

ENGLISH



BRIDGE

The EBU members' magazine – May 2024 – Issue 305



BRIDGE OVERSEAS
Est. 1993



**GUARANTEED
EVENTS**



British Bridge Breaks & Overseas Holidays

Since 1993

OVERSEAS CALENDAR 2024 / 25

11 Jun	4* Hotel Onabrava & Spa Santa Susanna Spain	Duplicate & Tour	7 - 14
06 Jul	3* Westhill Country Hotel Jersey	Duplicate	7
10 Aug	3* Ramsey Park Hotel Isle of Man	Duplicate	7
27 Aug	4* Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany Italy	Duplicate & Tour	10
21 Sep	4* Koral Beach Hotel Oropesa del Mar Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 21
25 Sep	4* Sentido Pearl Beach Hotel Rethymnon Crete	Irish Bridge Festival	7 - 14
15 Oct	4* Athena Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate & Bowls	7 - 21
02 Nov	5* Paloma Perissia Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate	7 - 21
21 Dec	4* Melia Hotel Ocean House Costa Del Sol Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 28
04 Jan	4* Melia Hotel Ocean House Costa Del Sol Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 14
07 Jan	4* Playa La Arena Hotel Santa Cruz de Tenerife Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 28
18 Jan	4* Melia Hotel Benidorm Costa Blanca Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 14
04 Feb	4* H10 Rubicon Palace Hotel Playa Blanca Lanzarote	Duplicate	7 - 14
15 Feb	5* Paloma Oceana Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate	7 - 28
11 Mar	4* Melia Hotel Benidorm Costa Blanca Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	7 - 21
05 May	4* Melia Hotel Benidorm Costa Blanca Spain	SBU Congress	7

UK CALENDAR 2024

03 Jun	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	4
09 Jun	Croyde Bay Resort Hotel North Devon	Duplicate	6
17 Jun	Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate & Tour	4
12 Jul	The Lambert Hotel Watlington	Duplicate	4
22 Jul	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford Upon-Avon	Duplicate	4
29 Jul	The Angel Hotel Chippenham	Duplicate	4
26 Aug	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Duplicate	4
02 Sep	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	5
08 Sep	Croyde Bay Resort Hotel North Devon	Duplicate	6
16 Sep	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford Upon-Avon	Duplicate	4
23 Sep	Langstone Hotel Hayling Island	Duplicate	6
03 Oct	Newbury West Grange Hotel Newbury Reading	Duplicate	4
13 Oct	Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa Shrewsbury	Duplicate	5
21 Oct	The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate	4
28 Oct	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	4
01 Nov	White Swan Hotel Alnwick Northumberland	Duplicate & Gin	4

Google us to see our reviews

4.7 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

01656 747-700

guaranteedevents.com



English Bridge

© All rights reserved

ENGLISH BRIDGE
is published four times a year by the

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

Broadfields, Bicester Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

☎ 01296 317200

postmaster@ebu.co.uk

Website: www.ebu.co.uk

Editor: Lou Hobhouse

Raggett House, Bowdens, Somerset, TA10 0DD

☎ 0790 5038575

lou@ebu.co.uk

Editorial Board

Jeremy Dhondy (Chairman),

Lou Hobhouse, Gordon Rainsford, Samantha Kelly

Advertising Manager

Chris Danby at Danby Advertising

Fir Trees, Hall Road, Hainford,
Norwich NR10 3LX

☎ 01603 898678

adsales@ebu.co.uk

Printer: Precision Colour Printing

English Bridge is also published online
in the Members' Area at www.ebu.co.uk

ARTICLES IN ENGLISH BRIDGE ARE COLOUR CODED

Education, in ascending difficulty:

EBU News Quiz Features Laws & Ethics Reports



INSIDE GUIDE

Editorial	5	■
Glorious Eastbourne	6	■
Festival of Bridge & Cancer Research	8	■
Majorca Overseas Congress	10	■
Events Calendar & Competition News	12	■
Camrose Trophy – David Bird	16	■
Crossword & Caption Competition	19	■
Junior Camrose Trophy – team members	20	■
Teaching Bridge – Mary Sharp	22	■
ACOLytes – India Natt	24	●
Basic Cardplay – Paul Bowyer	26	●
Traps for the Unwary – Michael Byrne	28	●
Heffalump Traps – Bakhshi's questions	30	■
Club Bidding Quiz – Pottage's questions	30	■
Beat Today's Experts – Bird's questions	32	■
Prize Leads Quiz – Mould's questions	33	■
Crocs on Defence – Stephen Kennedy	34	●
Heather's Hints – Heather Dhondy	36	●
Bridge Fiction – David Bird	38	■
Great Bridge Disasters – David Burn	40	■
Bridge with a Twist – Simon Cochemé	41	■
Beat Today's Experts – Bird's answers	43	■
Ask Robin – Robin Barker	44	■
February's Leads Quiz – Mould's answers	48	■
Heffalump Traps – Bakhshi's answers	50	■
EBED Quiz – Lorna Watson	54	■
Letters to the Editor	55	■
National Results	58	■
Junior Bridge	60	■
Club Bidding Quiz – Pottage's answers	62	■
Landmark Promotions	63	■

ONLINE EXTRA

Bridge Club Live	65	■
Funbridge	66	■
Byrne's extra quiz	67	■
Bowyer's extra quiz	68	■
Computer lead simulations	70	■
India's extra quiz	72	■
Surrey Schools Cup	74	■

**Twin Room Special
Offer – Save £35 per week**
Book By 9th August 2024

**Low Deposit from
£75.00 per person***
accommodation only

No Single Supplement
Subject to availability

Join Mercian Travel for **Bridge and Bowling**

At the 4* hotel **Sol Don Pedro** in Torremolinos

27th October - 24th November 2024

19th January - 30th March 2025

7 nights from £599pp | 14 nights from £1198pp

Different durations available – ask today for your tailor-made package

Why Book with Mercian?

- 6 days a week – EBU licenced Bridge with prizes and Masterpoints awarded
- 6 days a week social indoor short mat bowling
- Half board, with full board upgrade available
- Weekly welcome party
- Qualified & experienced Bridge & Bowling directors
- Optional Pétanque on the beach
- ATOL protected flight inclusive packages available

01562 887557

Find your local agent at
www.mercianbridge.co.uk





Steering the EBU

Readers of *English Bridge* will know that English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) is a charitable organisation, first registered in 2013 to promote the game of duplicate bridge. EBED is an independent legal and financial entity which successfully delivers teacher training, TD training, and produces teaching material. EBED has historically been supported by the EBU via an annual donation and, while the EBU and EBED are organisations with similar (though not identical) aims and objectives, they work in harmony and are mutually supportive.

There have been some big changes in recent weeks to the composition of the EBED trustees, and it is essential that I set out those changes. I realise that what follows will perhaps look a little dry, but it is important.

EBED's constitution gives the EBU the responsibility and right to appoint up to five EBED trustees, of which one shall be the chair and another shall be the treasurer. The March 2024 meeting of the EBED trustees proposed that the EBU should reappoint the then chair for a further three years (his term of office expired in March) and that, for a period of two years, the EBU would automatically approve any Nominated Trustee seeking reappointment, and not seek to replace any of the current nominated trustees during this period.

The EBU Board, at its March meeting, discussed these proposals at length and decided unanimously not to approve them.

Once the decision was communicated to the then EBED chair all the EBED trustees resigned their positions, resulting in the charity having no trustees.

Moving swiftly to fill the void, the EBU Board appointed Ian Sidgwick, Paul Gibbons and Abbey Smith as EBED trustees with immediate effect, with Ian becoming the chair and Paul becoming the treasurer. I must stress that this situation, whereby EBED has but three trustees and each one is also an EBU Board member, simply represents an immediate response to the challenge of ensuring EBED has a functioning set of trustees.

A priority for the present trustees is to identify the additional skills it needs, to identify potential new trustees and appoint them – so we anticipate a number of developments in the near future. Further trustee appointments will be made in due course both by the EBU Board and by the existing EBED trustees. This will be intended both to complement and replace, as and when appropriate, the current set of trustees.

The EBU Board wishes to thank all the outgoing EBED trustees for their dedicated hard work and stewardship of EBED.

As Mark Humphris, EBED's CEO, wrote on the EBED news web page: 'EBED and its employees welcome our new trustees and we look forward to working with you'. We, on the EBU Board, also look forward to working with the current and the yet-to-be appointed trustees. □

DIARY REMINDER & DEADLINE

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

EBU'S SUMMER MEETING 2024

Glorious Eastbourne

Two years ago, we successfully relaunched *Eastbourne*. In 2023 it was even better. We're all set to ensure 2024 sees more of you visiting our beautiful town for a seaside holiday with bridge. What's new this year?

We have two thriving bridge clubs – Eastbourne and Sovereign Harbour – should you want to extend your holiday but not forego the pleasures of a simple card game. The former has relocated to a characterful building with a huge playing area on the first floor (with lift) and more space downstairs.

A favourite meeting place – small, cosy and away from the town centre crush – is Beach Kitchen, on Beach Road. They serve a variety of delicious all-day breakfasts. It's licensed, too, and they tell us that come peak summer it will open on Friday and Saturday evenings. It's a relaxed non-fine-dining experience but with a chef who knows how to please! Very popular.

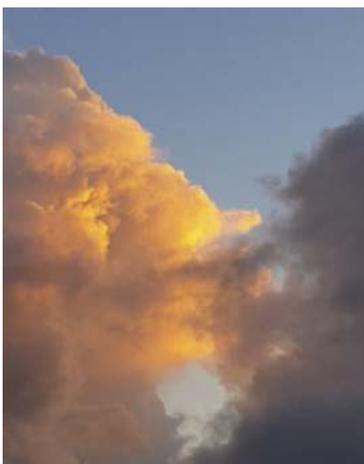
The town is delighted to welcome back *Airbourn* air show for the weekend after the Summer Meeting,

so if you want to combine the two then book your hotel now – don't forget your ear defenders! Indeed, it's vital to secure your hotel for the bridge. We operate during peak season, and if you don't book, others will. All the bridge details are up on the website and this year we have a Full Congress Early Bird Booking Incentive, so try not to miss out on that either!

On the website, you'll find links to my blogs from before (which I have amended to keep up with the times), to remind you why there is so much for everyone in our delightful county.

Enjoy sun, sea, sand (at low tide!) and bridge, great restaurants, historic wonders, beautiful views and skies (*see photo*), and more vineyards that you could shake a stick at.

Ros Wolfarth (aka Mrs Eastbourne)



Eastbourne Summer Meeting

Join us for the 2024 EBU Summer Meeting
8th - 11th August

We are once again in sunny Eastbourne for the
Swiss Pairs Championship, Swiss Teams,
Open/Mixed Pairs, Swiss Pairs Lite
and Serious Fast Pairs

visit: ebu.co.uk/competitions/summer-meeting

Cheltenham Bridge Congress 2024

Saturday, August 24th

Green Point Swiss Pairs
48 boards, £50 per pair

Sunday, August 25th

Green Point Swiss Teams
48 boards, £100 per team
also

9-High Pairs
32 Boards, £20 per pair

Trophies for all events & cash prizes for green point winners
For more information visit
www.cheltenhambridgeclub.com



Bring your Bridge Group to Beautiful Bournemouth



Multi award winning hotel

Preferential group rates for 10 rooms or more

Variety of stylish function rooms for your private use, to suit small and large groups



Contact our Group Executive
Rachel Mould - for further
information

t 01202 446644
e groups@marshamcourthotel.co.uk
w www.marshamcourthotel.co.uk

KRZYSZTOF MARTENS
BRIDGE UNIVERSITY
BRIDGE BOOKS FOR ADVANCED PLAYERS
& **ONLINE SEMINARS**

A series of Webinars by Krzysztof Martens



“Innovative Dummy Play Training”

- Duration of each session – 2 hours.
- Estimated number of sessions – at least 25
- Harmonogram of sessions - once a week, every Thursday, at 7pm CEST
- Price per person, per session - 20 euro
- Registration – to register go to www.martensuniversity.com

I started the project I have been working on in recent years - online mentoring. The key is the habit of recognizing what type of problem we are dealing with. This skill immediately puts our analysis on the right track.

What a relief for the mind! What a saving of time and energy!
It is similar to building a highway network. If we know where we want to go,
we choose the right highway and go straight to our destination.

On my website you'll find two recordings from my webinars.
They will help you decide whether you want to take part in paid sessions.



Go to www.martensuniversity.com to watch the recordings
of the webinars, and to register for upcoming sessions.



The EBU is thrilled to extend an invitation to you all for an exceptional event that is poised to merge our love for bridge with a noble cause. Plans are now well advanced for 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 9th to 15th September 2024, with the aims of having fun, letting everyone know that we are having fun and hopefully introducing new players to the game and new members to our clubs.

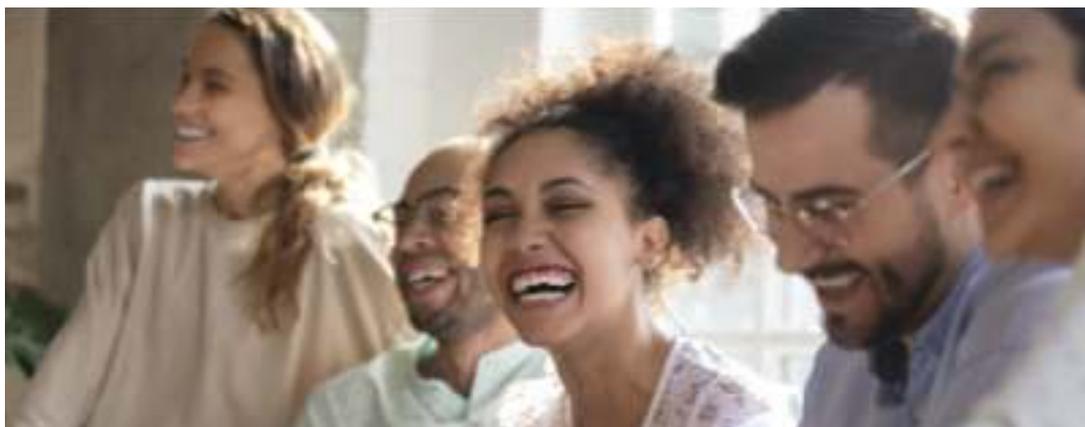
Following the launch in January, our invitation has been extended to bridge players, clubs, county officials, and EBU members across the country to join us in a diverse range of exciting activities and events throughout the week and beyond. We urge all clubs to begin planning how they'll participate and keep us updated on any plans. We are encouraging all participants to stay updated through the event website (ebu.co.uk/festival), which hosts a wealth of ideas and resources. Additionally, there's a dedicated Facebook Group and an email address (festival@ebu.co.uk) available for more information

and suggestions. Please get in touch if you need any help, advice or resources for your event.

Already clubs are telling us about their plans which are highlighted on the map of events (ebu.co.uk/festival/map). Read about the Charity Bridge Day being organised by Nettleham Bridge Club, the Big Day of Bridge at Grantham or the Twin Town Tournament being hosted by Manchester. As soon as you tell us about your event it will be added to the map.

In addition, there will be a couple of national events, including a Play without the Experts Festival. You can read about all the events at ebu.co.uk/festival/national-events.

The Festival of Bridge is not just about making a difference; it's about having an absolute blast while doing so! Mark your calendars and get ready to dive into a week-long extravaganza of fun-filled bridge and philanthropy in September 2024. Let's come together for an unforgettable celebration where the joy of the game meets the spirit of giving. Get prepared to laugh, strategise, and make memories, all while supporting a cause close to our hearts. □



**The Isle of Man
Bridge Congress**
13 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2024
Palace Hotel and Casino, Douglas

Festival Pairs (Friday afternoon)
Three session Swiss Pairs (evenings)
Two session Swiss Teams (afternoons)
Festival Pairs £5, Swiss Pairs £50,
Swiss Teams £35 - all fees per person

Full details and entry:
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/manx/>



Bridge Breaks in Cornwall

Our collection of bridge breaks, run with EBU professional Jeremy Child, has been designed for all levels of experience.

Each of the 5-night breaks include dinner, bed and breakfast and use of the hotel's facilities including the golf course & indoor pool.

Introduction to Bridge: 6th - 11th Oct
Bridge & Golf Break: 3rd - 8th Nov
Bidding for Beginners: March '25 (TBC)

BUDOCK VEAN
THE HOTEL ON THE RIVER
★★★★★

Helford River, Near Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 5LG
Tel: 01326 250288 Email: relax@budockvean.co.uk
www.budockvean.co.uk/budock-bridge-academy/

New Year's Bridge 2024

at the Leigh Park Hotel, Bath
29th December for 4 nights from £560pp
Hosted by Frank & Gina Coltman

Your Bridge Break includes:

- ◆ Welcome Drinks Reception
- ◆ Full Board
- ◆ New Year's Eve Gala Dinner
- ◆ Bridge Licensed by EBU with Duplicate Pairs and Teams
- ◆ Master Points and Prizes

To book your 4 night New Year's break please phone the Hotel quoting: 'New Year's Eve Bridge Break'
T: 01225 864885

www.leighparkhotel.co.uk
info@leighparkhotel.co.uk



Play 5 boards every day against the world's finest players




***Completely free**
***Our robot plays various systems, including Acol!**



Have you ever asked yourself - how an expert would play this hand?
Compare your scores and learn from the best!

∞ IntoBridge.com

MAJORCA OVERSEAS CONGRESS

by Chris Benneworth

Spring is the time of new life – of flowers blossoming, chicks breaking out of eggs and lambs frolicking in the fields. This year in Majorca, we saw the strelitzias in flower in the hotel gardens, and the resort of Cala Ratjada gradually reopening after winter hibernation. Every day there was something new in the hotel – an extra piece of furniture or a different plant – and every day another shop or bar would open in the resort.

The congress took place at the Bella Playa Hotel and Spa on the scenic north east coast of Majorca – a change of venue from Tunisia, considered unsuitable as events in Israel unfolded. The players had nothing but praise for the comfort of the hotel, the excellent service and the quality and range of the food. They also enjoyed using the facilities, whether relaxing in the indoor pool and spa, playing crazy

golf or table tennis, or simply relaxing in the bar after play was finished for the day.

The hotel's location was also ideal for exploring, whether as part of the included full day tour of the north east of the island, or walking with the hotel's guest manager to the lighthouse and on to the harbour. Some walked the dunes and the coastal promontory, or visited the nearby town of Capdepera with its castle and long history or simply strolled along the promenade, finding a bar and enjoying a coffee while watching the world go by.

Best of all, the playing conditions in the conference room were just right for eighteen tables – good lighting, comfortable chairs and plenty of space to move around. Better still, the bridge was played in a very pleasant atmosphere – a credit to all the players.



The Congress followed the usual programme. After the introductory pre-Congress pairs, we played ten 8-board matches in the green-pointed Swiss Pairs on Tuesday and Wednesday. Ruth Edmondson and Bridget McLroy, the eventual winners, were never out of the top three places throughout, but the competition was fierce and three pairs were in with a chance when round ten began. Ruth and Bridget ensured their win with a comfortable 15-5 victory, which left them clear and unable to be caught.

Three single-session events (Pivot Teams, Open Pairs and IMPs Pairs) followed on Thursday and Friday and it was good to see different winners of each event – it's nice to see the prizes shared around. You can find the full results at www.ebu.co.uk/results/1376.

Saturday and Sunday saw ten 8-board matches in the green-pointed Swiss Teams. The results followed a very similar pattern to the Swiss Pairs. The eventual winners – Peter Randall, Liza Furnival, Mike Fithyan and Adrian Fontes – took the lead in match 3, lost it briefly after match 4 and despite losing match 9 by 4 – 16, held on to win by a margin of 15 VPs over Joan Murphy's team (David Killick, Richard King and Peter Armstrong), who had been snapping at their heels in second place for much of the event.

One pair deserve special mention – by being third in both the Swiss Teams and Swiss Pairs (as well as 3rd in the pivot teams and 4th in the open pairs), Graham Orsmond and Jackie Fairclough just fell short of being in the prizes.

After play ended on Sunday, we headed to the bar for the prize-giving and drinks reception, sponsored by First for Bridge. Each prize-winning pair or team were given a bottle of Cava, generously provided by the hotel. After dinner, the fun continued as we listened and danced to live music.

