrick (five spades, four diamonds, the ♥K and the ♣A). Here's the full deal:

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

♠ 9 5  
♥ 10 9 8 5 3  
♦ Q 9  
♣ K 10 9 3

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



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

[click to play online](#)

Question 2 overleaf

# Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 8

## Q2

Hand 2  
South plays in 5♣.  
West leads the ♠K.

W	N	E	S
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Dble	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

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



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

**Preliminary analysis:** Another deal where you may have few apparent losers (two hearts and a diamond) but the winners are not readily apparent.

West's takeout double suggests that the heart finesse is doomed. You may be able to make four diamond tricks if the suit breaks 3-2 but how might you reach them?

Also, with one spade, one heart, four diamonds and four clubs as winners, you need at least one spade ruff to make up a total of eleven winners. How might you time the hand correctly? Bear in mind that trumps may split 4-1.

## ANSWERS

This deal is one of those that is easy *when you see it*. When you don't, you may tie yourself in knots trying to get back and forth, attempting to ruff two spades on table. Your **Count and Plan** tells you that one spade ruff is enough for the contract, assuming diamonds split favourably. (If they aren't 3-2 it's very difficult to see how you might make 5♣).

The exact timing is to take the ♠A at trick one and to duck a diamond at trick two. Here, East may take the ♦10 and play a heart, but you grab the ♥A, ruff a spade, draw four rounds of trumps (starting with the ♣J) and cash out the diamond suit.

Eleven tricks come from one spade, one heart, four diamonds and five clubs.

Here's the full deal:



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

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

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

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♠ 10 9 8 2  
♥ 10 9 8  
♦ J 10  
♣ 9 8 7 4

# Michael Byrne's Quiz from page 10

**Y**ou are sitting East. It is Love All and West opens 3♥, doubled by your partner. What is your call?

West	North	East	South
3♥	Dble	Pass	?

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

## ANSWERS

**Hand 1** wants to play in game and the likely spot is 4♠. However, it would be wrong to leap there as that tells partner you know it is the right final contract.

Imagine partner has:

♠AQx ♥x ♦AQxx ♣AJxxx

Here 4♠ might go down (heart, heart will force the dummy to ruff high) when 6♦ is cold.

The correct move is to bid 4♥, a cue bid of the opponent's suit to ask partner for help in picking trumps. Partner will bid 4♠ with four of them and if he doesn't he will bid a minor suit and we can end in diamonds.

**Hand 2** should bid 4♠ (yes, really). As there is only one unbid major suit partner will have support, and a holding of four small hearts is great as it means your partner is guaranteed to be short in that suit.

If you bid only 3♠ partner will not raise with a 3·1·5·4 17 count or so, knowing that it might only be a 4-3 fit.

**Hand 3** bids just 3♠. Your values are soft and it is hard to imagine any universe in which the ♥Q wins a trick.

**Hand 4** bids 3NT. The dull 6·3·2·2 shape suggests 5♦ will be a struggle, and Axx in the pre-empter's suit is a great holding for no trumps. I'm sure everyone remembers last issue's quote from *Henry IV part II* about 3NT being the place for a long minor.

**Hand 5** bids 4NT, the (very very) unusual NT, asking partner for a minor suit. They will bid 5♣ or 5♦, or if they fancy it have a go at six (although we are into the realms of guesswork now). □

# COMPUTER SIMULATION FOR DECEMBER LEADS QUIZ RESULTS

By Nathan Piper

## Hand 1

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

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	Pass
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			All Pass

## ASSUMPTIONS

**South** has 12-14 HCP and a balanced or semi-balanced hand (5M, 6m and 5-4-2-2 allowed, but not 5-4 in majors).

**North** has 12-18 HCP if 4-3-3-3, or less if more shapely, no 4-card major unless 4-3-3-3, no 6-card minor with a shortage.

**East** has no 8-card suit.

### Best lead in each suit:

♥A 23.8%, 3.46 tricks\*

♠3 21.1%, 3.45 tricks

♣3 17.1%, 3.27 tricks

♦9 16.9%, 3.26 tricks

### Other leads:

♥2 21.3%, 3.43 tricks

♥7 21.3%, 3.42 tricks

♠6 21.1%, 3.45 tricks

♠8 20.9%, 3.44 tricks

♠10 19.6%, 3.38 tricks

♣8 17.0%, 3.27 tricks

♣7 17.0%, 3.27 tricks

♦5 16.8%, 3.25 tricks

♣J 13.7%, 3.10 tricks

### Comments:

The simulator doesn't follow rules but, if it did, against this auction, it'd be something like: 'If partner is known to be weak then make the most passive lead you can. Otherwise, if you have a 5-card suit then lead it, otherwise lead your shorter major'.

The point is that we really want to lead the suit in which one of us has five. Since we don't have one ourselves we look for partner's. This is more likely to be a major than a minor (no Stayman or transfer

from responder) and more likely to be hearts (29.0%) than spades (8.1%) thanks to our own respective lengths.

Having the ♥A gives us two shots at the right lead because we can try it first and switch if partner discourages. However a small heart is still better than a spade at teams. The only reason a small spade is close to a small heart is because it's a very passive lead – which is why it's better than a small heart at pairs.

If we swap the major honours and make the hand ♠A863 ♥T72 ♦95 ♣J873 then the results are:

### Best lead in each suit:

♥7/2 20.2%, 3.36 tricks\*

♠A 17.8%, 3.33 tricks

♣3 15.8%, 3.20 tricks

♦9 15.2%, 3.17 tricks

### Other leads:

♥10 19.6%, 3.32 tricks

♠3 16.8%, 3.35 tricks

♠6 16.8%, 3.35 tricks

♠8 16.4%, 3.32 tricks

♣8 15.7%, 3.19 tricks

♣7 15.7%, 3.19 tricks

♦5 15.0%, 3.17 tricks

♣J 12.4%, 3.02 tricks

Despite the computer's love of leading aces, this is a crushing win for hearts as they are now both passive and our best shot at partner's 5-card suit.