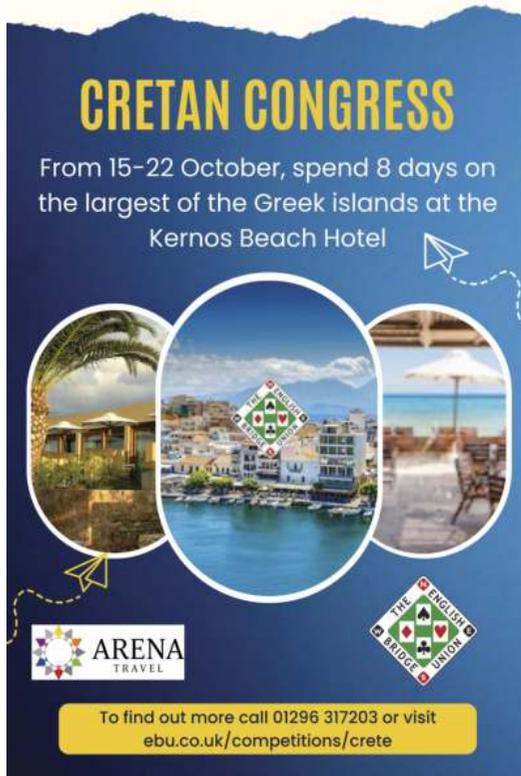
There was also the opportunity to look back over the week and reflect on a very friendly and successful event. It was particularly good to see so many new faces alongside the old familiar ones and we trust that they enjoyed themselves as well as adapting to the demands of a lot of bridge played over a short time. We are looking forward to welcoming them back to the next Overseas Congress in Crete in October, and then to the Algarve in February 2025. □



BRIDGE HOLIDAY AT L'ATOUT DE FRANCE

- From € 402,50 per person per week.
- Incl. 5x four-course dinner.
- Incl. 5x organised evening of bridge.
- Incl. 1x bridge clinic.
- Also for higher level bridge players!

www.latoutdefrance.com



CRETAN CONGRESS

From 15-22 October, spend 8 days on the largest of the Greek islands at the Kernos Beach Hotel

ARENA TRAVEL

To find out more call 01296 317203 or visit ebu.co.uk/competitions/crete



Christmas Bridge 2024
Webbington Hotel & Spa, Somerset

23rd December for 4 nights from £520pp
Hosted by Frank & Gina Coltman

Your Bridge Break includes:

- ♦ Welcome Drinks Reception
- ♥ Bridge Licensed by EBU with Duplicate Pairs and Teams
- ♦ Full Board including Full English Breakfast and Traditional Christmas Lunch
- ♦ Master Points and Prizes

To book your 4 night Christmas break please phone the Hotel quoting: **Christmas Bridge Break**

T: 01934 750100 | info@webbingtonhotelandspa.co.uk
www.webbingtonhotelandspa.co.uk

COMPETITION NEWS

SUMMER MEETING IN EASTBOURNE

Start thinking about your summer holiday now! Join us for the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne from 8th – 11th August. The competition format will remain almost the same as in 2023, with Mixed/Open Pairs on Thursday evening, Swiss Teams on Friday and the Swiss Pairs Championship on the Saturday and Sunday. There will also be the popular Serious Fast Pairs on Friday and Saturday evening, along with the Swiss Pairs Lite on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For full information see: ebu.co.uk/summer-meeting.

CRETAN CONGRESS – DON'T DELAY

The Autumn Overseas Congress will take place from the 2nd – 10th October, at the Kernos Beach Hotel in Crete. Bookings are now being taken by First for Bridge and members are advised to book as soon as possible. 8-day, 9-day and 10-day options are available.

Accompanied by experienced EBU directors, this bridge programme features a variety of sessions including Swiss Pairs, Open Pairs and Swiss Teams. The included guided tour will take you to Knossos and the Minoan Palace which flourished for approximately two thousand years and is the subject of thrilling legends such as the myth of the Labyrinth, with the Minotaur, and the story of Daidalos and Ikaros. This holiday has something for everyone. Book now to avoid missing out. For more information visit: ebu.co.uk/competitions/crete

GUERNSEY BRIDGE CONGRESS

The Guernsey Bridge Congress, run by the Channel Islands CBA on behalf of the EBU, will take place from 9th – 15th September. This year the bridge programme has been expanded to include a Pre-Congress Festival Pairs event that is part of the EBU's national **Bridge – It's a Big Deal!** festival of bridge.

The Congress is held at Les Cotils, an elegant Victorian house on the edge of St Peter Port. It is in a tranquil setting in 12 acres of spacious gardens with glorious views of the islands of Herm, Jethou and Sark. The week of events will include Championship Pairs, Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams, Seniors Pairs, Multiple Teams and Pre-Congress Festival Pairs. For more information visit: ebu.co.uk/competitions/guernsey-bridge-congress

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Red – F2F Events

■ MAY 2024

- 7-12 Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge
- 10-13 World Bridge Games Women's Trial, tbc
- 11 Garden Cities Regional Final, various
- 12 EBU OOGDP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 13-16 EBED Spring SIMS Pairs, various clubs
- 17-19 Teltscher Trophy, Stirling, Scotland
- 18 Merseyside & Cheshire GP Swiss Pairs, Christleton
- 18 Northants GP Swiss Pairs, Northampton
- 19 Derbyshire GP Swiss Pairs, tbc
- 25-27 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Reading
- 31-3 Mixed Trial, World Bridge Games, tbc

■ JUNE 2023

- 1 Garden Cities Final, Coventry
- 2 National Inter-County League, RealBridge
- 7-9 Seniors Trial, World Bridge Games, tbc
- 8-9 Yorkshire GP Congress, tbc
- 8-9 Pachabo Cup, RealBridge
- 15-16 Corwen Trophy, Stone, Staffs
- 15 EBU OODGP Swiss Teams, RealBridge
- 22 Leicestershire GP Swiss Pairs, Leicester
- 23 Dorset GP Swiss Pairs, Canford Magna
- 24-4 European National Teams Championships, Herning, Denmark

■ JULY 2023

- 1-5 EBU Summer Charity Sim Pairs, F2F, online
- 6-7 London GP Congress, Young Chelsea BC
- 13 EBU OOGDP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 18-21 Scarborough Summer Congress, Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough
- 20-21 Herefordshire & Gloucestershire GP weekend, Ross-on-Wye
- 22-25 British Summer Sim Pairs, F2F, online
- 28 Herts GP Swiss Pairs, St Albans
- 28 Manchester GP Swiss Teams, Altrincham
- 28 Sussex GP Swiss Pairs, Patcham BC

■ AUGUST 2023

- 4 EBU OOGDP Swiss Pairs
- 8-11 EBU Summer Meeting, Eastbourne
- 17-18 Oxfordshire GP Congress, Abingdon
- 24-25 Cheltenham Bridge Congress, Cheltenham
- 27-29 Northern Midweek Congress, Harrogate

■ SEPTEMBER 2023

- 1 EBU OOGDP Swiss Teams, RealBridge
- 2-5 EBED Autumn Sim Pairs, F2F, online
- 7-8 Premier League 1st weekend, various
- 8 National Handicap Pairs Championship, various clubs, online
- 9-15 Festival of Bridge week
- 9-15 Guernsey Congress, St Peter Port
- 13-15 Isle of Man GP Congress, Douglas



EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed unless stated

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

EBU One-Day GP Swiss Events

Online - check EBU website



12 May – Pairs
15 June – Teams
13 July – Pairs
4 August – Pairs

1 Sept – Teams
12 October – Pairs
24 Nov – Pairs
14 Dec – Teams

Spring Bank Holiday Congress

25 – 27 May

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Reading



2* Pairs Qualifier & Finals
Jack High Swiss Pairs
Swiss Pairs
Swiss Teams
Improvers Pairs

Player of
the Year

Scarborough Summer Congress

18 – 21 July

Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough



Category Pairs - opening day
Multiple Teams Qualifier with
A & B finals
Two-day Swiss Pairs
Open Teams

Summer Meeting

8 – 11 August

Winter Gardens, Eastbourne



Mixed & Open Pairs
Serious Fast Pairs
Swiss Pairs & Swiss Teams
Swiss Pairs Lite

Player of
the Year

National Handicap Pairs Championship

8 September

Various clubs & online



Single session handicapped
Swiss Pairs
based on NGS

Guernsey Bridge Congress

9 – 15 September

Les Cotils, St Peter Port



Pre-Congress Festival Pairs
Championship Pairs
Seniors Pairs
Multiple Teams
Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams



BARONESS RUTH HENIG CBE, DL 1943 – 2024

Baroness Ruth Henig was a British academic historian and Labour Party politician and chair of the all-party Parliamentary bridge group, where she worked hard to support bridge and especially encourage school age players.

She played bridge for over 40 years, representing Lancashire and latterly at the Young Chelsea or Acol Bridge Clubs in London.

Baroness Henig was the chair for the Security Industry Authority regulatory body. Prior to becoming a member of the House of Lords she was a modern historian working at Lancaster University.

Ruth was very involved in encouraging children to learn bridge and organised visits to the House of Lords for school-aged children. Together with Joan Bennett, the EBU's Youth Coordinator she instituted the Lords Trophy for the winners of the Inter-Schools League.



DENIS ROBSON 1934 – 2024

Denis was a self-confessed bridge addict and played from a young age. He was a regular in the Lancashire county side, a Gold Cup finalist and had an England cap to his name – playing against Northern Ireland in the 1976 Camrose, partnering Bernard Goldenfield.

Denis joined the EBU board in 1995, becoming vice-chair in 1999 before being elected chair from 2002-2006.

His son John Robson said, 'Dad loved his bridge which he played to a very high level. As a child I remember Monday evenings were reserved for rubber bridge at Manchester BC, where you could win or lose quite significant sums. Expressing some concern to my mum, she explained to me that he won quite a lot more than he lost, and when he won he always had to give her half his winnings, but never share the losses. That seemed like a pretty good deal to me!'



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 by-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.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Although staff of English Bridge and the staff of Danby Advertising (Advertising Agent for English Bridge) take reasonable precautions to protect the interests of readers by ensuring as far as practicable that advertisements in the pages of English Bridge are bona fide, the magazine and its publisher, the EBU, cannot accept any undertaking in respect of claims made against advertisers, whether these advertisements are printed as part of the magazine, are online, or are in the form of inserts. Legal remedies are available if redress is sought, and readers who have complaints should address them to the advertiser, should consult a local Trading Standards Office or a Citizens Advice Bureau or their own solicitors. Members should ensure when booking holidays that they take suitable precautions to protect their booking: check the company is part of a relevant organisation (e.g. ABTA); take out suitable travel insurance; pay at least £100 by credit card. Readers should note that prices advertised may not be accurate due to currency exchange rate fluctuations or tax changes.



The Bridge Warehouse

The first and only choice for Bridge Players

Everything a Bridge Player or Club needs and more



Buddies and Boxes



Bridge Tables



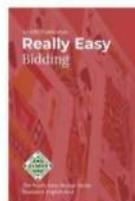
Boards



Gift Ideas



Playing Cards



Bridge Books

Any surplus from sales in The Bridge Warehouse is reinvested by the EBU in activities and services for its members and affiliated clubs.

Support bridge in England – shop at The Bridge Warehouse

Order online via our website

www.bridge-warehouse.co.uk

Please email with queries: bridge.warehouse@ebu.co.uk

Trophy dominated by England v EBU

England hosted the final weekend of the 2024 Camrose Trophy and was therefore entitled to field two teams: England and EBU. Contested over two weekends, this proved to be a battle between the two English teams. Graham Osborne, for England, defended sharply on this deal against the EBU on the first weekend:

Love All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Frances Hinden</i>	<i>Maggie Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Graham Osborne</i>	<i>Michael Byrne</i>
1♣ ^A	4♥	All Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Ben Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>John Atthey</i>	<i>Tom Townsend</i>	<i>Neil Rosen</i>
1♣	4♥	All Pass	Pass

Here, West's 1♣ showed a club suit and Townsend led the ♠A, drawing the ♣2 and ♣J from the closed hands. He switched to the ♦6 and Handley-Pritchard scored the jack and ace of the suit. What should West do next?

It was not an easy decision. A spade switch was needed, to prevent a spade discard on the ♣Q. West preferred to return a club, playing partner for a singleton ace. Declarer won, drew trumps, crossed to the ♠A and discarded his spade loser. It was 10 IMPs to England.

On Board 30, England gained even more IMPs, but there was an element of luck on this occasion. Suppose you are North, at Love All, with this hand:

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

What would you bid when partner opens 1♣ (which might be a weak-1NT type) and West overcalls 4♣? Have you made your mind up? Right, the next question is: what would you bid

if partner's opening bid had been 1♦ instead?

Michael Byrne was North for the EBU and had no real option but to double when partner's 1♣ had not promised a club suit. There was no further bidding. West held nine spades, headed by the ♠AQJ, and made ten tricks with a finesse against South's ♠Kx. That was +590. At the other table, Frances Hinden faced a known diamond suit and went to 5♦ over West's 4♣. Partner held ♣AJ106, and the diamond game was made by finessing East for the ♣Q. Another +400 meant 14 IMPs to England.

The first weekend's play drew to a close with the EBU in top place with 69.13 VPs, followed by England with 59.83 VPs. Ireland was in third place,

1♣ might have been a weak-1NT type, and Osborne decided to lead the ♦6 (3rd and 5th leads.) Hinden won with the ♦J, continuing with her two top diamonds. Knottenbelt ruffed with the ♥J and tried to slip the ♣J through. If successful, she would have drawn trumps and led the ♣K while dummy still had a spade entry.

Osborne was alert to the situation and won with the ♣A. He then switched to the ♠K, knocking out the ♠A entry to dummy while the clubs were blocked. Declarer crossed to her ♣K and returned to dummy with the ♥10. She discarded the ♠9 on the ♣Q, unimpressed when East ruffed for one down.

close behind, with 57.81 VPs.

The EBU team was Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Ben Handley-Pritchard, Kieran Dyke and Tom Townsend (playing captain). The England team was John Atthey, Neil Rosen, Graham Osborne, Frances Hinden, Chris Jagger and Derek Patterson, with David Burn as NPC.

On the second weekend England pulled out all the stops. They beat the EBU by 27 IMPs and Ireland by 21 IMPs. In addition, they piled up IMPs against the other three teams. Our next board was one of a remarkable nine double-digit swings in a 124-15 win against Northern Ireland:

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Hastings	David	Sam	Andrew
Campbell	Gold	Hall	Black
4♠	All Pass	1NT	2♦ ^A

Black's 2♦ overcall was the multi defence, showing length in an unspecified major. Follow the play, and see if you think declarer might have done better at some stage.

Black won Gold's ♥9 lead, declarer's queen falling, and switched to the ♣J. Campbell put up the king, crossed to the ♠J and played the ♠10. He then returned to his hand with a heart ruff, drew North's remaining trumps and led the ♦7 to dummy's ace. When South showed out on the ♦K, the contract had to go one down.

In other matches declarer emerged with an overtrick in 4♠. Do you see how? They overtook the ♠10 when South followed to the second round

(saving the heart-ruff entry for later, if need be). After drawing trumps, they played the ace and king of diamonds. When East showed out, they unblocked the ♦10. They then returned to hand with a heart ruff and finessed dummy's ♦9. Two losers could then be discarded on the remaining ♦Q5.

West	North	East	South
Peter	Rex	Simon	David
Crouch	Anderson	Cope	Greenwood
		1♦	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Greenwood led the ♥K and switched to the ♠2, won with the jack. Cope drew one round of trumps with the ace and ruffed a heart in dummy. The ♦10 to his king saw South show out. Declarer crossed to the ♠A and cashed two more spades successfully, ditching a heart and a club. When the good ♠7 was played, in the five-card ending, North made the mistake of ruffing. Cope overruffed, drew the last trump and led towards the ♣K successfully for +400. If North discards a heart or a club on the ♠7, declarer would be left with two further losers for one down. England gained 10 IMPs.

The next board was one of a further nine double-digit swings in a 151-18 blitz against Scotland:

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Paul	David	Jun	Andrew
Barton	Gold	N-Pinder	Black
		Pass	2♦ ^A
2NT	Pass	3♠ ^A	Pass
3♦ ^A	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Cont/...

Black opened with a multi and Jun Nakamaru-Pinder's 3♣ was Puppet Stayman, asking for a 5-card major. 3♦ said 'No, but at least one 4-card major'. Gold led the ♥3 and declarer picked up a comfortable +630. 'How on earth did that generate a double-figure swing?' you may be wondering.

West Tom Paske Dble	North Brian Spears All Pass	East Andrew McIntosh Pass	South Barnet Shenkin 2♦ ^A
---	---	---	--

Spears assessed his dummy as near-to-useless in the expected 2♠ contract. He must have some other action to ask for partner's suit, because Shenkin passed out 2♦ doubled.

Tom Paske had a glittering choice of aces to underlead. When he chose the ♣4, Shenkin may have expected the ace to come from East; he did not contribute the jack or 10 from dummy. After winning East's ♣9 with his king, he led a heart, Paske rising with the ace. He continued with the ♦A and the ♦10, covered by the queen and king. McIntosh drew a third round of trumps with the jack and switched to the ♠Q, covered by the king and ace. When the jack and 10 of spades were continued, declarer ruffed with dummy's ♦9, promoting East's ♦7. The ♥K was declarer's third and last trick. He ended five down for 1100 away – a loss of 10 IMPs. In retrospect, North should

perhaps have bid 2♠ ('I am happy to go higher if you have hearts') at his first turn. This might have directed East/West into 3NT, for a flat board.

England won all five matches on the second weekend, as I mentioned, and this was the final scoreboard:

	Team	VP total
1	 ENGLAND	148.44
2	 EBU	127.72
3	 IRELAND	117.19
4	 WALES	90.38
5	 SCOTLAND	75.68
6	 N IRELAND	41.59

The England team for the second weekend was Andrew Black, David Gold, Peter Crouch, Simon Cope, Tom Paske and Andrew McIntosh, with Peter Hasenson as NPC. The EBU team was: Tim Leslie, Mike Bell, Stefano Tommasini, Ben Norton, Sarah Bell with NPC Paul Barden. □



Weekend 1, representing England, from left: Neil Rosen, Frances Hinden, Derek Patterson, John Atthey, David Burn (NPC), Graham Osborne & Chris Jagger



Weekend 2, representing England, from left: Andrew Black, Andrew McIntosh, Simon Cope, Peter Crouch, Peter Hasenson (NPC), David Gold & Tom Paske

CROSSWORD NO 43

Compiled by MERMAN

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									

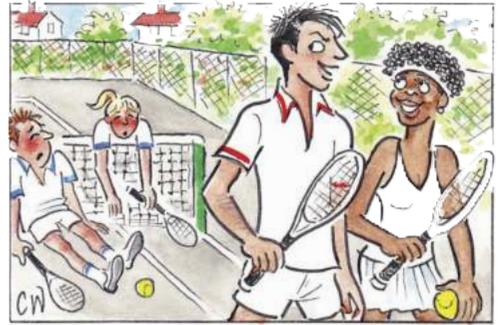
ACROSS

- 4 Dior has to make stylish cuts (7)
- 9 Heartless links to killer (4)
- 10 British sort of weather to satisfy intellectual (6)
- 11 Increase work steadily after deliveries provide too much (10)
- 12 Stir up stout that's not British (5)
- 15 Lady won easily with such a hand (7)
- 17 It is me playing East — make a record of it (7)
- 20 Team's left back needing to take oxygen (5)
- 21 Placed line roughly with this (10, two words)
- 22 Facing opponents weave about (6)
- 23 Fish turning up in a fruitcake (4)
- 24 Soft mat's put in place as far back as it will go on board (7)

DOWN

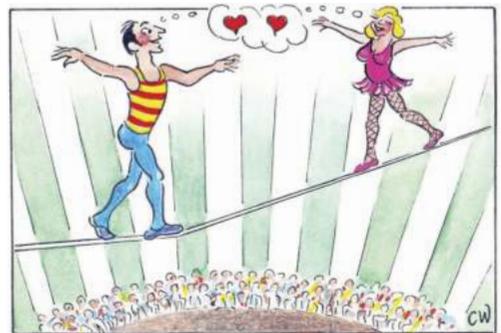
- 1 Sign that before ten, a division of the army's going back to the front (7)
- 2 Frolic about with five or ten (6)
- 3 Officer's place with the occupier (10)
- 5 Leading pair snub Sebastian terribly and refuse to have a drink (7)
- 6 Swift attack kept quiet (5)
- 7 Implementing Cloud with iPods? That's something of a dinosaur (10)
- 8 Just getting pairs in French city to swap round (4)
- 13 Travel cards for secretive people (7)
- 14 The last thing the ref will do with his whistle will put the defence in an invidious position (7)
- 16 Looking for love is barking when one's heart's not in it (6)
- 18 Transmission device of the kind the head of the security services wanted (5)
- 19 Maybe tournament director got player in knots like this (4)

CAPTION COMPETITION



Summer's coming! Send your entries for the cartoon above to lou@ebu.co.uk or Editor, Raggett House, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DD by 30th June.

Thank you for all the captions I received for the one below. Congratulations to Kevin Sullivan for my favourite, shown beneath the picture. Other close contenders were Brian Gladman's 'Ariel & Arielle declare two hearts online'; James Andrews' 'Darling, I don't think playing transfers was a good idea ...'; and Alan Evans' 'Hmm, I'm too balanced to reverse here'.



Nightmare! Found a heart fit but couldn't pass

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



Top spots for England

The Junior Camrose proved to be a successful outing for the U26 England Team. Held in mid-February at the Le Mon Hotel in Belfast, the U26 team won eight of the ten matches against Scotland, SBU, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland, ending on 158 VPs, writes Daniel Winter. Ireland came second with 139 VPs. The team enjoyed the event, building camaraderie with players from the other Home Nations who provided a high standard of competition. Representing England were Imogen La Chapelle & Liz Gahan, Andy Cope & Jack Ronayne and Liam Sanderson with me, Daniel Winter, and NPC Michael Byrne.

One hand against Wales saw Liam and me bid to slam with a combined 21 HCP after an aggressive pre-empt from our Welsh opponents – Joseph Bentley & James Brindle.

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ K 9 8 4							
♥ 9							
♦ A K 9 6 5 4 3							
♣ 10							
♠ J 10	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 2	
N	E						
W	S						
♥ K 5 4 2		♥ Q 10 7					
♦ Q J 2		♦ 10 8 7					
♣ K J 8 6		♣ A Q 9 7 4 2					
		♠ A Q 7 6 5 3					
		♥ A J 8 6 3					
		♦ –					
		♣ 5 3					

West	North	East	South
Joseph Bentley	Daniel Winter	James Brindle	Liam Sanderson
5♣	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Over my 1♦ opening, Brindle chose to make a feisty 3♣ overcall, over which my partner Liam bid a forcing 3♠. Bentley then chose to further pre-empt the auction, with a bid of 5♣, forcing me to support my partner at the five level, with a 5♠ bid. Liam then judged well, knowing that I probably held a club shortage, to make a grand slam try (5NT), only needing a couple of honours in hearts and the ♠K to make slam a good prospect. After I had denied a first round club control with a 6♦ bid, Liam signed off in 6♠.

On the lead of a club followed by a club continuation, Liam was able to wrap up 12 tricks with relative ease, ruffing two diamonds in his hand (crossing back to the dummy with a heart ruff) catering for a 4–2 diamond break, then drawing two rounds of trumps ending on table with dummy high. +1430 for England.

In the open room our teammate Imogen La Chapelle also chose a 3♣ overcall. After a similar 3♠, Liz Gahan chose to only raise her partner to 4♣. Sophie Akers' bid of 4♠ then ended the auction. Iolo Williams was able to make twelve tricks on a similar line to Liam.

The resulting 13 IMP swing helped guide England to a 20-0 victory over Wales in the first match.

First Place – U26 – Junior Camrose

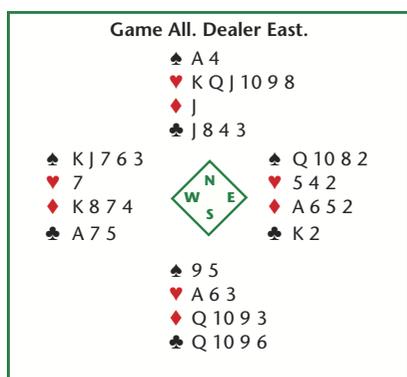


U26 Team: Liam Sanderson, Liz Gahan, Jack Ronayne, Helen Hall (NI match manager), Michael Byrne (NPC), Daniel Winter, Andy Cope, Imogen La Chapelle

PEGGY BAYER TROPHY

Running alongside the Junior Camrose, the Peggy Bayer is a competition between the home nations in the U21 category, writes Henry Rose. Hosts Northern Ireland contributed two teams to make it a tournament of six teams in total, run as a double round robin. Representing England were Charlotte Bedford & Lucy Norman, David Sargent & Thibault Crosnier, and Tom Furness & Henry Rose, with Ewa Wiczorek as NPC.

Initially the Irish stormed ahead with three 20-0 victories, which kept us in second place until lunchtime on day two, but a decisive win against them put us in the lead going into the second round robin. A series of convincing results from this point meant that a solid performance on the final day would be enough to see us to victory. One board of particular interest was the following:



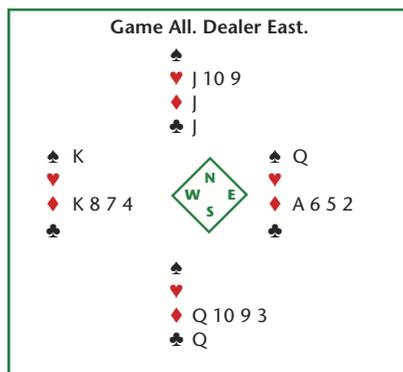
West	North	East	South
Henry Rose	Grace Nelson	Tom Furness	Mitchell Brown
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ ^A	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Our teammates were able to buy the contract in a quiet 2♥ at the other table, which David (sitting North) made with an overtrick. In contrast, I (West) ended up in a 20-point spade game. After I opened 1♠ in third seat, Tom's 2♦ bid was artificial showing four spades and 9-11 points – I made a long suit game try with an eye on my potentially powerful singleton heart, which Tom accepted.

North elected to lead the ♥K followed by the ♥Q which I ruffed, at which point I paused to take stock to count my losers – with a spade and a heart to lose for sure, the risk to my contract was the possibility

of losing two diamonds on a 4-1 diamond break.

I began by playing on trumps, which the defence won with the ace and returned a club, which I won with the king. I ruffed dummy's last heart and drew another round of trumps. When both defenders followed, I cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club, eliminating the suit, and led a low diamond off dummy in this position:



Although it looks like I have two sure diamond losers, by ducking the diamond to North the second loser vanishes – when in, North had to give me a ruff and discard. South could not have helped by going up with the ♦Q, as once I had ducked the trick they could not profitably play the suit themselves. This line wins against any 4-1 break except ♦QJ109 in one hand, while not giving up anything against 3-2 breaks when cashing diamonds from the top succeeds.

A strong run of results allowed us to win the competition with 190 VPs out of a possible 200, with Ireland in second place and Scotland coming third. A big thank you to everyone involved in running this great event, and we hope to see as many of our opposition as possible next year! □

First Place – U21 – Peggy Bayer



U21 Team: David Sargent, Lucy Norman, Henry Rose, Ewa Wiczorek (NPC), Tom Furness, Lottie Bedford and Thibault Crosnier



The Importance of Forgetting

I'm on a bridge holiday in a relaxed and fresh state of mind and my partner and I agree it's a perfect time to 'work on our game'. She produces three printed sheets on Puppet Stayman. I read them; I understand them; I get how, why and when it works; we add it to our convention card - all seems well. Three months later partner opens 2NT. . . and you can imagine the rest. It's as if the whole thing never happened. The convention, the conversation wiped from my memory as completely as a deleted file deleted from the delete folder. Partly my time of life of course, but I'm not untypical of many bridge learners and certain patterns of forgetting are common to all of us.

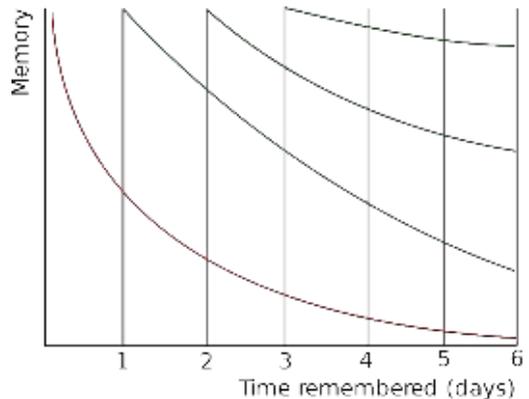


There was an interesting psychologist called Hermann Ebbinghaus who worked on human memory and postulated what teachers now call the 'forgetting curve'. Roughly speaking, if we learn new information, and make no attempt to use or recall it, we forget half of it every twenty-four hours. After six days, it's more or less gone so my Puppet Stayman stood no chance.

The solution is a little old-fashioned perhaps – simply to recall and repeat new information. The more often we do this, the less steep our forgetting curve becomes as the following graph shows.

If we have the discipline to recall the new learning regularly, then it can last for years so this understanding is critically important. Apply this insight to our bridge classes and some red flags start waving. Lessons are typically seven days apart and

The Forgetting Curve



how much practice/recall do our students do in between them in reality? How much of the lesson do we spend recalling and refreshing last week's learning? It's so easy to box up each lesson as the Stayman lesson, the Leads lesson but is this really the most useful approach?

It's quite easy to think that some practice play covers us – Stayman will pop up every now and then, won't it? Of course, but students need a more structured approach, and this is too haphazard. We must ensure that they are reminded weekly of past learning and particularly the last week's learning. Maybe rather than the 'box' lesson we should think of them in Venn diagram terms with sections overlapping from week to week. A way of doing this is to include a couple of Stayman hands alongside hands that illustrate the new topic or ideally include both. Takes some planning so simpler perhaps to alternate teaching and play lessons across two weeks – one introducing, the next reinforcing.

The bridge teacher Douglas Wright who runs the dynamic Three Counties Bridge once compared teaching to a three-legged stool – one leg is the lesson, one is student practice between lessons and the third is supervised play. This covers all bases and is a most helpful image as with one leg missing the stability of everything is threatened.

A DAILY CONUNDRUM

This mindset also highlights the limited value of teaching too many conventions rather than skills or techniques. They appear alluringly simple to those who know them, but the problem is not how easy or difficult they are – or even how useful – it's how able we are to remember them. This strongly suggests that the more common conventions are the best ones to use and however brilliant Last Train and DOPI/ROPI may be they are far less likely to lead to success. Remember the expert commentators in our daily papers, videocasts and even this excellent publication are mostly professionals playing bridge far more frequently than those of us whose NGS lingers in single figures. They have an advantage in recall to which few of us can ever aspire.

But there is another trap that Ebbinghaus identifies – and that is recalling too quickly. If you learn something and are asked to recall it just hours later you often can, but it won't help your long-term recall – you have to begin to forget before you recall. Strange thing the human brain! It reminds me of my History 'O' level where the evening before the exam I crammed a list of 50 dates and reproduced them as needed but a week later they'd all gone. I needed to start forgetting them if I wanted to learn them for life.

This insight is useful when evaluating the so-called Fast Track approach to teaching bridge. It is unlikely to lead to success if everything is learnt too quickly – say across a couple of weekends or a week-long course. The lessons need to have forgetting time between them if they are to work. I suspect this tendency is behind that extraordinary trick your mind plays where on the way home from your duplicate, we can recall and discuss particular hands, leads, discards . . . a day or two later – puff!

This approach is also useful for identifying those in your class who are unlikely to succeed at our game – it isn't for everyone after all. The key characteristic seems to me to be the inability to retain information even after it has been reinforced. If a student repeats the same query week-to-week (we've all met them . . .), it's not a good sign. Time to let them go.

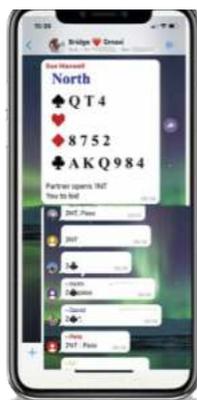
So that's my explanation partner, about why we're not playing Puppet Stayman – and I'm sticking to it!

If you can remember, please contact marysharp@btinternet.com with any ideas or comments. ☐

Every working day, teacher Sue Maxwell starts with a conundrum! No, that's not what to have for lunch or whether to take a brolly out, but a fiendish challenge set for her students and supervised play regulars.

Back in lockdown, Sue moved her teaching online and soon found that WhatsApp is a great way to keep in touch. She started out using it to notify her class members of forthcoming sessions but now is also using it to keep them on their toes with bridge conundrums (or is that conundra?). She frequently chooses a deal from a recent session but another source of inspiration can be from a deal she has just played herself.

Here is a conundrum from Sue. Her WhatsApp audience are given a hand and a partial auction. Later the same day, Sue posts a very short video. She tells the story behind the bidding. She and her partner ended up in a contract which cost them the top spot, but she congratulates those who came up with the right answer. Some days, they all get it right and other days, the conundrum beats them. Conventions are always explained. In the one shown, pupils were asked to reply to partner's 1NT opening – some suggested a 2♠ bid as a transfer to a minor while others struggled with Stayman.



The conundrums engage lively debate among the players in her SmaxiBridge improvers club (www.SmaxiBridge.com), an EBU-affiliated online club with weekly sessions on RealBridge. The questions are ideal for improving players and aimed at those in their third or fourth year and beyond.

Sue often records the video in advance. Just another thing for a busy teacher to fit into her schedule. ☐



Opener's Rebids with a Maximum Hand

In the previous article, I discussed how opener should make their first rebid with a minimum opening hand; but what should we do with a maximum opening hand?

We established that the range for a minimum opening hand was 12-15 HCP. Since we are traditionally expecting responder to have 6+ HCP for having bid, we should make a game-forcing bid with 19+. Therefore, the normal point range we are looking at in this article is 16-18.

BALANCED REBIDS

However, we need to make special considerations for balanced hands, and remember two things:

- ❖ when we discussed responses to one of a suit, we allowed responder to bid as long as their hand was likely to be worth at least one trick; and
- ❖ when we discussed opener's rebids with a minimum, we put off discussing 15-point balanced hands until now.

Imagine that we have opened one of a suit and our partner has responded in a new suit, also at the one level. Our opening has shown we couldn't open an Acol 1NT, showing 12-14, nor 2NT, showing 20-22. We therefore need to have bids to show the 15-19 balanced range without support for any major suit partner bids. Our priorities are:

Major fit > NT > minor fit

Traditionally, this range was split into three: since $19 + 6 = 25$, 19-point balanced hands were expected to go directly to game with 3NT, leaving the remaining 15-18 points to be split halfway and divided between the 1NT and 2NT rebids.

Nowadays, it is not considered wise to rebid 3NT showing exactly 19 points and a balanced hand. The first problem is that the meaning of the bid is too specific and the second is that the bid itself takes up too much space. On top of that, consider Point 1 again: if responder occasionally bids on hands with fewer than six points, do we want to bid game with a balanced hand every time we have 19 HCP? No!

The solution is simple: the 15-19 range is split into two, with the larger range assigned to the lower rebid to allow partner more space to invite if necessary. Therefore, a 1NT rebid shows 15-17 HCP balanced; a 2NT rebid shows 18-19 HCP balanced.

NB: Responses in a new suit at the two level can follow this formula too but with 2NT and 3NT rebids; there are other alternatives you can play, but those are beyond the scope of this article!

If our partner has responded 1NT, the limited range of the bid once again affects our rebid. Remember that with hands where our partner would like to go to game opposite a 15-point balanced hand, the correct response would have been a new suit at the two level. So, with hands on the lower end of the range, we should simply pass 1NT. With hands on the upper end of the range, we can bid 2NT instead. And with 19? This time, go to 3NT: 17-19 is a very wide range for your partner to cope with otherwise.

REBIDDING PREVIOUSLY BID SUITS

These are much simpler:

- ❖ if you have four cards in the suit partner responded in, you bid that suit with a jump. Remember that if you are balanced, supporting a major takes priority over a NT rebid; supporting a minor does not.
- ❖ if you have a single-suiter, you simply rebid your 6-card suit but with a jump to the three level.

The only slight complication when the response was at the one level is that this shows a hand in the 16-18 point range but may include some good 15s too. When deciding whether to upgrade your 15-count, consider these aspects of your hand:

- ❖ purity (whether your honours are in your long or short suits; pure hands, with a higher proportion of honours in their long suits, are stronger);
- ❖ shape (are you balanced, semi-balanced or

unbalanced? Hands with more than one doubleton but no shortage are semi-balanced and are less powerful than truly unbalanced hands);

- ♣ your holding in partner's suit (honours are helpful, whereas low cards and shortages are not).

Let's look at some examples. You are West, opening 1♥ with these hands:

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

West	East
1♥	1♠
?	

Hand 1 – This is not a beautiful 15-point hand. You have an impure hand, no help for partner's spades and no shortage. Bid 2♥.

Hand 2 – This one is worth the upgrade: a pure hand with a helpful ♠K and a singleton outside partner's suit. Bid 3♥.

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

West	East
1♥	2♣
?	

If your partner responds at the two level, showing 10 points, then 15 HCP is enough to make a jump (which is then game-forcing). As such, even Hand 3 would jump to 3♥ on its rebid.

BIDDING NEW SUITS

If you have a two-suiter, your second suit will either be lower- or higher-ranking than your first suit. If it is lower-ranking, you will be bidding the same way as you did in the previous article. Here is an example auction:

4	West	East
	1♥	1♠
	2♣	

Here 2♣ shows 12-18 HCP with five plus hearts and four plus clubs.

These second-suit bids are therefore very wide-ranging. If your second suit is higher-ranking, with your maximum opener, you are strong enough to reverse into it:

5	West	East
	1♦	1♠
	2♥	

Here 2♥ promises at least five diamonds and four hearts and 16+ points.

Reminder: a reverse is a bid of a *new* second suit that forces your partner to give preference at the three level, regardless of which suit they prefer. It is a forcing bid, so they cannot stop in 2♥.

A reverse promises 16+ points which means a maximum opener can always show a second suit.

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



SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS

A BANK HOLIDAY BRIDGE COMPETITION FOR EVERYONE!

CROWNE PLAZA, READING

25TH - 27TH MAY

THIS EVENT IS BEING RUN BY OLIVER COWAN ON BEHALF OF THE EBU

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
EBU.CO.UK/COMPETITIONS/SPRING-BANK-HOLIDAY-CONGRESS



Timing the Hand

This article is all about counting winners and losers in a suit contract and making a suitable plan when there isn't an obvious route to the contract. Often enough, the count of winners and losers do not total thirteen, leading to some head scratching. Where there is an abundance of winners, and no obvious source of excess losers, the best strategy is to draw trumps. However, what can you do when things are not so simple?

Take this first deal. You find yourself in 4♠, reached after the simple sequence of 1♠ – 2♠ – 4♠. West hits you in your weakest spot with the ♦K opening lead. How might you play?

There are only two ways of ridding yourself of excess losers. You can either **trump** them (usually in dummy) or you can **dump** them (by chucking them on winners elsewhere). Here, you have no way of trumping your diamond losers – so can you dump them? The answer is: Yes, you can. One can go on the third heart winner, but only if you play on the suit immediately.

After taking the ♦A at trick one, you cash the ♥A, overtake the ♥Q with the king, throw a diamond loser on the ♥J and then (and only then) play on trumps. The opposition are welcome to take one trump trick, one diamond trick and one club trick. Here's the full deal:

Hand 1
South plays in 4♠.
West leads the ♦K.

♠	10 6 4 3
♥	K J 10
♦	7 4 3
♣	K 7 2

♠	K Q J 9 5
♥	A Q
♦	A 8 5
♣	Q J 8

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♦K

♠	10 6 4 3	Online readers can click here
♥	K J 10	
♦	7 4 3	
♣	K 7 2	

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

♠	K Q J 9 5
♥	A Q
♦	A 8 5
♣	Q J 8

Your mandatory **Count and Plan** reveals ten winners (four spades, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs) but four losers (one spade, two diamonds and a club). Ten winners and four losers – this does not compute.

Any attempt to draw trumps would lead to failure – the opponents would grab the ♠A and would take two diamond winners pronto. With three tricks in the bag, East-West would sit back, relax and wait for the ♣A to be presented to them on a silver platter. One down.

A more subtle form of this idea is found in the deal on the next page. You find yourself in 4♥, reached after opening 2♥ and seeing your partner raise straight to game. West, given no indication of what to lead by the rapid bidding, opts for the ♠10. How should you play?



Please recycle this magazine when you have finished with it

Hand 2
South plays in 4♥.
West leads the ♠10.

♠	A K
♥	K 9 6 5
♦	9 8 6
♣	A Q 7 3



♠	Q J 3
♥	Q J 10 8 4 2
♦	J 7 5
♣	10

Well, West has found an unfortunate opening lead as this deal has four top losers (three diamonds and the ace of trumps). Your preliminary *Count and Plan* revealed three spade winners, five heart winners and the ♣A. At least the arithmetic seems to balance on this deal as there are nine winners and four losers. That, though, is not good enough in a contract of 4♥. What is to be done?

You might try the club finesse, you say? But how are you to reach your hand with the lead in the dummy after trick one? In any case, you have a much better line as you can dump one of dummy's diamond losers on the ♠Q.

Take the ♠AK at tricks one and two, play the ♣A and ruff a club in order to reach the closed hand. Now you can throw a diamond loser from dummy on your ♠Q. With the loser count reduced to three, you can afford to play trumps. Here's the full deal:

South plays 4♥. West leads the ♠10

♠	A K	Online readers can click here
♥	K 9 6 5	
♦	9 8 6	
♣	A Q 7 3	



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

♠	Q J 3
♥	Q J 10 8 4 2
♦	J 7 5
♣	10

Note that if you played a heart at trick two, East would certainly switch to diamonds when on play with the ace of trumps, rapidly sinking the contract.