*Continued overleaf*



**Hand 2**

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

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Dble

<sup>1</sup> 8-10 with three spades

**ASSUMPTIONS**

**South** has 14-18 HCP and at least six spades, or 16-19 HCP and exactly five spades.

**North** has 8-10 HCP and exactly three spades.

**East** has 8-11 HCP, at most two spades and 2-5 cards in each other suit.

**Best lead in each suit:**

♥6/4 35.7%, 3.13 tricks \*

♣A 34.2%, 3.15 tricks \*

♦A 34.2%, 3.15 tricks \*

♠2 33.5%, 3.09 tricks

**Other leads:**

♥10 35.2%, 3.11 tricks

♠7 33.4%, 3.09 tricks

♠9 32.7%, 3.07 tricks

♣6 31.3%, 2.98 tricks

♣5 31.3%, 2.98 tricks

♦3 29.5%, 2.94 tricks

♦6 29.4%, 2.94 tricks

♦8 29.1%, 2.94 tricks

**Comments:**

Alan will be delighted that he's found a hand where the computer doesn't lead an ace at teams! I think the point is that, holding two side suit aces, we are very unlikely to need to attack immediately. If we can avoid giving away a trick at trick one then we're likely to be well placed to do the right thing later when we have more information.

Why not a safe trump lead then? The simulator only rarely leads trumps – essentially only when the auction demands it or when all the other suits look too dangerous to open. The reason is that, while it's safe, it doesn't achieve anything. By comparison, a heart is just as safe as a trump, but could also work as an active lead in several ways.

A trawl through the sim results showed that a heart most commonly beats a spade on hands where declarer can establish tricks for discards in one of

the minors – but only if we cede tempo. We gain by leading hearts when we have to lead them to set up slow tricks in the suit, and also when we need to put partner in to lead a minor suit QJ(T) through declarer's king.

So if the heart is so good then why does it lead an ace at pairs? Well sometimes it's declarer who has the heart honours and a minor suit winner goes away. These are largely hands where declarer was always making, but at pairs we have to restrict the overtricks. Holding two aces we simply must lead one of them – it doesn't matter which!

**Hand 3**

♠ Q 10 7 5  
♥ A 10 2  
♦ A 10 9 2  
♣ Q 6

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> 15-17 rebid

**ASSUMPTIONS**

**South** 15-17 HCP and a balanced or semi-balanced hand (5M, 6m and 5·4·2·2 allowed, but not 5-4 in the majors). South has at most three spades, four hearts and at least four diamonds.

**North** has 5-7 HCP, exactly four spades (or five spades in a 5·3·3·2 hand), at most three hearts, at most four diamonds and at most five clubs.

**East** has no pre-empt, no simple overcall and no unusual NT.

**Best lead in each suit:**

♠5 27.1%, 5.87 tricks \*

♥2 26.3%, 5.86 tricks

♣Q 25.7%, 5.82 tricks

♦2 21.5%, 5.68 tricks

**Other leads:**

♠7 26.7%, 5.86 tricks

♥10 25.0%, 5.81 tricks

♥A 22.8%, 5.72 tricks

♣6 22.8%, 5.73 tricks

♠10 22.7%, 5.71 tricks

♦10 21.4%, 5.71 tricks

♦9 21.4%, 5.71 tricks

♠Q 19.1%, 5.55 tricks

♦A 13.1%, 5.36 tricks

*Continued overleaf*

Comments:

With no passive leads available and not much left for partner we are looking for the least-bad option. Rather like the best way of batting against Michael Holding, I'd much rather be at the non-striker's end to face this one!

Once again Alan has managed to find a hand where the computer doesn't lead an ace. I think this is because all switches will still look bad after partner discourages the led suit – so this time it's not worth potentially giving away a trick to buy information.

A spade may not be as bad as it looks. It may set up tricks if partner has the ♠J (26,8%), ♠K (19.6%) or ♠A (13.3%). If partner has none of those but dummy has the ♠J (29.9%) then it might not cost a trick. This is still not great, but it's better than can be said of the other leads. □

CROSSWORD NO 42									
Compiled by MERMAN					Answers from p61				
1J	U	2M	P	3T	E	4C	5H	N	6O
A	7P	E	T	E	R	L	O	8O	P
9C	A	R	D	T	10D	E	L	V	E
11K	N	I	G	H	T	N	E	E	N
E	D	T	12Q	13E	14S	C	A	R	15P
16T	E	N	U	R	E	H	17R	C	O
18A	M	19T	A	20D	E	F	E	A	T
21F	I	E	R	Y	T	22G	A	L	A
A	23C	A	T	C	H	A	L	L	T
24R	E	M	O	V	E	25A	M	M	O



## BEST BEHAVIOUR AT BRIDGE

### A quick reminder

- ♥ Greet others in a friendly manner prior to the start of play on each round.
- ♥ Be a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- ♥ Make your system card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely.
- ♥ Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.
- ♥ Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.
- ♥ Take care of your personal grooming.
- ♥ Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- ♥ Enjoy the company as well as the game.

Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results or object to a call for the tournament director or to dispute or argue about a director's ruling, or generally to make any personal and disparaging remark.

Please call the Director if you think you may have been affected by bad behaviour.

You will be helping others as well as yourselves.

The small print:

As in all games that are governed by rules and regulations, bad behaviour will be penalised ....

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. This can include immediate disciplinary board penalties and may lead to disqualification from the current event. In addition any violation may result in a disciplinary hearing where player(s) future participation in tournaments will be considered.