Postscript. If it's unclear where the tenth trick comes from, it appears via a diamond ruff in dummy. Having conceded two diamond losers, you can ruff your last diamond loser on table with one of dummy's hearts. Ten tricks come from three spades, *six* hearts (five in hand and a diamond ruff in dummy) and the ♣A. □

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

THE 2023 MASTER POINT ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

THE NATIONAL LEADER BOARD



Congratulations to Jackie Davies who has won the 2023 Sunday Telegraph Salver for the second year in a row. She earned the most master points last year, scoring a total of 21,149 points, ahead of Stefano Tommasini in second place with 19,241 and Anton Mauve in third place with 18,284.

HIGHEST SCORING JUNIOR

For the first time in six years there is a new name at the top of the junior leader board. Andy Cope ended the year in first place with 7,442. Daniel Winter finished in second place, with 4,923 and in third place for the second year in a row was Imogen La Chapelle with 4,825.

GOLD POINT RANKING

Mike Bell ended the year on top with 59.29 Gold Points, followed by Ben Norton with 56.91, and Michael Byrne in third place with 52.36.

ALL TIME LEADERBOARD

Derek Oram remains on top with 929,482 master points. John Holland is second with 919,328, and Celia Oram remains in third place with 868,348.

The master point lists for 2023, including a breakdown by county and rank, can be accessed on: www.ebu.co.uk/masterpoint-reports/2023



Coping with Pre-empts ~ Part 3

Regular readers of these articles may have thought having read about what to do when faced with a three-level pre-empt, and how to cope when partner takes some action they were in for a respite from these high-level tricky deals.

Not so! Three-level pre-empts are only the beginning, and now we will look at what to do when the opponents open at the four level.

Four-level openings are less common than ones at the three level because they normally require a longer suit. A typical four of a minor opening is an 8-card suit with little outside, enough distribution that the pre-emptor is happy to go past 3NT.

What should you do against such a bid? Well our options are reduced, but bids retain a similar meaning to those against a three-level pre-empt, just sadly there are a lot fewer that we can make!

Double is still ostensibly for takeout, but at the four level we should not be so keen to take it out if we have a flat hand with only a 4-card suit.

Certainly a sequence such as 4♣-Dble-Pass-4♠ suggests either a 5-card suit, or a 4-card suit and enough values that you hope to actually make your contract.

Imagine 4♦ is opened on your right at love all – what action (if any) would you take with these hands?

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

Hand 1 is a pleasant takeout double, and automatic if the opening bid was any lower. It is still correct to double 4♦, and hope that partner doesn't take it out to 4♠ when they are 4-3-2-4 or similar. Note that because the 4♦ opener has (hopefully) eight diamonds, there is some chance partner has a singleton diamond, and now the hand will play nicely.

Hand 2 should double because the shape is perfect and you are prepared for any action partner can take. On a bad day partner will have to pass and your paucity of aces (combined with void trumps) will mean they scramble home, but most of the time your side will bid a making contract.

Hand 3 is a great hand with lots of playing strength and has to take some action but the trouble with doubling is that partner might well choose spades. You must take the bull by the horns and overcall 4♥. It might seem a big position to bid a 5-card suit at the four level, but the fact that partner won't normally have a lot of diamonds (2-3 is the expected number) means he should have some modicum of support, and even two small might be enough if he has something for you in clubs.

Hand 4 has lots of values, and no doubt you are all thinking you have to take some action, but that is a bad idea. If you double for takeout partner will surely be short in diamonds and take it out. You might survive this if partner has both a 5-card suit and some points, but why should he? If partner has

♠108643 ♥Q973 ♦2 ♣842

partner will not dream of bidding anything other than 4♠, which will go for somewhere between 300 and 500 (suits are breaking badly remember). Meanwhile the opponents weren't even making a part-score, let alone a game. ♦Qxx is a holding that will always score a trick if you defend, and never score a trick if you play the hand.

Hand 5 has lots of playing strength and your first thought might be to bid your longest suit – not so fast! It's true that 5♣ will be a reasonable contract, but will it be the best contract? If you bid 5♣ then you have placed all of your eggs firmly in the club basket. What about other contracts? Sometimes partner has five spades and one club, and 4♠ is a dream come true. If partner has a few scattered values:

♠Jxx ♥A10xx ♦Kxxx ♣xx

then 4♦ doubled will be the right spot, taking an easy plus score without a game contract making.

On balance a double is best, and convert 4♥ to 5♣.

(If partner responds 4♠ then happy days, we pass content with a job well done).

Now you'll notice that when we doubled a 4♦ opening there was a lot of emphasis on our side to play in four of a major, as that is a very common game contract.

What about if the opening pre-empt was 4♥ or 4♠? Is double still for takeout in the same way?

The answer (to be completely clear) is yes and no. A double of a 4♥/♠ opening is still for takeout, but most of the time partner passes.

If you are taking the double out at the five level, then you should have either a 6-card suit, or two 5-card suits. A sequence such as 4♥–Dble–Pass–5♦ will be very wrong if you have a scraggy 5-card suit and a poor hand. There is no reason why partner needs the perfect shape, and a 5-2 fit will be a disaster.

One of the reasons why you often pass a double of 4♥/4♠, is that the opponents are already in game. Conceding 590 when your side can make nothing is a shame but you won't be alone if your partner has their double, other pairs will be doing the same. However turning +100 (the score you'd have got from beating them by one) into -500 (when partner has the wrong dummy for you, and unsurprisingly every suit breaks badly) is very costly indeed, as now you will lose out to all the other players who have judged the situation better than you. This is even more true at teams or rubber bridge.

There is one other bid we haven't mentioned but must sneak into our repertoire and that is 4NT. An overcall of 4NT after a four-level pre-empt shows a two-suited hand and asks partner to pick a suit. If they choose one you don't have you bid the lower of your two suits.

Note that this bid only really exists over a 4♥ or 4♠ opening – if the opponents open 4♣/♦ and you have two suits you just bid one of them (see hand 3 above).

If you overcall 4NT after a 4♥ opening then you have the minor suits, at least 5/5 and a hand with good playing strength.

If you overcall 4NT after a 4♠ opening then you have any two suits, and partner bids his lowest playable strain which you will either pass (if it's one of your suits) or correct to one of your actual suits if it is not.

In each case you are committing your side to playing at the five level so you must have good suits, and having extra distribution is more important than extra high cards.

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

Do use double as a flexible takeout bid, showing shortage in the bid suit and a strong hand, prepared for any action partner might take.

Do be prepared to pass if you are very flat with defensive points, a small plus on defence is better than a big minus on offence.

Don't be afraid to act if you are short in the pre-empt suit and have fair playing strength – if that's the case, passing will be the most risky bid of all.

Don't take out partner's double of a 4♥/4♠ contract unless you have somewhere sensible to go. Doubling the odd game that makes is not a disaster, but going for 800 against nothing is! □

TRY MICHAEL'S QUIZ, ONLINE PAGE 67



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

♠ J
♥ K Q J 10
♦ A 8 5 3
♣ K 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 7 3
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ 9
♣ A 8 5 3

You are in 4♥. West leads the ♥2 and East follows with the ♥3. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ 7 6
♥ 5
♦ K Q 10 6 3
♣ Q J 10 5 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 2
♥ A J 10 4
♦ J 7 2
♣ K 6 3

You are in 3NT after East opened 1♣. West leads the ♠9 which East overtakes with the ♠10. Plan your play.

Hand 3

♠ A 4
♥ 9 6 4
♦ Q J 10 6 3 2
♣ A 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ A K 5
♦ A 8 5
♣ K 8 3

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♠8. Plan your play.

Hand 4

♠ K 7 3
♥ A Q 9 8 2
♦ A 7
♣ K 10 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9
♥ K J 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 6
♣ A J 5

You are in 6♥. West leads the ♦10. Plan your play.

David Bakhshi gives the answers on page 50

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

You are sitting West. What should you bid with each hand below on the given auction at matchpoint pairs? E/W vulnerable.

	W	N	E	S
Hand 1				
♠ 9 6 5 4 3			2♣ ¹	Pass
♥ 5	2♦ ²	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ J 7 4	?			
♣ A 10 9 4				

¹ 23-24 balanced or game force
² negative/waiting

	W	N	E	S
Hand 2				
♠ 10 5			1♣	Pass
♥ K J 10 9 8	?			
♦ A 10 5 4				
♣ 10 6				

	W	N	E	S
Hand 3				
♠ Q J 5	?		Pass	1♣
♥ A 7 5 2				
♦ K Q 7 3				
♣ Q 9				

	W	N	E	S
Hand 4				
♠ K 10 7 6 4		1♦	1♣	Dble
♥ 6 5 3	?			
♦ 10 8				
♣ A 7 3				

	W	N	E	S
Hand 5				
♠ A J 9 5 3 2	2♣	3♥	Dble ²	2♥ ¹
♥ K 9 2	?			Pass
♦ Q				
♣ 9 8 4				

¹ Weak, ² Competitive (points, but not specifically a game try in spades)

	W	N	E	S
Hand 6				
♠ A Q 4 2			1♦	Pass
♥ A Q J 7 3	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ K 5 4	?			
♣ J				

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 62



The Bridge Warehouse

The first and only choice for Bridge Players

LUXURY BRIDGE TABLE



£309.00 (INCLUDING POSTAGE)

**SEE WEBSITE FOR LOTS MORE INFO
LOVELY PIECE OF FURNITURE FOR YOUR HOME
EXCELLENT QUALITY – MADE IN UK**

ORDER ONLINE AT www.bridge-warehouse.co.uk

**Orders are sent out Monday-Thursday between 9am and 2pm
(Excluding Bank Holidays)**

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.

MAY 2024 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ 3
Dealer West ♥ 8
 ♦ Q 10 8 4 3 2
(Spears) ♣ K 10 9 4 2
2. Game All ♠ Q J 9
Dealer West ♥ A J 8
 ♦ A J 6 3
(Goodman) ♣ K 9 8
3. N/S Game ♠ K Q 6 2
Dealer East ♥ Q
 ♦ 7 6 2
(J McMahon) ♣ K 9 8 4 2
4. Love All ♠ 5
Dealer West ♥ K Q 6 5
 ♦ A K 9 7 6 5
(Jeffrey) ♣ 8 6
5. N/S Game ♠ K
Dealer East ♥ A Q J 7
 ♦ 5 4 3 2
(R Brocken) ♣ J 6 4 3
6. Game All ♠ 8 6 4 3
Dealer East ♥ 7
 ♦ K 9 8 7 4 2
(Gahan) ♣ A K

* North bids 2♥

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.

MAY 2024 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ Q 9 5 4
Dealer West ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ K J 9
(Shenkin) ♣ A 6
2. Game All ♠ 7
Dealer West ♥ K 5
 ♦ 9 8 7 4
(Short) ♣ A Q J 6 4 3
3. N/S Game ♠ A J 8
Dealer East ♥ A J 6
 ♦ 10 8 5 3
(C McMahon) ♣ A Q 6
4. Love All ♠ A K Q 7 6
Dealer West ♥ A J
 ♦ J 8
(Yulin Li) ♣ A K J 9
5. N/S Game ♠ A J 7 6 4 3 2
Dealer East ♥ 8 6
 ♦ A K Q 8
(M Brocken) ♣ –
6. Game All ♠ J
Dealer East ♥ J 9 2
 ♦ A Q J 10 3
(La Chapelle) ♣ Q 9 8 3

* North bids 2♥

Did you beat the experts? – page 43

Did you beat the experts? – page 43

New Prize Leads Quiz

by Alan Mould

Remember 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

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

Entries to the Editor, Leads Quiz,
Raggett House, Bowdens, Langport, Somerset,
TA10 0DD
or e-mail lou@ebu.co.uk
by 30 June 2024.

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

ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S QUIZ: page 48

TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

Hand 1

♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ 7
♦ A Q J 8 6
♣ K 10 7

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
2NT ¹	All Pass	Dble	Pass
¹ 15-16 balanced			

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Hand 2

♠ A 8 5 3 2
♥ K 9 7 4
♦ A
♣ 6 5 3

South	West	North	East
2♦ ¹	Dble	3♣ ²	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
¹ Acol Two in Diamonds (strong with 8+ playing tricks)! A very rare beast these days, but it does still exist;			
² Natural and forcing			

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Hand 3

♠ A Q 9 4 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ 6 4

South	West	North	East
1♣ ¹	1♠	3♦ ²	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
¹ Could be two clubs. Opposition are playing strong NT and 5-card majors;			
² 2♦ would have been natural and non-forcing so this was the only way to force with diamonds. An unusual treatment in this country, but not unheard of.			

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Crocs on Defence

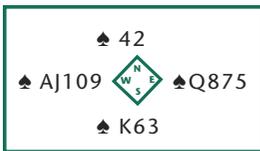
by Stephen Kennedy



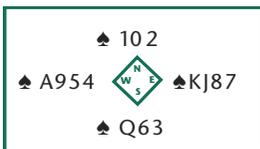
Fancy finessing through declarer

As the title suggests, this article is going to be a little fancy.

A few issues back, I covered finessing through declarer. The point of the article was to impress on the reader the value of leading high cards when you need to remain on lead. The basic position is something like this.



If the defence need to take four tricks right away, East must begin with the queen, otherwise West is forced to win the trick and can no longer attack the suit safely. In this instance, this is because partner's cards are too strong for us to retain the lead otherwise, but a high switch could also be necessary if dummy is the one with high spot cards.



Once again, the defence can take four tricks if East is on lead, but only if East begins with a high card. If East leads the 8 or 7, declarer can play low from hand, forcing West to play the ace to prevent the ten from scoring.

The ten in dummy makes it harder for the defence to take the tricks they are entitled to, and to take four tricks East must begin with the king and follow up with the jack to crush the ten. It's also good enough to start with the jack, but that isn't strictly necessary.

It would however be necessary to start with the jack if East had a worse holding.



Now it is not good enough for East to start with the king. Declarer will cover the jack on the second round and West can't continue the suit while declarer still has the eight.

To make the most of West's nine, the defence need to lead through declarer once the ten is removed from the equation and that means beginning with the jack. If declarer covers, West wins with the ace and plays one back to the king. Now declarer is down to ♠86 and a lead into West's ♠97 will be good enough for four tricks. The same principle applies to other layouts:



As always, these plays may look overly fanciful, but I assure you that such layouts do occur at the bridge table. And sometimes, switching to a middling card can be necessary for a reason that is difficult to predict. Let's look at a full hand:

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

South is in 3NT. Partner leads the ♠J against this simple game, and declarer wins in hand with the ♠K. They then play the ♣Q which runs round to our winning ♣K.

Now we have to find a switch. Leading back partner's suit is usually correct, but the strong spades in dummy suggests otherwise. That means attacking diamonds or hearts. In this case, dummy's diamonds are much stronger than hearts, so a heart switch feels natural. But which heart should we switch to?

If partner has something like ♥KJxx, it doesn't really matter what we switch to. In fact, it would be better if we switched to a low heart, letting partner know that we had an honour ourselves. But what if partner's hearts are something like ♥AJxx? That would give declarer ♥Kxx, and they could counter our low heart switch by simply playing low, forcing partner to win the lead and keeping declarer's ♥K safe from further attack.

Evidently, we should switch to a higher card. The ♥Q looks good and would communicate to partner that we like hearts. We could also switch to the ♥10 as it is higher than dummy's ♥9 and would allow us to retain the lead.

But why would we risk switching to that card? Partner might not appreciate that the ♥10 is from such a robust holding and it's not as if we would ever need to switch to the ♥10 specifically. Right?

Let's consider one other layout:

Hand 2	♠ A Q 7 ♥ 9 2 ♦ Q 6 5 3 ♣ A J 10 9	Online readers can click here
♠ J 10 9 5 ♥ K 8 7 6 ♦ K 9 ♣ 8 3 2		
	♠ K 6 3 ♥ A J 4 ♦ A 10 4 2 ♣ Q 5 4	

Now partner has just the ♥K while declarer has the ♥AJ. What will happen if we switch to the ♥Q? Well, declarer will rise with the ace, fearful of another lead through their holding. With three spade winners, three club winners, and the two red

aces, declarer will have little choice but to look for a ninth trick in diamonds. And because partner has the ♦K, partner will be the one to win the trick, and will be unable to attack hearts with the ♥J still on their right.

Does that mean we should switch to a low card? Well, that could work if declarer tries the ♥J, but what if declarer tries to make use of the impressively strong ♥9? Declarer can once again counter us by playing low. Partner will be forced to play the ♥K to prevent the ♥9 from scoring and that will leave declarer with ♥AJ hanging over our ♥Q.

It doesn't seem like there's anything to be done, but there is one card in the East hand to defeat the contract and that card is the ♥10. What can declarer do?

If declarer plays the ace, then the ♥K and ♥Q will be enough to cash our tricks once we regain the lead. If declarer plays the ♥J on our ♥10, partner wins with the ♥K and returns the suit. And if declarer plays low, we just continue the suit. There is nothing declarer can do.

Obviously, it would be a little lucky to find declarer with this exact holding (where the ♥10 is a big winner), but that does not mean the ♥10 is a bad play. The first thing to appreciate is that switching to the ♥10 is never going to be worse than switching to the ♥Q. It's still just as successful when partner has ♥KJ or ♥AJ or really anything. Partner may have a moment of confusion when they first see the ♥10 hit the table, but when they recognise that the ♥9 is in dummy, they should realise that your ♥10 is an unusual card and that you might be leading from a holding like this.

The second thing to appreciate is that the ♥10 isn't that fancy a play. You don't need to figure out every different holding declarer can have; you just need to stick to basic principles.

When you are leading through declarer (or dummy), you should lead a high card if you are worried that you might need to retain the lead. And you should try to lead a middling high card. And that often means leading higher than the dummy. □

Eating Cake – Stephen's last article on Smith Peter signals drew a letter from a reader which is published on p56, together with Stephen's reply.



Clever play

E/W Game. Dlr East

♠ J 6 4
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ J 6
♣ K J 9 2

♠ A K 7
♥ A 8 7 5 3
♦ K 10 5 3
♣ 4

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

Continuing our series of hands from the Premier League, this hand caught out several declarers, but possibly it shouldn't. East opens 1♣, South overcalls 1♥, West doubles and North bids 3♣, showing seven to nine points and four-card support. East continues with 4♣ and South has a go at 4♥ which is doubled by West. West leads the ♠2, you try the jack from dummy and it holds the trick. How do you plan the play?

You know a lot about the opponents' hands. West surely would have led a singleton club if held, therefore you can assume East has eight. You also know from the bidding that the spades are 4-3, and that East almost certainly holds the ♦A. If trumps are 4-0, the contract will be impossible, so let's assume East began with one. We now have a full picture of the hand, but how do you proceed?

It looks natural enough to cross to the ace of hearts and lead another one towards dummy, but can you see a problem with that? West will win the second round, put partner in with a diamond to cash the ♣A, and collect a club ruff. If you still had

the ace of trumps in hand that wouldn't be a problem since you could ruff high and take the heart finesse. Therefore you must cross to a spade and lead a low heart from hand.

The best the defence can do is to win this with the king, cross to partner's ace of diamonds, and for East to get off lead with a third spade. Now you can draw trumps, but you are still left with two diamond losers in hand and only one trump to ruff with in dummy. However, since East has nothing but clubs, you can exit with a club, and you will be presented with a club trick to dispose of your fourth diamond.

Alternatively you could cash the third spade before playing a trump, and now East will have to play a club when in with the diamond. Again if the ace is cashed followed by a low one, you must trump with the ace. This was the full deal:

South plays 4♥. West leads the ♠2

♠ J 6 4
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ J 6
♣ K J 9 2

♠ Q 5 3 2
♥ K J 2
♦ Q 9 8 7 4 2
♣ -

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 4
♦ A
♣ A Q 10 8 7 6 5 3

♠ A K 7
♥ A 8 7 5 3
♦ K 10 5 3
♣ 4

Cont/...



HEATHER'S HINTS

- ❖ A useful competitive convention to play is a jump cue-bid of the opponent's suit, showing what is referred to as a mixed raise. This means that it is somewhere in between a pre-emptive raise and a proper high-card raise. It can be useful to help partner to judge whether to press on, but also it uses up space, potentially forcing the opponents into a guess.
- ❖ Try to build up a picture of the hand while making your plan. Sometimes this is impossible at trick one, but where there has been plenty of bidding, you will have more clues. On this hand, you had a very good idea of the opponents' hands, and this was crucial to the play. It may not have been a very wise double from West, and also an unlucky lead, but taking advantage of these things is all part of the game. □

GUERNSEY BRIDGE CONGRESS



Monday 9th - Sunday 15th September

Travel to glorious Guernsey and enjoy a relaxing bridge holiday

Events include: Championship Pairs, Seniors Pairs, Multiple Teams, Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams Pre-Congress Festival Pairs



Visit: ebu.co.uk/competitions/guernsey-bridge-congress

Lady Milne Trophy 2024

England has retained the Lady Milne Trophy after a close contest, with Ireland, Wales and Scotland all in contention. The event took place in late April in Gormanston, Ireland. Playing for England were Nevena Senior & Anne Rosen, Sally Brock & Maggie Knottenbelt and Sally & Venetia Anoyrkatis with NPC Heather Dhondy.



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIALS & SELECTIONS

OPEN

Andrew Robson & David Gold
Tom Townsend & Ben Handley-Pritchard
Ben Norton & Stefano Tommasini
NPC Paul Barden

WOMENS

Diana Nettleton & Sally Brock
Nevena Senior & Nicola Smith
Helen Erichsen & Fiona Brown
NPC David Burn

SENIORS

David Mossop & Gunnar Hallberg
Alan Mould & John Holland
Patrick Shields & Richard Chamberlain
NPC Paul Hackett

MIXED

Sarah Bell & Mike Bell
Heather Dhondy & Kieran Dyke
Maggie Knottenbelt & Michael Byrne
NPC Derek Patterson



John Hutson's Discard

Half-way through the school duplicate, Hutson and Phillips from the fifth form faced the senior maths master and the head of physics.

'I always feel nervous against this young pair,' quipped Bertie Bellis. 'Is it the same for you, partner?'

Percy Cutforth laughed. 'I'll try not to show it,' he replied.

This was the deal before them:

Game All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Percy Cutforth	Neil Phillips	Bertie Bellis	John Hutson
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Percy Cutforth led the ♥J and John Hutson nodded confidently as he surveyed the dummy. Yes, if there was a trump loser, he could eliminate hearts and clubs and exit with a trump. The defender with the trump queen would then have to open the diamond suit. How lucky to be playing this deal against opponents who would recognise a good play when they saw one!

Hutson won the heart lead with the king and continued with the ace and king of trumps. He was not in the least disappointed when West showed out on the second round. He might now get a good score by playing the deal better than the other declarers.

Hutson crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart in his hand. He continued with three rounds of clubs, everyone following, and then led a trump to East's queen. Without a pause, Bertie Bellis placed the queen of diamonds on the table.

Hutson had been hoping for a low diamond return, which he could have run to dummy's 10, assuring the contract. Still, if the queen was from the queen-jack, he could achieve a similar effect now by ducking. Bertie B would then have to lead away from the ♦J. When three spot cards appeared on the table, the maths master continued with a low diamond. His partner collected two further tricks in the suit and the game was one down.

Neil Phillips looked quizzically across the table. 'Can't you cover the queen with the king?' he queried. 'You make my ten then, don't you?' He scribbled an entry on the scoresheet. 'Yes, most pairs have made it.'

Bertie Bellis leaned forward. 'Some Easts may not have found my queen of diamonds play,' he suggested. 'It was the only chance for us, though. I would have led the queen from AQx, as well, continuing with a low card.'

John Hutson considered the matter. 'Yes, I see,' he replied. 'Against a strong defender, I should play according to Restricted Choice. When the queen or jack is led, it's more likely to be from AQx, AJx, Qxx or Jxx than from QJx.'

The session continued, and in the penultimate round, the two fifth-formers faced the oversized Harry Walsh-Atkins. Much feared by the younger boys, he wore the black jacket awarded to school prefects. Many boys were wary of scoring good

boards against him, but Hutson and Phillips would show no such reticence.

The players drew these cards:

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Harry Walsh-Atkins</i>	<i>Neil Phillips</i>	<i>Clive Simkins</i>	<i>John Hutson</i>
Pass	2♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass		Pass	6NT

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

Harry Walsh-Atkins had no answer when the ♣J was led. He played low, hoping for a miracle, but declarer overtook with the queen, cashed the ♠J and led a heart to his king for the twelfth trick.

‘Wow, well done,’ exclaimed Neil Phillips. ‘You must have had a good hand if you could make 6NT after throwing an ace away!’ □



Walsh-Atkins led the ♥9 and inspected the threadbare dummy disapprovingly. Raising to 4NT on such rubbish was disrespectful to his seniors and betters. He turned towards the declarer. ‘Is something amusing you?’ he demanded.

John Hutson kept his eyes firmly on his own splendid hand. ‘No,’ he replied. ‘Nothing at all.’

East overtook the ♥9 with his ten. Hutson won with the ace and noted that 6♦ would have been a better prospect. Still, too late for that. He played the three top diamonds and crossed to dummy with a fourth round. ‘Queen of spades, please,’ he said. East played low and the queen was run successfully, Walsh-Atkins shaking his head at declarer’s good fortune.

There was no future in playing a spade to the 10, but Hutson had another idea in mind. ‘Play the last diamond, please,’ he said. Eyebrows were raised around the table as he discarded the ace of clubs from his hand.

A spade to the 10, followed by the spade ace, left these cards still to be played:

1st Transnational European Online Women’s Team Championship

The 1st Transnational European Online Women’s Team Championship will take place in early June on RealBridge.

Entries are now open for the event and the schedule will be:

- ♣ 7th-8th June: Qualifying 9am - 5pm BST (Swiss format)
- ♣ 9th June: Final 9am - 5pm BST (Round Robin format)

Participants will be able to win European Bridge League (EBL) master points, medals & money, but more importantly, will have the opportunity to gain international experience in the global arena.

Entry is €120 per team (4-6 players). More details can be found on:

www://sites.google.com/view/eowtc





Never-ending in 5NT

What is the least common contract in bridge? The full answer to this is 5NT redoubled, but just playing in 5NT isn't something you see every day, every week or even every year. But if you'd been at the semi-finals of the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai, you'd have seen the following disaster – assuming, that is, you'd managed to stay awake.

Game All. Dealer West.

♠ K J 6
♥ A K 10 7 6
♦ A K
♣ A 10 3

♠ –
♥ 9 4 3 2
♦ J 9 7 6 5 4
♣ Q 9 6

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 3
♥ Q J 5
♦ 10
♣ J 5 2

♠ A 8 4 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ K 8 7 4

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

¹ Good hand;
² Three controls – an ace & king, or three kings;
³ Once South had responded 2♣ the auction was systematically forcing as far as 4NT, so North bid that;
⁴ An invitation to North to choose a slam;
⁵ A polite refusal to do so.

West led a diamond and South examined the dummy, his own hand, the floor, the ceiling, and one or two items of surrounding furniture. He continued to do this for some considerable time

before winning in dummy and playing a low spade to the ace.

West's diamond discard on this trick seemed unlikely to alleviate South's perplexity, and indeed it did not. After several more minutes of contemplation South led the ♥8 on which West followed with the four. This particular suit combination is not often discussed in the literature, but analysis shows that other things being equal the best play for four tricks is either to run the eight or play the ten, hoping you have guessed well.

However, the 6-0 spade break meant that other things were far from equal, and as a technical matter South's best chance was to play ace, king and a low heart, which would have proved successful. Running the eight would also work, but South instead put in the ten which lost to the jack. East continued with ♥Q and South commenced a third session of inner communion. Emerging, he won the trick in dummy with the ♥A and cashed the ♥K. At this point East, in an understandable lapse of concentration, followed with the five ... of spades.

Noticing his revoke before it had become established, East substituted the five of hearts on the third round of the suit. The five of spades was now technically a penalty card, and declarer could claim the contract by calling for dummy's ♠J on which East would have had to follow with the offending ♠5.

But he didn't do this. Conscious of the fact that East's misdemeanour was as much South's fault as anyone's for having taken twenty minutes over five tricks and put everyone else at the table to sleep, declarer told East he could pick up the five of spades without penalty. The trouble was that there was no longer any way to make the contract, so the USA recorded the rare result of 5NT down one and fully expected to lose almost all their lead in the match.

Opinions in the bridge world are divided on whether South's action constituted 'high

Cont/p42



Ask Simon 2024

HELEN B (Hampton) writes in to say that she read in my book, *Bridge with a Twist*, that a holding of 952 in a suit, when rearranged as 925, is known as a Dolly Parton. She says that she has been looking for a Dolly Parton for over a year and hasn't had one. She asks what the odds of being dealt a Dolly are.

The odds of holding exactly 952 in any suit are 0.1%, about one deal in a thousand. So if you play 24 boards twice a week, you should get a Dolly every six months or so. Keep looking!

DAVE S (Royston) thinks a director's ruling wasn't fair. I was in an individual event, he writes, playing two board rounds with different partners. My partner bid on the second board while holding the cards from the previous board, and didn't notice until dummy went down. The director ruled that the board was fouled and that my partner and I should receive 40% on the board, and our opponents should each get 60%. I pointed out that it was an individual and that the mistake was nothing to do with me. I said I thought that the percentages should be 20% for the offender and 60% for the other three. The director said there was nothing in the Rule Book to support my view.

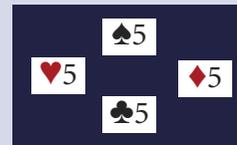
I am sure the director was right, but you have my sympathies.

That's two short answers, and the second one was more of a comment, because there wasn't a question to answer. Anyway, I get paid by the word, so here's a personal director anecdote. (It's the anecdote that's personal, the director is shared by all of us.)

I was playing in a large field in my inexperienced youth. Something happened at my table; I don't remember what. I put my hand up and called out in a loud voice: 'Declarer!' I tried to laugh it off as a

deliberately ironic mis-call, but my very red face gave the game away.

Harriet C (Wimbledon) has written to tell me about an interesting trick from a game on BBO – and has even provided proof that it actually happened. At some stage, in a diamond contract, she led the winning ♠5 from hand. Left-hand opponent played the ♥5, the losing ♠5 was discarded from dummy, and RHO ruffed with the ♦5.



I don't remember seeing that before. If you have any interesting tricks, please let me know. Maybe a finesse of the four worked, or the last trump being successfully drawn with the three. Or maybe you played a contract such that the last four cards in dummy were the same denomination. Please provide some evidence, if you can.

And now for yet another question that isn't really a question. By way of background I should explain that the Multi is banned at club level in the US. At tournament level it is only permitted if you provide a written defence – to which your opponents may refer during the bidding.

JULIUS C (Somerset) writes about playing at a club in Florida when on holiday with his wife.

I opened 1NT. She announced it as 12-14 and bid 2♣. I alerted and, when asked, said it showed a multitude of possible hands.

On hearing the partial word 'multi' my opponents snapped into action; one reached for her smelling-salts and the other called for the director.

Cont/p42

When the director arrived, I continued my explanation:

‘She has between zero and 28 points; she could be distributional or she could be balanced. She could have one or two 4-card majors; she could be 5-4 in the majors; if she has a weak hand with a 4-card major, she could have a 6- or 7-card minor as well.’

They absorbed all this and the director asked what the responses were.

‘She will bid 2♥ or 2♠ with a four card major, and 2♦ without one.’

‘You mean like Stayman?’ said the director.

‘Exactly like Stayman,’ I replied. ‘That’s what we call it in England. I wasn’t sure what it is called over here, or whether it is played the same way. I didn’t want to be accused of less than full disclosure.’

My only comment is that Stayman does indeed appear to be a Multi!

LYN F (Highgate) wants to know why the EBU doesn’t sell replica shirts; after all, football clubs offset enormous transfer fees by selling millions of shirts worldwide.

I am sure the EBU would be happy to sell mere thousands of shirts at a small profit, but somehow I don’t see the youth of Asia (or anywhere else) rushing out to buy shirts with Forrester, Brock, or even Zia on the back. I have checked and the EBU doesn’t have members called Messi, Ronaldo or Beckham. But there are some members called Kane; maybe it could be arranged for one of them to become an international, and then cash in. The EBU could sell shirts with NO TRUMP on the back but it tries to stay apolitical.

I have noticed that images of the famous are used in other ways. Football video games feature digitally-animated likenesses of famous players, and you can go to a concert where avatars of the four members of ABBA appear as holograms and perform their greatest hits. I think the EBU could negotiate with online bridge games that use video, like RealBridge, to use images of famous players as avatar partners. They will bid as well (or badly) as your real partner; they will play as badly (or well) as your real partner; but they will look like Andrew Robson or Nevena Senior.

Since this appears to be a column with lots of true stories and only a couple of real questions, here’s another anecdote to finish off with.

I was playing against a professional player and a Japanese client. I underled the king of hearts against a spade contract. Dummy went down with AQxx in hearts and the Japanese declarer, with a small doubleton heart in hand, called for the ace. The contract went one down and the pro asked why she hadn’t finessed.

‘In Japan we never underlead a king,’ came the reply.

‘Which did you think was more likely,’ asked the pro, ‘that East held a singleton king of hearts, or that Simon is Japanese?’ □



Sc Scarborough
Congress
a long weekend bridge holiday for everyone!
Crown Hotel & Spa,
Sc Scarborough
18th - 21st July 2024
More info:
ebu.co.uk/competitions/scarsborough

The English Bridge Union logo is at the bottom of the poster, featuring a diamond shape with the letters 'E', 'B', 'U' and symbols for hearts, spades, clubs, and diamonds.

Great Bridge Disasters, cont from p40

sportsmanship’ (as it was described in the official report of the match) or was a deplorable breach of the Laws of the game. Those of the former persuasion will no doubt consider it only right that the match was not actually lost on this deal – indeed, the board itself was not actually lost because at the other table North chose to describe his hand as a balanced 23-24 and South, after an artificial enquiry revealed no playable trump suit, put his partner in 6NT which failed by two tricks. Disasters at bridge, as we have seen so often, rarely strike where they should. □



Beat Today's Experts

1. Game All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Spears</i>	<i>Sanders</i>	<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Freimanis</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT ^A	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

We will start with two deals from the Scottish Cup Final. East opens a 15-17 1NT, and a double from South would have shown a major-minor hand. West's 2NT was a transfer to diamonds, and East's 3♦ indicated a trump fit. What should West do next?

You can visualise East hands where 5♦ will be playable, but leaping to the five level is somewhat wild. The opponents may hold 20 points. 'Swap your major suit honours for the two aces, and you might make six!' West may have told his partner.

South was happy to double 5♦, even though a spade void with West might prevent any spade tricks. He led a top spade and switched to a club. When he won with the ♦A, he cashed the ♥A and gave North a club ruff for +500.

At the other table Brian Short passed East's 3♦, and the resultant +110 netted 12 IMPs. (As the cards lay, 3NT by East would have been unbeatable!)

Awards: 3♦ (10), 1NT (6), 4♦ (5), 3NT (3), 5♦ (0).

2. Game All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Sime</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Diamond</i>
1NT	Pass	2♠ ^A	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠ ^A	Pass
4♣ ^A	Pass	4♦ ^A	Pass
4♥ ^A	Pass	5♥ ^A	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

The next deal is on a similar theme. Short shows a club suit, then a spade shortage. What should West say next? The ♠QJ9 might be valueless in a club contract, and so may the red-suit jacks. With three keycards outside spades, Goodman ignored these factors and bid 4♣, which was RKCB. Short showed one keycard, and 4♥ then asked for the trump queen. 5♥ said 'Yes, and the ♥K,' and the no-play 6♣ was reached.

North cashed a spade and switched to a trump. Declarer then needed the fortunate diamond position to escape for one down. At the other table, after the same first four bids, Barnet Shenkin (West) bid a sensible 3NT, collecting +600 for 13 IMPs.

Awards: 3NT (10), 4NT (8), 5♣ (5), 6♣/6♦ (2).

Cont/p44

3.N/S Game. Dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J McMahon</i>	<i>J Edler</i>	<i>C McMahon</i>	<i>S Edler</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥ ^A	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

This deal is from the Australia-wide Club Final, with Wagga Wagga facing Tasmania BA. East opens a 15-17 1NT and West has 10 HCP,

enough for game. Yes, but is it strong enough to consider an 11-trick game in a minor? When he finds no spade fit, John McMahon continues with a natural 3♣. Over 3♦, he shows a shortage in hearts. East might have bid 3NT now. However, partner's introduction of a minor suit implies that he is strong enough to contemplate an 11-trick game. With three aces and the ♣Q, East is fully entitled to bid 4♣, raised to 5♣. The defenders take three diamond tricks. When trumps break 3-2, the game is only one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Lloyd</i>	<i>Currie</i>	<i>Grosvenor</i>	<i>Glover</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Tania Lloyd earns a 'Bravo!' for her well-judged 3NT rebid. Her hand is simply not strong enough for a minor suit game. Eleven tricks are made and 11 IMPs are the reward.

Awards: 3NT (10), 5♣ (4), part-scores (2).

4. Love All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jeffrey</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>	<i>Yulin Li</i>	<i>Ashton</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Sydney 2 faced *Sydney 5* in the final of the Australian Grand National Open Teams. Yulin Li temporarily agreed diamonds as

trumps, heard a heart cue-bid and bid RKCB. When West showed the ♦AK, Li correctly bid the slam in no trumps. A bad diamond break might scupper 6♦, while twelve tricks are available in 6NT.

Peter Jeffrey won the ♥2 lead with the ace and cashed the ♥J. He then led the ♦J, running the card when it was not covered. Three spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs added to twelve, and declarer scored +990. He could have added a thirteenth trick with a black-suit squeeze on North, or (better) a double squeeze around the club suit.

West	North	East	South
<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Peake</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Mundell</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Some would treat 4NT as natural. David Beauchamp read it as RKCB for diamonds, showing his two keycards. Matthew Thompson then bid 5♠ to ask for the ♦Q. Beauchamp took this as a sign-off, but how else was East expected to ask for the ♦Q? +480 was made for 11 IMPs away.

Awards: 6NT (10), 6♦ (8), 7NT (3), games (2).

5. N/S Game. Dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
<i>R Brocken</i>	<i>Bens</i>	<i>M Brocken</i>	<i>Bonin</i>
1NT	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♣	Pass

France faced the Netherlands in the 2023 Channel Trophy Under-21 teams. What do you make of the auction? Should West not bid 4♣ rather than 3NT? North led a club and 3NT went one down. Meanwhile, twelve tricks were available in 4♣.

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>L Wijs</i>	<i>Gallard</i>	<i>S Wijs</i>
1NT	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
		4♣	All Pass

West took the same questionable view here, but East's removal to 4♣ came to the rescue. Twelve tricks were duly made and France gained 11 IMPs.

Awards: 4♣ (10), 5♣ (9), 6♣ (8), 5♦ (4) 3NT (2).

6. Game All. Dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gahan</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>La Chapelle</i>	<i>Kurek</i>
1♣	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

England face France in the Channel Trophy U26 section for women. What should Elizabeth Gahan respond? As I see it, you should announce the diamond fit immediately, either with an inverted 2♦, or (better) a splinter 3♥. Across the Atlantic, some claim that a diamond response denies a 4-card major. Oh, yes? If you respond 1♠, the auction may take any number of awkward turns.

Gahan might have bid 5♦ on the next round but held her fire with a double. Sunlight finally entered, and it was +600 to England.

West	North	East	South
<i>Schlumberger</i>	<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Anoyrkatis</i>
1♣	2♥	Pass	3♥
4♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West's first response caused further anguish in Chandlers Ford – even for our new cat, Sophie, who was watching from my lap. She jumped disapprovingly to the floor when West chose to double 4♥. Kim Hudson took her eleven tricks for +990, and England gained 17 IMPs.

Awards: 5♦ (10), 6♦/4♥ (5), 3NT (4).

Our stars tot up a sad 28/60. No postal claims will be necessary if you beat this total.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Think twice before bidding 5♣ or 5♦ rather than 3NT. If you have a shortage somewhere, this is the most likely suit for partner to hold well.
- ❖ Be willing to question such rigid rules as 'always show a 4-card major'.





Trouble at the table

Barry Whiteley asks about alerting bids when playing the McKendrick convention.

McKendrick is a 2♠ response to an opening 1NT, where 2♠ asks if partner is maximum, and opener rebids 3♣ with a maximum, and 2NT otherwise. Responder may also bid 2♠ with a hand which just wants to play in 3 of a minor.

If opener responds 2NT (not maximum) and responder then bids 3NT should responder alert the 2NT bid? 3NT being nothing further partner.

The 2NT rebid is non-forcing and does not show unusual information about strength, so it is not alertable. But it is not wrong to alert and explain 'not maximum'.

Other McKendrick bids are alerted/announced as follows:

1NT: announce

1NT-2♠: alert (because it is artificial, not spades).

1NT-2♠-3♣: alert (because it is artificial, not clubs)

3NT rebids by responder (to play) are not alertable, but you should offer to explain to defenders before the opening lead, as follows:

1NT-2♠-2NT-3NT: responder has signed off but would have made slam try opposite 3♣ (maximum).

1NT-2♠-3♣-3NT: responder has bid game opposite a maximum, and would have passed 2NT (not maximum).

A question about when to ask questions! The auction is complete, and before the left hand opponent chooses his lead he asks the meaning of a bid. Declarer says that he needs to place his lead face down on the table and then ask his question. LHO explains that his question needs answering as this could dictate his lead.

Declarer replied that he had time during the auction to seek an explanation.

The sequence is

- ♣ There are three passes and the auction ends.
- ♣ Opening leader only can ask questions about the auction.
- ♣ Opening leader selects the opening lead and leads face down.
- ♣ The other defender and declarer ask questions about the auction.
- ♣ When the questions are finished, the opening leader faces the opening lead.
- ♣ Dummy is spread and play continues.

The opening leader must be allowed to ask questions before choosing the opening lead – the answers to the questions may affect the choice of opening lead.

The other players cannot ask questions before the opening lead is selected because the questions/answers may influence the opening lead.

The other players should ask questions before the lead is faced and dummy is spread so that it is clear that their questions relate to the auction, and are not influenced by the choice of opening lead or the cards in dummy. Either defender may ask further questions during the play, at their turn to play – but such questions create unauthorised information and can (illegally) influence their partner's play.

David Joy sought clarification of when a double is to be alerted. In the 2022 Blue Book (and the Announcing and Alerting summary) it said that a double of a conventional suit bid, where the double doesn't show the bid suit, should be alerted. This line has disappeared from the 2023 equivalents.

Does this mean that it's no longer required to alert such a double or is it covered by the catch-all unexpected specific meaning?

Many alerts of doubles are no longer required under the 2023 Blue Book.

The only regulation which applies to a double of a suit bid where the bid doesn't show the suit, is

(Blue Book 4B2)

iv. Any double that has an unexpected specific message, e.g. relating to another suit, or number of controls, weakness in bid suit

So if a double of a conventional suit bid shows values or nothing unexpected and specific, then it is not alerted.

But if a double of a conventional suit bid specifically shows shortage in the suit bid it is alerted.

Roger Harris asked about a possible concession. Declarer (South) was in 3♠ and is on lead with five tricks to play. East puts his cards face down in a pile (in front of him) on the table and says something like 'I think the rest are all yours'. Declarer shows her cards and says something like 'oh really', or 'ok then'. East then says 'let's play them out'. Then dummy calls the director as he believes it was a concession and therefore all play stops.

I was a playing director and I did not see all the cards but the defence seemed to have a certain trick. East clearly says he did not concede, and anyway he asked for the hand to be played out.

My question is: did East concede – the rules 68-71 seem a bit unclear about what is a concession but I think he meant it to be – and can he then change his mind if he has seen declarer's hand. How do I know that defence might have misplayed and not got their trick?

Law 68 and then Law 71 help to untangle this.

'A player also claims when he suggests that play be curtailed' (Law 68A)

East's original statement suggests that play is over, so is a claim, and is a statement that E/W will take no more tricks, so is a concession of all the remaining tricks.

'A player concedes all the remaining tricks when he abandons his hand.' (Law 68B1)

East put his cards face down as if played, so this is

a concession of the remainder.

West could have objected 'immediately' to the concession, in which case play continues (Law 68B2). But West did not, so play is suspended.

East, having claimed/conceded, cannot request that play may continue; and regardless of who requests that play continue, any player, including dummy, can refuse and call the Director. (Law 68D2(b)).

But if East/West have a certain trick, the concession can be cancelled: '... the Director shall cancel a concession: ... if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards.' (Law 71B)

It appears that Law 71B applies. The TD should rule that there was a concession but the concession is cancelled and the board is scored with one trick (of the last five) for the defence.

A question following an incident in a club. An infraction was committed but because it was the very first round of the session, the player waited until later in the session to speak to the Director, but the Director said they could only rule if called immediately. Is that correct?

Law 9A says the director should be called immediately there is an infraction. But Law 92B says a player can ask for a ruling up to 30 minutes after the scores are available (the 'correction period'). For a club session, the correction period may be much longer.

So, it is allowed to call the director later than 'immediately' and get a ruling. The director is bound to rule if called during the session; but some rectifications will not be possible if the director is called late, and it may not be possible to determine the facts.

According to Law 81C3, the director must 'rectify an error or irregularity of which he becomes aware in any manner, within the periods established in accordance with Laws 79C and 92B.'

The bottom line is that the director must consider a ruling if called later in the session. □

If you have a question for Robin please email him at robin@ebu.co.uk



Answers to February's Problems

This issue the first two problems are from frequent correspondent Dave Simmons (hi Dave) and the third from Manchester player Espen Gisvold.

Hand 1
♠ 9
♥ J7
♦ Q 10 9 8 7 4
♣ A 7 5 4

South	West	North	East
		3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A short and sharp auction from the opponents lands them in 4♠. What is best?

- a) ♠9: 2 marks. I cannot see any case at all to lead this. Unless dummy has a ruffing value (unlikely) it will achieve nothing, and will carve up any trump holding partner might just have. Remember, declarer may not be able to get to dummy. But at least it is better than this...
- (b) ♥J: 1 mark, ♥7: 0 marks. At best this will achieve nothing. At worst declarer will happily take pitches on dummy's top hearts while you both hopelessly follow, or worse still partner will try and give you a ruff (as why else would you have led this?). It is certain partner will try and give you a ruff if you lead the ♥7, hence the 0 marks for it.
- (c) ♦10: 9 marks, other diamonds: 4 marks. This is a sensible lead, and the mark reflects it. There is no reason not to lead the natural card here.
- (d) ♣A: 10 marks, any other club: 1 mark. Well at least the computer will agree with me! I just worry that there will be a lot of discards coming on the hearts and we have to grab our tricks as fast as possible – hence this lead. Dave Simmons had a sad story to relate on this hand. He led ♦10

and dummy hit with ♠xx ♥KQxxxxx ♦xx ♣xx. Partner had ♦AKxx and so inevitably tried to cash the second one, and that was 12 tricks for declarer. 😊

Pairs Bonus: ♣A: 5 marks.

Computer simulations – best lead:

♦10/9/8/7: 29.8% chance of defeating the contract (teams)

♣A – highest average tricks taken with this lead (pairs proxy)

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

South	West	North	East
		2♦ ¹	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
¹ weak with diamonds			

Another short and sharp auction. What to do? Personally, with the exception of diamonds, I think this is quite close and the marks reflect that view.

- (a) a spade: 8 marks. This is safe-ish (but is that what we need?) and may hit partner. I bet it is what the computer leads. You should lead whichever pip your methods say you should lead from xxx.
- (b) ♥4: 10 marks, other heart: 2 marks. The computer will hate this lead, but I stand by it at IMPs. To beat this contract you need to find partner with quite a lot of stuff, and he needs less in hearts than he does in anything else to make it right. I wouldn't lead it at Pairs.
- (c) ♦K/J: 1 mark. This lead makes no sense.
- (d) ♣J: 9 marks, ♣5: 8 marks, ♣10/8: 1 mark. This combines some safety with trying to set up tricks.

A slightly worrying concern is that unless declarer has a diamond fit, they may well have leapt to 3NT on the strength of a club suit....

Dave Simmons tells me that partner had ♣AKxx and out, so you have five tricks off 3NT – four clubs (declarer had ♣Qx) and your diamond trick. So you have to lead a club, or switch when you are in with the ♦K. The extra heart trick you gift declarer on the lead is irrelevant.

Pairs Bonus: ♠J or a spade: 5 marks.

Computer simulations – best lead:

♠9/8: 45.4% chance of defeating the contract (teams)

♠J/10: 4.18 tricks – highest average tricks taken with this lead (pairs proxy).

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

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

¹ Limit raise with 4+ trumps; ² Cuebids

This time the opponents have produced a lengthy auction at it ought to cost them. This is a hand about listening to the bidding and drawing the right inferences. Have you listened?

(a) **a spade: 4 marks.** Safe, but safe is not what this hand needs.

(b) **♥J: 10 marks, ♥A: 8 marks, ♥10/2: 3 marks.**

Well, have you listened? The opponents have cue bid both minors and then signed off. Why? Because neither of them has a heart control. Therefore you *know* partner has the ♥K and therefore you should be cashing heart tricks fast. At the table the opponents had Qxx of hearts in dummy and xxx in hand so you survive the ♥A lead, but what if they were reversed with Qxx in hand? Then you have let the contract through. Hearts are the only suit to beat 6♣ (bid and made at the other table on a less informative auction). Similar to December, another case of careless talk costs contracts!

(c) **a diamond: 4 marks.** If I wasn't going to lead a heart, then this, through dummy's cuebid, would be my second choice (though partner has not doubled 4♦ so that is a negative for the diamond lead). But really you should look no further than the heart lead.

(d) **a club: 1 mark.** There is no case to lead round into declarer's double cue bid.

Pairs bonus: ♥J: 5 marks. Beating 5♥ will be a great board; letting it make six will be an average at best.

Computer simulations – best lead:

♥J/10: 24.7% chance of defeating the contract (teams)

♥J/10: 2.27 tricks – highest average tricks taken with this lead (pairs proxy)

The full results of the computer simulation can be found on page 70.

An appendix detailing the methodology can be found by clicking here.



SEND IN YOUR LEAD PROBLEMS

Email the editor, lou@ebu.co.uk. Alan will be delighted to use them if suitable.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FEBRUARY'S WINNERS:

Master: Andrew Peel, Horsforth

Open: Danny Roth, Chigwell

Sponsored by

Gibsons



Hand 2

	♠ 7 6										
	♥ 5										
	♦ K Q 10 6 3										
	♣ Q J 10 5 2										
♠ 9 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ K J 10 8 5 4
	N										
W	E										
	S										
♥ Q 9 8 6 2		♥ K 7 3									
♦ 9 5 4		♦ A 8									
♣ A 9 4		♣ 8 7									
	♠ A Q 2										
	♥ A J 10 4										
	♦ J 7 2										
	♣ K 6 3										

3NT. East opened 1♠. West leads ♠9, East overtakes with the ♠10.

You have bid aggressively to land in 3NT, so making your contract may lead to a positive swing for your team.

You have two top tricks, and following the spade lead, you can win an extra trick in spades. There is also the potential to win four tricks in both clubs and diamonds. If you win an extra trick in spades however, then you will only need to win six tricks in the minors.

It looks like spades are 6-2 or 7-1, so if East has both the ♣A and the ♦A, then he will be able to establish his spades before you can knock out both of his aces, so you will need West to have one of the missing aces. If you win the first trick with the ♠Q, and play on diamonds, then East can win the ♦A and continue spades. You can win the ♠A (or wait

till the third round in case spades are 5-3), and play on clubs, and with West holding the ♣A, and no more spades, you will be able to regain the lead to make your contract.

However, if you had guessed to play clubs first, then West would have continued spades, and when you now played on diamonds, East would win the ♦A and cash his remaining spades to defeat your contract. Is it just a guess which minor suit to play first?

If spades are 6-2, then you can avoid a guess by simply ducking the first trick. East can continue spades, but you win as cheaply as possible, and then lead a minor. If you guess to play clubs first, then West can win the ♣A, but will no longer be able to play another spade. If he switches to hearts, you can win the ♥A and play on diamonds, but the defenders will be unable to win more than one spade, one heart and two aces.



Hand 3

	♠ A 4										
	♥ 9 6 4										
	♦ Q J 10 6 3 2										
	♣ A 7										
♠ K J 9 8 7	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 8 2		♥ Q 10 7 3									
♦ K		♦ 9 7 4									
♣ Q 10 5 4		♣ J 9 6 2									
	♠ 6 5 3 2										
	♥ A K 5										
	♦ A 8 5										
	♣ K 8 3										

3NT. West leads the ♠8.

3NT is also likely to be the contract at the other table, so making your contract should at least result in a flat board, and could even lead to a winning position for your team.

You have six top tricks, and the possibility of at least four extra tricks in diamonds. However, if you lose a trick in diamonds, it is possible that the defenders will be able to win at least four spades in addition to this trick.

Assuming that West led his fourth highest spade, then it looks like spades will either be 4-3 or 5-2. If they are 4-3, you will only have three spade losers, so you should assume they are 5-2, and avoid the dangers that follow as a result. You therefore play the ♠4 from the dummy, and East wins with the ♠Q, then returns the ♠10.

In isolation, the best chance of avoiding a diamond loser is to hope that East has the ♦K, and finesse through East by starting with the ♦Q from

the dummy. However, in this case, if you lead the ♦Q from the dummy, and take a losing finesse, then West will win the ♦K and cash three more spades to beat your game.

Even worse, you would later discover that West only had one diamond, so had you played the ♦A on the first round then you would actually win 10 tricks. Is there any reason to do this, other than seeing all of the cards?

If West has the ♦Kx or ♦Kxx, and five spades, the contract will be unmakeable, and if East has the ♦K, you can always make ten tricks, even if you lose a trick to the ♦K, so the only avoidable danger is losing a trick when West has the singleton ♦K. You should therefore lead the ♦2 to the ♦A at trick three. When West's ♦K appears you will make 11 tricks, but if the ♦K did not fall, you would play another diamond. If East wins the ♦K, he will be unable to lead a spade, and you can win ten tricks once you regain the lead.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 4

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

6♥. West leads the ♦10.

You have enough points to make it likely that slam will also be bid at the other table, but making your slam will leave open the possibility of a positive swing.

You have 11 top tricks, and could make an extra trick in diamonds at trick one if West has led away from the ♦K, or in clubs if you can find the ♣Q.

If you play low from dummy at trick one, and West has the ♦K, you will have your extra trick immediately, but if East wins the ♦K, and returns a diamond, you will need to win all of the remaining tricks, and will have to find the ♣Q yourself. Is it necessary to risk the finesse at trick one?

If you spurn the finesse, and win the first trick with the ♦A, you can draw the outstanding trumps,

then play the ♠A, ♠K and trump a spade. While this will not give an extra trick since you are trumping in the long hand, it will eliminate spades as a safe exit suit for the defenders. You could now try to win three tricks in clubs by guessing which way to finesse, but there is a better solution available.

Can you see how to ensure that you make your slam from this point?

You can simply exit with the ♦Q. In this case, East will win the ♦K, and will either have to concede a ruff-and-discard in spades or diamonds, or lead a club. If he leads a club, then you can play low from hand to ensure three club tricks, and if West wins the ♦K, then he will have the same set of losing options. Either way, you will avoid losing a trick to the ♣Q, and succeed in making your slam. □



Look before you leap. So the saying goes, but in bridge we could say, think before you jump!

One challenge for the new player is knowing when to show strength, how to show strength and how to recognise partner's strong bids. *Bridge for All* textbooks provide step by step options for bids to show stronger hands with either rebids by opener or strong responses on the first round. Strong response bids are covered in the *Continuing Bridge book two* with advice on when to use and when not to use. *Beginning Bridge* has advice for the opening bidder, when holding a single long suit, an unbalanced two-suiter or a strong balanced hand. Here we give a flavour of these topics with questions to check understanding.

BRIDGE FOR ALL TEXTBOOKS

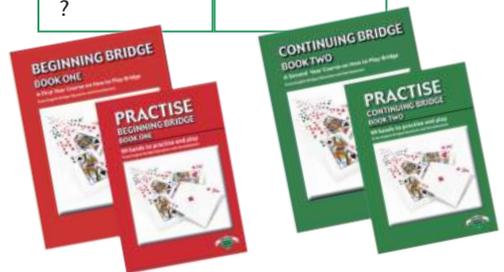
The **Bridge for All** textbooks have exercises and practice hands, and you can see preview pages on our website. Books can be purchased directly from EBED with discounts available for all members of English Bridge Teachers Association.

Contact Lisa Miller:
Tel: 01296 317217, Email:
lisa@ebedcio.org.uk

Q What is your next bid with each of these hands, with the auction given thus far?

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

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



12-15, so you must jump to show your second suit and only do this with a strong hand as the bid is game forcing.

4 Bid 2NT. Partner has shown 6-9 points and no 4-card major so with your balanced 17-18 points you may have game.

5 2♥ is a strong jump response on the first round, therefore forcing to game. Here you can support partner in a future bid if necessary, or rebid your suit, or bid NT further on in the auction.

1 Jumping to 3♥ shows 16+ points (and up to 18 as opener has not bid game). With a 6-card, single-suited hand, there is no other suit to mention, so the jump bid shows strength and length.

2 Here you can jump to game in partner's suit, which was the next suit you planned to bid anyway! Your partner's response showed six points so you need 19, but here your good 18 with shape is ideal.

3 Bid 3♦ which is a jump and change of suit. Bidding just 2♦ would mislead your partner into thinking your hand was a minimum, say

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

BBO ROBOTS

It's been quite a while since I played with a robot on BBO. At the time, the robot was rated as a queen on NGS. But when I looked recently at my ratings, I noticed the robot is now a 10 at 53.32.

I would have thought that robots satisfied all the NGS conditions to have a fairly steady rating. What has happened? Have the robots got worse, or humans better?

David Dunford

PROTECTING DIRECTORS

Bridge is about the only game where the referee/director decision isn't final. If the EBU ran football instead of the FA there wouldn't have been a Maradona 'hand of God' goal. But the ref called it as he saw it and that was the decision. These days VAR is available but as we recently found isn't infallible – but the decision still can't be reversed later.

I think we (bridge players) generally get a director who is appropriate to the forum. I play at a club and the director is a volunteer who has given up their time to train and then, usually to the detriment of their own playing performance, tries to keep order and apply the rules as best they can. At a county competition the TD is usually more highly qualified and doesn't play so can concentrate on the directing. At congress level it's a team of EBU panel directors – so as I say – all appropriate.

If the club TD, usually under time-constraint and perhaps breaking off as declarer, gives a less than correct ruling, the roof falls in. The more bolshie players immediately start arguing and if they don't get their own way, will lodge a formal objection to the club then the county and then the EBU. How many of the letters to Robin couched in the guise of a request for clarification are really that? If Robin supports the complainant it completely undermines the TD. All the members of that club will know who the director was, and you can bet the 'enquirer' will spread the knowledge far and wide that the TD was wrong. I'm not suggesting Robin shouldn't clarify the rules and to be sure he knows them better than any of us, but what about supporting the beleaguered TD?

I think the TD's decision at the time should be final. Hopefully they will be right 95% of the time. This would apply even in cases of judgement – perhaps after the ubiquitous bidding after partner hesitates. If, knowing the players, their character and perhaps tempo, they decide the bid wasn't based on UI or can be justified by the bidder and rules it was fair, then so be it. For most of us it's a weekly diversion and social event. If the TD tells me that I must lead a heart – then I'll lead a heart – end of. I may (probably on the way home in the car) think that it seemed an odd ruling – but they had their reason and may move in mysterious ways.

The EBU tries to get members to get involved and inspire them to train as club directors. It's a bit of a poisoned chalice if they know they will be judged to the same standards as the EBU Senior Directors. **Brian Dorey**

The right to an appeal of some sort is enshrined within the Laws of Bridge and although it is much less used at all levels than formerly, in part because our current processes ensure better rulings through consultation and polling, I don't think it would generally be considered to be an improvement for that right to be removed entirely. TDs of whatever level are expected to consult/poll before making judgement rulings and playing TDs should be under no pressure to do this while play is still in progress. There is a list of contact details for national TDs on the website who will be happy to help any TD if there are no suitable people in the club.

Gordon Rainsford
EBU Chief TD

RESULTS EMAIL

I hope our chairman Adrian Darnell's idea of an e-mail telling you how badly you played in your last session only applies to F2F, not online (*Editorial, Feb 2024*).

James Bentley

The new results email will go to players in all EBU sessions that are evaluated for NGS, whether face to face or online, but we have made it very easy to opt out for members who prefer not to see them.

Tim Anderson
EBU IT Manager

MORE LETTERS OVERLEAF, AND A BIT OF A THEME . . .

REALLY EASY?

Having recently enjoyed the 'Really Easy' competition at the Harrogate Spring Congress I do feel that the event needs a little rebranding.

The title 'Really Easy', does belittle and demean the achievement and might well be putting more people off than encouraging them. Certainly, the winners will be reticent to be sharing with friends and family that they won the 'Really Easy' competition. Would you? In fact, it should be celebrated as a wonderful achievement with a name to reflect that. Please find a better name to encourage the under 9s NGS to start their congress life. **Rebecca Pullan**

EATING CAKE

I read with interest Stephen Kennedy's article regarding Smith Peters. In the example illustrated the declarer's diamonds were 4-4, and the top three honours were in place.

What if a longer diamond suit was in the dummy? Might it be better to give a count signal, in declarer's suit? Is there a way to have our cake and eat it?

Alex Mathers

There are certainly times where count will be better than Smith Peters for the defence. As you suggest, this could be if there was a longer suit in dummy. Let's say declarer opened 2NT and was raised to 3NT, and dummy put down this hand.

♠ 9 7
♥ 7 5 4
♦ K Q J 10 4
♣ 10 3 2

If declarer wins the opening lead in hand and then plays a diamond, it is certainly better to

play count than Smith Peters. If you hold Axx in diamonds, you want to hold up one round when

declarer has a doubleton diamond, and twice if declarer has three diamonds. The way to do this is by partner giving a count signal which they can't do if playing Smith Peters.

It isn't an exact science but I have an agreement with my regular partners that we play Smith Peters unless declarer is playing on a long suit and there is no other entry to dummy.

With the above hand we would forgo Smith Peters and give count. If declarer had opened 1NT and dummy went down with this

♠ A 7
♥ K 5 4
♦ K Q J 10 4
♣ 10 3 2

hand we wouldn't play count because the need to know partner's length in diamonds is less useful. We would play Smith Peters because we think learning about partner's attitude in the suit led is more useful than his length in diamonds. In short, we play Smith Peters except in positions where we think count is more useful. Like, I said, it isn't an exact science but it does get us a little closer to having and our cake and eating it.

VOIDS GALORE

Playing at my local club, Rutland and Oakham, I thought the hands were rather strange, and queried whether it was possible that they had been tweaked in any way. I was assured this was not the case. When I checked the hands on the web I found that my partner and I, sitting N/S throughout as the only sitting pair, had a total of eight voids between us in the 42 hands we received. This is an average of one in five hands, whereas my book on Bridge Odds says that the average should be very slightly over one in 20. The E/W hands had four voids in their 42

hands, again more or less double what they should be getting.

The hands were computer dealt. Can this be correct?

Christine White

INT OR 1♥/♠ WITH A 5-CARD SUIT?

HOLDING A FIVE-CARD MAJOR

I was surprised India Natt said that opening a 12-14 weak NT with a five card major, however strong it is, is considered standard these days (ACOLytes, Feb 2024).

Some teachers open one of a major with AKxxx; some with AKJxx and I suspect everyone would open AKQJ10 one of a major! What does EBED teach?

James Bentley

Teaching styles change over time. EBED now recommends that all 5-3-3-2 hands with 12-14 points open 1NT.

Mark Humphris, CEO, EBED

I do open 1NT with AKJxx, and one of a major only with AKQJ10. The key point to impart to your readers is that experts routinely open 1NT with the five-card major not because to do so gains lots of points (it doesn't!); rather because when you don't do so, the inferences are much stronger; for example, 1♠-2♠-2♣ guarantees a sixth card. Opening 1NT with the 5M332s makes the system a lot tighter.

Andrew Robson

I do advise players to assess the strength of their five-card major and because I try to encourage players to 'love their spades' would always promote opening a strong five-card spade suit ahead of 1NT.

AKxxx, KQJxx, AQJxx, KQ10xx would all be suitable for the major suit opening. **Bernard Magee**

FINDING THE MAJOR FIT

I read in India Natt's February article that she advocates as standard practice that all balanced hands with 12-14 HCP should be opened 1NT, regardless of whether they contain a 5-card major (of any quality). How can the partnership subsequently identify a 5-3 fit in this major suit. The questions which need to be addressed include:

- ♣ should responder use Puppet Stayman in place of 'ordinary' Stayman?
- ♣ If not, how does opener show a 5-card major in response to Stayman? If opener's rebid only shows a 4-card suit, how does the extra card become identified?
- ♣ If responder makes a non-Stayman response, how can the 5-3 fit be identified?

Peter Griffin

The answer is that often you can't identify 5-3 fits when opener has a five-card major. You have to accept that you will play in 3NT with a 5-3 fit from time to time. If the responding hand is invitational you might get away with a sequence such as 1NT-2♣-2♠-2NT-3♠ showing five spades.

Jeremy Dhondy

TESTING 1-MAJOR V 1NT

Congratulations to India Natt for her well-crafted article. However, I was intrigued by her trigger warning that she happily opens 1NT with a 5-card major, no matter how strong it is, and that this approach is now standard.

Years ago, noticing that more and more players – especially young ones – seemed to be opening a weak 1NT on 5-3-3-2 hands with holdings such as AKJxx in a major, I experimented

with the idea myself for a while.

How did it go? Well, perhaps I was just unlucky, but here's a sample of my results.

Case 1

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



As West, I opened 1NT, feeling proud of my modern credentials, and this was passed out. The defenders studiously cashed five clubs and three diamond tricks, and at this point I noticed that a somewhat better partscore had been available to us. Unfortunately, there seemed to be no way of blaming partner for this little debacle.

Case 2

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



Determined to press on, and feeling a twinge of pity for all those players who'd be opening 1♠ — so old hat — I again tried 1NT, which ended the auction. I think I'll spare you the details of this one, although the heart suit holds a clue. After we'd again failed to trouble the scorer, my partner, whose understanding of modern bidding isn't quite as advanced as mine, had the nerve to enquire why we hadn't been in 4♠.

Case 3

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



By now, I was well into the swing of things. I opened 1NT again — if you want stylish and trendy, I'm your man — and partner gazed at the ceiling for a while, counting on his fingers,

before leaping to 6NT. There was now good news and bad news.

The good news was that I made the contract, settling for 12 tricks when the diamond finesse failed.

The bad news was the traveller. Half the other tables seemed to have reached the laydown 7♥, and the rest had made 6♥+1. Hiding in the corner, and looking very lonely, my 6NT had recorded another big fat zero. When I tried to console partner by saying 'well, I did think about opening 1♥', I found that I was talking to thin air. He'd gone to the bar.

And at that point I gave up opening 1NT with strong 5-card majors, switching back to my original system of only doing so if the major was Q109xx or worse.

I'm still willing to be converted, though. So may I ask India (or indeed anyone else) to publish an article explaining why strong 5-card majors are now so fashionable and 'standard' in 1NT opening bids? I'm sure there's a reason somewhere!

Mike Newman

I have commissioned Nathan Piper to do computer-based simulations looking at 1,000s of hands to test the more favourable outcome of a NT contract and a major suit contract with a 5-3 fit and game points. He will also see whether the quality of the major suit has an impact. I will also collect more comments from experts about the benefits and drawbacks of opening 1NT, such as its pre-emptive nature, particularly vs opening 1♥. However, opposition overcalls can sometimes be helpful, leading pairs to avoid a no trump contract with no stopper in the suit.

Ed

TOLLEMACHE CUP



The Tollemache Cup (inter-county teams of eight) final was held in mid-February and was won convincingly by Manchester (pictured from left: Phillip Taylor, Nicholas Greer, John Hassett, Alan Mould, Rhona Goldenfield (NPC), Alec Smalley, Jeff Morris, Tom Slater & John Holland). Manchester beat Middlesex who just pipped Cambs & Hunts. This is the second year in a row Manchester has won the event. Last year was the county's first win in the event.

HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS



The Harrogate Spring Congress took place in mid-February. The Swiss Teams was won by Liam Fegarty, Jamie Fegarty, Rachel Bingham & Anne Catchpole. In second place were Brian Senior, Clive

Owen, John Sansom & Jason Hackett

In the Swiss Pairs, Steve Raine & Chris Cooper finished first, just ahead of second-placed pair John Holland & Jackie Pye.



Stephen Smith & Rachel Smith won the Really Easy Pairs. Three pairs came joint second – Ron Lasseter & Diane Lasseter, Robin Loft & Martin Bayne and Justine Davies & Rebecca Pullan.



RANKED MASTERS PAIRS

Six pairs were victorious in late February in the Ranked Masters Pairs, held online via RealBridge.

The Premier Grand Masters played with the Grand Masters. The Premier Life and Life Masters were combined, and the National and Regional Masters played together.



Premier Grand Masters Pairs

Mark Roderick & Paddy Murphy

Grand Masters

Paul Brereton & Frank Dixon



Premier Life Masters

Steve Raine & Alan Hayward

Life Masters

Anton Mauve & Kostadin Vasilev



National Masters

Daisy Dillon & Hanna Tuus

Regional Masters

Richard Collins & Rhonda Collins



MASTERS PAIRS

Adrian Dubel & Richard Porteus from Wakefield BC triumphed in the Masters Pairs held at the end of February. They secured victory with a very good 1.5 percentage point lead over second-placed John Edwards & Harriet Chappell from Wimbledon BC. Some 139 pairs took part in the event.

EASTER FESTIVALS

The traditional London-based Easter Festival and the Northern Easter Festival took place in late March.



Championship Pairs (London)

Paul Barden & Claire Robinson

Swiss Teams (London)

Stephen Lee, Francois Picard, Gad Chadha & Graham Orsmond



Swiss Pairs (London)

Catherine Seale & Ian Pagan (not pictured)



Swiss Pairs (Northern)

Michael Tomlinson & Linda Smith

Swiss Teams (Northern)

Nichola Cockerill-Smith, Steve Blackburn, Gill Copeland & Richard Pike (not pictured)



9-High Swiss Pairs (Northern)

Barry Copley & John Dalton



EBU/Kent 9-High

Michael Wilson & Ulla Adilz

NATIONAL POINT-A-BOARD



The National Point-a-Board Teams was won by the *Jee* team comprising Liam Sanderson, Hugo Jee, John Cox, Alex Hannon, & Mohamed Mousa.

They finished ahead *Natt* comprising India Natt, Robert Miller, Ambrose Holmes-Mackie, Joseph Clark & Ufuk Cotuk. The *Senior* team – Clive Owen, Brian Senior, Jason Hackett & John Sansom – finished third.

The event is part of the Championship Series, with points available in the Player of the Year competition.

PORTLAND PAIRS

Nevena Senior & Stephen Fordham won the Portland Pairs at the start of April, just ahead of Kay Preddy & Normal Selway. Venetia Anoyrkatis & Tom Furness were in third place.

NATIONAL PAIRS



Over 600 people played in five regional finals after qualifying for the National Pairs by achieving 55% or more in a club game during a defined period in February. Well done to Midlands' Tony Spiers & John Sanders came top of the combined scores in the regional finals. The Eastern final was won by Celia Oram & Derek Oram. Jason Hackett & John Sansom won the Midlands final. The Northern final was won by Robin Jepson & Alan Brosgill. Mark Benson & Steve Auchterlonie topped the South-East, and Janet Smith & John Gardner triumphed in the South-West.

The top 50 pairs qualified for an all-play-all final, played on RealBridge in mid-April. Congratulations to Peter Lee and David Norman (SE, pictured) who retained the title from last year. For Peter this was his sixth time of winning the event, on four occasions with Bob Rowlands. Chris Stevens & Ann Sharples (SW) came second.

SCHOOLS CUP



The Schools Cup (part of the Young Bridge Challenge) took place in early March at Loughborough Grammar School. Haberdashers A (pictured above) narrowly beat Loughborough A by just one IMP determined by the very last board. In the third-place play-off, Eton beat Haberdashers A.



The Schools Plate was awarded to KCS Wimbledon.

The Harry Scully Trophy (mixed schools) was won by players from Lincs, Durham and London.



The novice competition was won by a team from Northbridge House School, with runners up from Acland Burghley School. The Northbridge House School team are pictured here with England U16 coach Alan Shillitoe.

The event is organised by English Bridge Education & Development.



JUNIOR BRIDGE CAMPS



Summer Bridge Camp 30th August – 1st September

Join us for a weekend at Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton and enjoy bridge teaching, competition and, most importantly, fun!

Enjoy a range of other activities alongside the bridge.



Autumn Bridge Camp 1st – 3rd November

Another action-packed weekend at Woldingham School, Surrey with bridge teaching, competitions and lots of fun!

Each weekend is £150 with all meals and fun included

Bursaries available – just ask

For more information, including how to book, please contact EBED: lisa@ebedcio.org.uk or call 01296 317217

SURREY SCHOOLS CUP

The Surrey Schools Cup took place in early February at Richard Challoner School in New Malden. Over 100 students came for four competitions. Congratulations to St Paul's Red team who retained the Surrey Schools Cup, fielding the same team. Haberdashers' Aske's D won the Surrey School Salver. A new trophy – the Surrey Schools Crystal – was won by Cardinal Surrey Newman's team. A pair from Chalfont St Peters won the MinibrIDGE Trophy. Pictures online p74.

JOIN THE GENERATION GAME, run by EBED on RealBridge. It's a friendly bridge practice game for young people and family members. It's played on a Sunday at 6.30pm and lasts an hour. If you are interested in joining, please contact Joan Bennett on 07548 782538 or by email to joan@ebedcio.org.uk, to receive a link to the game. Next dates 19th May and 23rd June.

100 BIRTHDAY WISHES



Mid-March saw big celebrations at Whitley Bay & Tynemouth Bridge Club with long time member Derek Rosenvinge's 100 Birthday.

Derek has been a member of the Club since 1946 where, soon after joining, he met his late wife. Still a very active member, he plays regularly at the club's two morning sessions and online in the round robin league. To mark the occasion 50 members attended the club for cake and 18 boards of bridge.

BRIDGE-THEMED BOOK CLUB



Wetherby Book Club was created to introduce bridge book lovers to each other, to improve standards and build friendships beyond the table. It started as a hopeful plan – may be half a dozen would be keen to read a bridge book and then chat about it. So far, it has been a wonderful success.

The Modern Losing Trick Count by prolific writer Ron Klinger, was the first chosen and a fair few members made the purchase. Although the book was originally written in 1987 (Acol) it was agreed that it is still highly relevant and the book provides so much more on hand evaluation than just simply counting your losers.

Organiser Rebecca Pullan then wondered whether Ron Klinger would be interested in answering questions? 'Yes,' she enthused, 'and what a wonderful gentleman he is too.' The book club met at 8.30am, and he joined the discussion via Zoom from Australia. He answered everything from simple queries to much more specific questions.

'What a joy it was hearing his stories. My particular favourite was about how he trialled going four over three when the law of total tricks was not recommending it. He did this for one whole year before he analysed the result. Conclusion ... do not go 4 over 3!'

Ron also suggested *Card Play Technique* by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardner. 'Read this because you owe it to your partner,' he said.



40 YEARS AND COUNTING



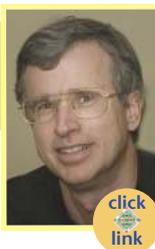
Chipping Sodbury's Tudor Bridge Club celebrated its 40th birthday with a members' weekend away in March.

They gathered just an hours' drive away at Cricklade Spa Hotel. Starting with drinks on the Friday evening before the first friendly match, the weekend included a seminar, a birthday competition and a Swiss teams event, all culminating in a birthday tea and cake after play finished on the Sunday afternoon.

'I've done lots of these bridge weekends before,' said one member, 'but it's a totally different experience when you know all the players. It's simply so much more fun.' The weekend was such a great success that the committee were asked if it could be repeated next year!

Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



Julian's answers to questions from page 30

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

W	N	E	S
		2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♣	Pass
?			
¹ 23-24 balanced or game force			
² negative/waiting			

4♥. In the olden days a jump by responder after a 2♣-2♦ start showed a semi-solid suit missing the ace. Nowadays it is usual to give a positive response with such a hand and to use this jump as a splinter: short hearts and spade support. If you think your partner would misunderstand 4♥, next best is 3♣, setting spades as trumps.

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

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Pass
?			

2♥. While a hand with 8 points and a 5-card suit would usually fall one point short of the requirements for a two-level response, in valuing your hand you need to take account of intermediate cards. K-J-10-9-8 is worth so much more than K-J-4-3-2. You have a ten in each of the other three suits as well.

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

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♣
?			

Pass. A 1NT overcall is stronger than a 1NT opening, typically 15-17 or 15-18 points. Furthermore, in marked contrast to the previous hand, your spot cards are poor. On top of this, you are vulnerable against not and facing a passed partner.

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

W	N	E	S
	1♦	1♣	Dble
?			

3♣. You may have heard about raising to the level of the fit – the 10-trick level when you expect to have a 10-card fit – but you need to apply common sense too. Here your 5·3·3·2 shape is unhelpful and the vulnerability is against you – even one down doubled is a bad score unless opponents have game on, while -500 would be a disaster.

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

W	N	E	S
2♣	3♥	Dble ²	2♥ ¹
?			Pass

¹Weak, ²Competitive (points, but not specifically a game try in spades)

3♣. You have two features that you have not yet shown – the sixth spade and the heart stopper. For two reasons, rebidding the spades is better. Firstly, if the opponents have a 9-card heart fit, partner has a singleton and you might not be able to hold up effectively. For another, your hand is weak in terms of high cards. Finally, leaving the double in is especially unattractive at this vulnerability.

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

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

2♣. Asking for a stopper in the unbid suit is not the only reason to use Fourth Suit Forcing. The bid sets up a force and asks for further description. As little as ♥Kx and ♦AQxxx opposite gives good play for a slam, so a jump to 3NT would be premature. □

Congratulations to the newly-promoted

Grand Master
Margaret Nygren, London

Bedfordshire

Master
Anna Bartlett
Val Petch

Berks & Bucks

Master
Megan Brodie
Anne Byles
Brian Chamberlain
Anne Clough
Chantal Dolphin
Tony Harris
Pamela King
Sue Lejman
Susan Long
Robin Morrell
Richard Pearl
Ingrid Stevens

Cambs & Hunts

Master
Margaret Mitchell
Raith Pickup
John Rallison
Susan Reeder

Channel Islands

Master
Margaret Richings

Cornwall

Master
Jeanette Hill

Cumbria

Master
James Carlisle
Lynne Sidey

Derbyshire

Master
Lindsey Bowley
John Cater
Rosemary Cumberland
Veronica Hartley
Malcolm Rowell

Devon

Master
Lee Bristow
Michael Murphy
Jim Pellow

Direct UK

Master
Monika Prime
Michael Tivers

Dorset

Master
Robert Hawes
Karen Pritchard
Chris Whiteside

Essex

Master
Mike Bloom
Janet Caink
Hugh Rayner

Ivan Walker

Gloucestershire

Regional Master
David Curnow
Nick Haynes
Douglas Quine
Paul Spencer

Master

Jane Allison
Maggie Conu
Simon Hartley
David Mountford
Jeff Smithson

Hants & IOW

Life Master
Richard Assad
Regional Master
David Goodlake

Master

Luis Barbero
Ticker Berkin
Andrew Boyd
Tina Lanning
Graham Stonier
Louise Toghill
Maarten van der Kolk
Marion Wicks

Herefordshire

Master
Tim Young

Hertfordshire

Master
Richard Devas
Chris Eagle
Carol Edrich
John Graham
Chris Kaye
Ian Kirsch
Robert Last
Clifford Phythian
Ian Reid
Mark Savage
Rachel Thomas

Kent

Regional Master

Richard Clark

Master

Nicky Bassano
Richard Baxter
Radu Botgros
Sam Cornberg
Tom Furness
David Holmes
Barrie Lawson
Ian Leigh
Anne McDonald
Trevor Pullen
David Renton
Christine Stacey
Rod Steed

Lancashire

Regional Master

Marilyn Blake
Master
John Blake
Jill Brown
Ruthy Chadwick
Peter Davey
Suzanne Freedman
Brian Douglas Frew
Andy Hitchon
Rob Robertson
Rosemary Webster

Leicestershire

Master
Dianne Conway
Stuart McDonald

Lincolnshire

Master
Phil Boyd
Richard Coulbeck
Colin Dale
Lesley Parker
Hilary Swann
Tony Swann

London

Grand Master
Margaret Nygren
Life Master
Andrew Dyson
Regional Master
Athena Chow

Master

Naseem Bhatti
Bill Dodwell
Barry Kail
Martin Mueller
Tom Peer
Amit Shah

Manchester

Master
Ron Priestner
Alison Thomas
Sheila Wimbledon

Mersey/Cheshire

Master
Tom Green
Penny Houlden

Middlesex

Life Master
Martin Pope
Master
Gianfranco Celani

Norfolk

Life Master
Rosa Richardson
Master
Elizabeth Groves
Richard Rivett
Alison Ward

North East

Master
June Ainslie
David Clarke
Irina Hendrickx
John King

Roger Simpson
Christopher Watson

Northants

Regional Master
John Blakesley
Master
Brian Barber
Ruth Few
Marna Johansen
Anita Smith

Nottinghamshire

Regional Master
Clare Batten
Lesley Forman

Oxfordshire

Master
Chris Bone
Chris Franklin
Juliette Riehl
Sally Ruse
Faye Slade
Rob Timpson

Somerset

Life Master
Ray Walder
Master
Peter Dawes
Margaret Donkin
Di Gallagher
Julia Hailes
Arthur Llewellyn
Jerry Pickles

Staffs & Shrops

Master
Duncan Kerr
Megan Walton

Suffolk

Regional Master
Paul Rickard
Master
Sue Dixon
Nigel Pryke

Surrey

Regional Master
Mary Anne St Clair-Ford

Master

Steve Back
Diane Bricknell
Jenny Bywater
David Drummie
Mireille Fiander
Mick Hoffman
Linda Jackson
Betsy Mainwaring
Mark Saunders
Kantilal Shah
Lesley Shanks
Ken Smith
Pauline Soderstrom
Andrew Travers

Robert Watkins
George Weldon

Sussex

Master
Peter Browning
Nick Goddard
Rosaleen Gripper
Mary Hurst
Malcolm Livesey
Alan Middleton
Katie Moorman
Trevor Smart
Martyn Stockton
Mel Young

Warwickshire

Regional Master
Evelyn Whiteford

Master

Alan Boden
Harry Collings
Susan Fairer
Sonja Hamlyn
Judy Horton
Irene Lacey
Janet Parham
Heather Phipps
John Spenser
Clive Toll

Westmorland

Regional Master

Brian Smith

Wiltshire

Regional Master

Evelyne Thomas
Master
Paul Boyles
Trevor Day
Chris Franklin
Rosemary Harding
Garry Towns

Worcester

Master

Mick Blakeman
Martyn Hills
Jonathan Morton

Yorkshire

Life Master

Catherine Thompson

Master

Elaine Bexfield
Neville Bush
David Coats
Moyra Fleming
Elizabeth Jackson
Andrew Peel
Bruce Piper
Rebecca Pullan
Martin Thompson
Stephen Village
Carole Wilson

This list includes previous Landmark Promotions which were omitted from the last issue in error. My apologies to all those who were affected.
Ed



FIRST FOR
BRIDGE



Discover your perfect bridge holiday

Carefully curated to captivate and challenge bridge players of all skills levels, our holidays include hand-picked accommodation and a fantastic programme of bridge, as well as the services of an EBU-qualified director, friendly host or professional teacher. In partnership with the English Bridge Union, our collection features a range of EBU Congresses, with Masterpoints and prizes awarded. Browse today and discover your perfect holiday!

Remarkable destinations to choose from!

- Bulgaria • France • Germany • Greece • Ireland • Italy • Montenegro
- Spain • Turkey • UK • Cyprus • Tunisia

Our Holiday Types



EBU Congresses

Ideal for experienced bridge players, congresses are run by the EBU and sponsored by First for Bridge, offering stratified events with Green and Blue Masterpoints awarded.



Premier Bridge

Premier duplicate bridge holidays are suited to players who play regularly in clubs and enjoy a varied bridge programme, which usually includes Swiss events on longer holiday durations.



Play & Explore

Our Play & Explore holiday collection is perfect for the bridge player who likes to combine discovering new places with more relaxed bridge!



Refresher Bridge

If you are comfortable with the basics of bridge and prefer friendly sessions, our Refresher Bridge holidays are perfect for you. It's time to step up to the next level of bridge!



**MASTERPOINTS
AWARDED**

Gain Masterpoints on the majority of holidays



**NO HALF
TABLES**

Partners are always found in the bridge room on Premier Bridge holidays



**EXPERTLY
PLANNED
HOLIDAYS**

Led by directors, hosts and teachers



**FULL FINANCIAL
PROTECTION**

Each holiday is fully bonded

Call **01858 459 038**
or visit **firstforbridge.co.uk**
to book your next bridge holiday



**SCAN ME
TO BROWSE
OUR FULL
COLLECTION
OF HOLIDAYS!**

All holidays are subject to availability. Prices are per person. Terms and conditions apply. The full terms and conditions applicable to your holiday can be found on our website. Calls may be recorded for training purposes and your protection.



On the spot at Trick 1!

Two recent boards in the main Drop-In Drop-Out room in Bridge Club Live had a similar theme. In this room, you can play any number of rounds of four boards. If you play at least 16 of the 96 daily available boards, you qualify for the leader board. Shropshire's Roger Steel was South on the board below and opened 1♥. By the time that his partner had finished using RKCB, Roger found himself in the very poor contract of 7♥ which seems to need a lot of luck with finesses. The opening lead was the ♦10, which caused Roger to sit up and think.

Love All. Dealer South

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

Love All. Dealer South

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

playing in 6♠. This contract was made at several tables by North, usually on the ♥A lead and continuation (with ♥9 holding) or an early lead of the ♦K. But at our featured table, West found the ♦8 to lead. Declarer knew West well enough to be confident that the ♦K had not been underled, so he trusted the lead to have been second from a poor suit, and he then had to hope that the lead was from a five-card suit and that ♦K would fall singleton offside, and it did!

There are occasions when you are in a poor contract and you have to hope for a particular layout and go for it! □

Opponents were good, steady players. Would West really have underled a king against a grand slam? Surely West had led from ♦109 and possibly some smaller cards. Reckoning a singleton ♦K offside to be his only hope, Roger played the ♦A from dummy and the grand rolled in.

If West had made the standard lead of a trump against a grand slam, declarer would very soon have taken a diamond finesse and drifted one off for a 0% score.

The very next day, the following board hit the screen. After South, Ed Scerri (Berks & Bucks), opened 1NT (11-14), he soon found himself

Bridge Club Live offers

- Fast, fun & friendly bridge 24/7 in a format that suits you;
 - Use of Audio and Video chat;
 - Dedication to Best Behaviour at Bridge and to fair play;
 - Drop-in Drop-out Match Point Pairs and social games;
 - Private social tables with IMP scoring;
 - Individual, Improvers and IMP Pairs & Teams
- And a whole host more!



Funbridge Competitions

by Marc Smith

Don't Panic!

Bidding with a robot can sometimes be just as tricky as doing so with an unfamiliar human partner. On this deal from a Funbridge IMP game, you had to guess whether this particular partner played Drury. When your final contract is doubled, you should realise that the trumps are not breaking. Can you take advantage of this information and time the play well enough to bring home your doubled game?

Game All. Dealer North. IMPs

♠ 6 2
♥ A J 4
♦ A 10 8 2
♣ J 10 8 3

♠ 8
♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ Q J 7 3
♣ Q 7 5 2

♠ A 10 9 5 4
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ 5
♣ K 9 4

♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ K 7
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ A 6

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

Your partner passes as dealer and then responds 2♣ to your opening 1♠ bid. Are you playing Drury (showing an invitational raise in spades)? It is not a question you have discussed with this particular partner, but everyone plays Drury these days, don't they? Deciding that partner is likely to hold three trumps for his 2/1 response, you jump to

4♣. It is too late to re-think after East has doubled on the way out.

Dummy comes down and it seems clear that East has doubled on trumps, and probably five of them. You will need a little luck, but that knowledge will enable you to make the contract if you time the play correctly. Given that you are unlikely to be able to avoid losing three trump tricks, you will not be able to afford a club loser too. So, you start by winning with the ♦K, cashing the ♥K and then playing a second heart, finessing the jack. When East cannot produce the ♥Q, you are almost home. All you need now is to avoid losing control of the trump suit.

After cashing the ♥A to dispose of your club loser, you play a trump towards your hand, the ♠K winning. You would rather not be forced to ruff a heart in the long trump hand, so your next move is to make East take one of his trump tricks now. You play a diamond and take the marked finesse against West's ♦J. East ruffs and returns a club to your ace. Now you can lead the ♠Q to force out East's ace. You ruff the heart return and cash the ♠J, leaving East with the high trump. When you repeat the diamond finesse, East can take the defenders' third trump winner whenever he likes, but that will be all they get. N/S +790 and a moderate gain when most of the field plays a boring 3NT.

I don't know if robots conduct post-mortems, but you can imagine RHR (right-hand robot) protesting that his double was Lightner, so asked for a club lead. He is certainly correct in that the contract would have failed on any lead other than the disastrous diamond. □

Michael Byrne's Quiz from page 28

Your right hand opponent opens 4♥ at Love All. What action will you take with these hands?

West	North	East	South
		4♥	?

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

ANSWERS

Hand 1 should double. The low doubleton diamond is unappealing, but the hand is too strong to pass, and is prepared for 4♠ (hopefully), 5♣ (no way!) or pass (possible).

Hand 2 should double. It's true that if partner passes with a sigh then you might as well write down

-590 now, but this doesn't hurt as much as passing out 4♥ only to find partner has

♠x ♥xxxx ♦Axxxxx ♣Qx

and you've missed a slam. Double keeps every strain in play and is consequently most flexible.

Hand 3 is a perfect takeout double – but over 4♠ not 4♥! It might pain you to pass the best hand you've had all week, but pass you must because if you double partner will frequently bid 4♠. It's

unlikely that partner will be able to bid if you pass, but if a small plus score on defence is the best you can do, then take it!

Hand 4 has two nice suits and must bid. There's no point doubling for takeout, partner will frequently pass when we belong in spades. Just bid 4♠ and hope to survive, following one of the golden rules of competitive bidding: it is frequently right to bid 4♠ over 4♥ when either contract might make'.

Hand 5 might bid 5♦ but double gives partner the chance to pass when they are balanced with not very much. If partner takes the double out to 4♠ or 5♣ we can convert to 5♦, and we have shown a strong hand, so partner might raise us to slam when we are making one, for example if they are holding: ♠KQJx ♥x ♦xxx ♣KJxxx). □

Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 26

Q1

Hand 1
South plays in 4♣.
West leads the ♦J.

W	N	E	S
2♥	4♣	All Pass	1♠

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 7 4



♠ Q J 10 8 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A 5 3
♣ K J 2

Preliminary analysis: You have reached 4♣ after West has overcalled 2♥. The ♦J lead is not particularly welcome as it pierces dummy's queen. Rightly or wrongly, you try the ♦Q from table but, as expected, East produces the king. What is your plan?

ANSWER

After the diamond lead your *Count and Plan* reveals four losers (one spade, two diamonds and the ♣A). With no way to trump a diamond loser, you have to dump one of them.

After winning the ♦A at trick one, you must take the heart finesse at trick two (West did overcall 2♥, remember, so the heart finesse is way better than a 50-50 shot). When the ♥Q wins, you can dump a diamond loser on the ♥A and then play on trumps.

Having knocked out the ♠A and drawn trumps, you can force out the ♣A to set up sufficient winners.

Ten tricks come from five spades, two hearts, one diamond and two (slow) clubs. Here's the full deal:

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 7 4

[click to
play
online](#)

♠ A
♥ K J 10 9 8 5
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ A 9

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K 8 7
♣ 10 8 6 5 3

♠ Q J 10 8 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A 5 3
♣ K J 2

Question 2 overleaf

Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 26

Q2

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

W	N	E	S
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

♠ A 8 6 3
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 10



♠ 7 4 2
♥ K Q J 9 8
♦ K Q J 5
♣ K

Preliminary analysis: You have reached 4♥ after a straightforward invitational sequence. West leads the ♠K, spitefully removing an entry to table. How are you going to avoid the loss of two spades and two red aces?

ANSWERS

4♥ appears to have plenty of winners (one spade, four hearts, two diamonds, three clubs and a diamond ruff in dummy) but there is an excess of losers in the guise of two spades and two red aces. This spade lead is diabolical as it prevents you from cashing the ♣K, crossing to the ♠A and dumping two spade losers on the ♣A Q.

Well, doing that would have given you eleven tricks and your target is just ten, so you have to sacrifice the overtrick. Take the ♠A, cash the ♣A (!) dropping your king, cash the ♣Q to dump a spade loser and then play trumps. Now all you can lose is one spade and the two red aces, your last diamond getting ruffed in dummy. Here's the full deal:

[click to play online](#)

♠ A 8 6 3
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 10

♠ K Q J 10
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ 9 5 3

♠ 9 5
♥ A
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ J 8 7 6 4 2

♠ 7 4 2
♥ K Q J 9 8
♦ K Q J 5
♣ K

COMPUTER SIMULATION OF MAY LEADS QUIZ RESULTS

By Nathan Piper

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

South	West	North	East
4♣	All Pass	3♥	Pass

ASSUMPTIONS

South has 12-18 HCP, six spades to three of the top four, or 7+ spades to two of the top three.

North has 3-9 HCP, with exactly seven hearts.

East doesn't have a takeout double, a suit overcall or a 3NT bid.

Best lead in each suit:

♦10/9/8/7 29.8%, 2.69 tricks * (teams)

♠9 29.1%, 2.39 tricks

♥7 28.1%, 2.41 tricks

♣A 27.4%, 2.78 tricks * (pairs)

Other leads:

♦4 29.7%, 2.68 tricks

♦Q 28.3%, 2.63 tricks

♥J 28.0%, 2.40 tricks

♣5 26.3%, 2.54 tricks

♣4 26.3%, 2.54 tricks

♣7 26.2%, 2.53 tricks

Comments:

With both opponents having a good long suit, I'm not surprised that we need to lead the ♣A at pairs – or we may lose the first 13 tricks. I'm very surprised that this is the worst lead (bar low clubs) at teams.

A trawl through the hands generated by the simulator revealed many hands where the ♦10 beat the ♣A and many hands where the ♣A beat a ♦10, and these happened for a bewildering variety of reasons. There doesn't seem to be an overall theme, but one thing that stands out is that the hand may not be easy for declarer to make. Declarer won't

have many hearts and partner is likely to have something over the dummy, which may well have no outside entry. Partner has a heart stop 61.5% of the time and declarer can get a quick discard on the hearts only 6.8% of the time. Our spade shortage makes partner likely to have some spades. Even if they don't include a trick, they might prevent declarer from ruffing diamond losers.

This all suggests that a passive lead might be right, in which case our usual reason for leading aces – to keep all possible attacking options open – doesn't apply.

Declarer holds the ♣K 38.2% of the time and, including holdings like Qxx opposite Jx, leading the ♣A will give declarer a trick 45.7% of the time. If declarer does have club losers, they are unlikely to go anywhere unless declarer can ruff them – which is a cause we help by leading them.

Meanwhile a diamond is attractive because it's both active and passive: we may cash or set up a trick. If we do give a trick away, which happens only 4.4% of the time, it may come back in the form of an overruff.

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

South	West	North	East
3NT	All Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
¹ weak with diamonds			

ASSUMPTIONS

South has a balanced 15-20 HCP, (including 5·4·2·2 and 6·3·2·2 with a minor) and at most four in either major.

North has 4-9 HCP, with exactly six diamonds.

East doesn't have a takeout double, a natural suit overcall or a 2NT overcall.

Best lead in each suit:

♠9/8 45.4%, 4.16 tricks * (teams)

♣J/10 43.9%, 4.18 tricks * (pairs)

♥7 42.9%, 4.10 tricks

♦J 17.8%, 2.77 tricks

Other leads:

♠3 44.9%, 4.13 tricks

♥6 42.9%, 4.10 tricks

♥4 42.9%, 4.09 tricks

♣8 40.9%, 4.04 tricks

♣5 40.7%, 4.04 tricks

♥K 34.9%, 3.73 tricks

♦K 17.2%, 2.75 tricks

Comments:

Another hand where the best lead differs between teams and pairs.

In general, the two most likely ways to beat 3NT are by leading passively and hoping declarer only has eight tricks or by leading and setting up the suit where one defender has five. Partner has five spades 35% of the time, compared to five hearts 19% of the time and five clubs 13% of the time. Spades also backs the other horse by being pretty passive – though not quite as safe as a club.

The ♣J is better at pairs because it sets up a fourth defensive trick on many hands (6.5%) where a spade lead would have resulted in only two or three tricks.

We didn't assume that declarer must have a spade stop – so some of the times a spade works we cash five or six spades immediately and still have tricks to come. Perhaps you feel declarer must have a stop in each major? If so the potentially unstopped clubs win:

♣J 39.6%, 4.01 tricks *

♠8 38.4%, 3.89 tricks

♥7 36.1%, 3.79 tricks

♦J 17.6%, 2.74 tricks

...but if we assume that declarer has stops in all unbid suits then the result is back as it was:

Best lead in each suit:

♠8 37.4%, 3.84 tricks

♣J 37.2%, 3.92 tricks *

♥7 34.6%, 3.73 tricks

♦J 17.8%, 2.75 tricks

I wondered why the ♦J was so much less terrible than the ♦K. Declarer holding a bare queen or bare ace cancel out, as do Qx opposite Axxxxx and Ax opposite Qxxxxx (when we want dummy to have to win the first trick). The jack gains when partner has a bare ace, but that's not very often. It turns out the big win is when partner has Axx, when leading the jack allows partner to save us from the awful start by ducking trick one.

Hand 3

♠ 10 8 6

♥ A J 10 2

♦ 9 7 5 3

♣ 9 8

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

¹ Limit raise with 4+ trumps; ² Cuebids

ASSUMPTIONS

South has 18+ HCP, at least five spades and no longer suit, 1st and 2nd round control of clubs, no first or second round control of hearts.

North has 9-11 HCP, exactly four spades, not 10+ and a singleton (would have splintered), no first or second round control of hearts, at least second round control of diamonds..

East has no 8-card suit.

Best lead in each suit:

♥J/10 24.7%, 2.27 tricks * (teams & pairs)

♦7 13.4%, 1.34 tricks

♠6 11.3%, 1.31 tricks

♣9 11.0%, 1.31 tricks

Other leads:

♥2 21.9%, 2.24 tricks

♥A 16.8%, 2.17 tricks

♦3 13.4%, 1.34 tricks

♦5 13.4%, 1.34 tricks

♦9 13.3%, 1.32 tricks

♠8 11.3%, 1.31 tricks

India's Quiz from p24

♠10 11.2%, 1.31 tricks

♣8 11.0%, 1.31 tricks

Comments:

A very comprehensive win for hearts, which is unsurprising given that we know from the auction that we have at least two hearts to cash.

Why is the jack better than the ace? Partner has a doubleton king 4.6% of the time, when starting low may beat the contract via a ruff or a trump promotion. Additionally, declarer has Qxx(x)(x) and partner 3+ hearts 18.1% of the time, when starting with the ace sets the queen up. Starting with the ♥2 deals with both of those cases but sets up dummy's Qxx(x)(x) when partner has 3+ hearts lacking the nine (11.7%).

Can the jack ever be worse than the ace? Well on a layout like the one below we need to lead through diamonds before the hearts are established for discards. Leading the ace allows us to see the danger and then switch:

South plays 5♠.

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

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

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

Can the jack ever be worse than the two? How about this layout:

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

These cases aren't likely though, with the ♥J being fatal for the defence less than 0.8% of the time. □

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

Hand A

♠ K 3 2
♥ A K 4 2
♦ Q J 7
♣ Q 10 6

1	W	E	2	W	E	3	W	E
	1♥	1♠		1♥	2♣		1♥	1NT
	?			?			?	

Hand B

♠ K 3 2
♥ K 4 2
♦ A Q J 7
♣ A 10 6

4	W	E	5	W	E
	1♦	1NT		1♦	1♠
	?			?	

Hand C

♠ K 3 2
♥ K Q 2
♦ A Q J 7
♣ A 10 6

6	W	E	7	W	E
	1♦	1NT		1♦	1♠
	?			?	

Q Which 15-point hand(s) should be treated as a maximum opening hand after the auction 1♥ – 1♠?

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

INDIA'S QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 – Bid 1NT. With 15 points you are at the bottom of the range for a strong balanced hand, so you should make the lowest possible NT rebid.
- 2 – Bid 2NT. Although you were originally planning to rebid 1NT, that bid has been taken away from you, so you have to bid 2NT instead.
- 3 – Pass. Partner has taken away your 1NT rebid and already offered it as a contract. Knowing that partner has a maximum of nine, you know you cannot have more than 24 HCP between you, so don't go any higher!
- 4 – 2NT. With 17 HCP, you could make a game if partner has 8 or 9... so ask the question!
- 5 – 1NT. This time, your partner is unlimited, so the onus is on you to describe your hand further. The wider point range is in the lower rebid,

- remember: so 1NT shows 15-17 balanced.
- 6 – 3NT. You know you have 25 HCP between you and not much extra, so bid the contract that is most likely to be best.
- 7 – 2NT. No need to take all the space away when your partner has such a wide range of possible hands. Just show 18-19 balanced with your rebid.
- 8 – is an impure hand with no extra shape – not a maximum;
- 9 – is quite impure too, with its singleton king (in partner's suit, too!). It is not a maximum;
- 10 – is a very pure hand with decent shape (not perfect, given where the singleton is, but a nice hand nonetheless). Treat this as a maximum.

Q How strong a hand is opener (West) showing in each auction? Is West's second bid forcing?

1W	E	12W	E	13W	E	14W	E
1♥	1♠	1♠	1NT	1♣	1♥	1♦	2♣
3♠		2♣		2♦		3♦	

- 11 – Assume 16-18. 15-point hands may choose to upgrade but are not the norm. 19-point hands should force to game instead. Repeating a previously bid suit is not forcing after partner shows potentially just six points, or one trick.
- 12 – Assume 12-18. Any hand not strong enough to force to game opposite a very weak responder; 2♣ is not a reverse, nor is it forcing.
- 13 – Assume 16+. 2♦ is a reverse because it does not allow partner to rebid 2♣ any more. A reverse is forcing for one round, so even if responder wanted to show preference in diamonds they would have to bid 3♦ rather than passing.
- 14 – This shows 15+ points which is enough to force to game once partner has shown 10+ points or equivalent (changing suit at the two level). □



CROSSWORD NO 43

Compiled by MERMAN

Answers from p19

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

SURREY SCHOOLS CUP 2024



Surrey Schools Cup winners: St Paul's Red – Henry Huang & Gijs Van Angeren, Adavya Goyal & Anango Prabhat



Surrey Schools Salver winners: Haberdashers' D – Alex James & Samuel Robinson, Adhith Padiyar & James Cowan



Surrey Schools Crystal winners: Cardinal Newman – Joshua Budiongan & Tom Curtain, Liam Benwell & Finn Aggarwal



David Garfit Clowes Minibridge: Chalfont St Peters – Girpeet Birring & Dhiani Dosanjh