

ENGLISH BRIDGE

DOWNLOAD
PDF HERE

CONGRATULATIONS

OPEN

Robson

Gold

Mossop

Hallberg

Norton

Townsend

SENIORS

Mould

Holland

Tommasini

Handley-Pritchard

Shields

Chamberlain

European

Championships

2024

Herning

WOMENS

Brock

Nettleton

M Bell

S Bell

Brown

Senior

MIXED

Dhondy

Dyke

Erichsen

Smith

Byrne

Knottenbelt

100%

Qualification

for

World

Championships

2025

Winter

Sanderson

Coley

Kearney

U26

Madden

Selby

U26 WOMEN

Gahan

La Chapelle

L Fegarty

Joseph Clark

European

Youth

Championships

2024

Wroclaw

U21

Rose

Furness

U16

Holden Clark

Birdsall

U31

Gardner

J Fegarty

Bradkin

Blicharz

Hutton

Powell

Norman

Bedford

Morris

Jonathan Clark

SILVER MEDAL

BRONZE MEDAL

Panchagnula



BRIDGE OVERSEAS


**GUARANTEED
EVENTS**


British Bridge Breaks & Overseas Holidays

Since 1993

OVERSEAS CALENDAR 2024 / 25

21 Sep	4* Koral Beach Hotel Oropesa del Mar Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	up to 21 nts
25 Sep	4* Sentido Pearl Beach Hotel Rethymnon Crete	Irish Bridge Festival	up to 14 nts
15 Oct	4* Athena Beach Hotel Paphos Cyprus	Duplicate & Bowls	up to 21 nts
02 Nov	5* Paloma Perissia Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate	up to 21 nts
21 Dec	4* Melia Hotel Ocean House Costa Del Sol Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	up to 28 nts
04 Jan	4* Melia Hotel Ocean House Costa Del Sol Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	up to 14 nts
07 Jan	4* Playa La Arena Hotel Santa Cruz de Tenerife Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	up to 31 nts
01 Feb	4* H10 Rubicon Palace Hotel Playa Blanca Lanzarote	Duplicate	up to 14 nts
15 Feb	5* Paloma Oceana Hotel Side Southern Turkey	Duplicate	up to 28 nts
11 Mar	4* Melia Hotel Benidorm Costa Blanca Spain	Duplicate & SM Bowls	up to 14 nts
27 Mar	4* Hotel Santana St Pauls Bay Malta	Duplicate	up to 14 nts
22 Apr	4* La Zenia Hotel Orihuela Costa Spain	Duplicate	up to 14 nts
05 May	4* Melia Hotel Benidorm Costa Blanca Spain	SBU Congress	up to 7 nts
11 May	5* Mediterranean Hotel Rhodes Greece	Duplicate	up to 14 nts
27 May	4* Hotel Torretta Montecatini Tuscany Italy	Duplicate & Tour	up to 10 nts
03 Jun	4* Hotel Onabrava & Spa Santa Susanna Spain	Duplicate & Tour	up to 14

UK CALENDAR 2024 / 25

23 Sep	Langstone Hotel Hayling Island	Duplicate	5
03 Oct	Newbury West Grange Hotel Newbury	Duplicate	4
13 Oct	Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa Shrewsbury	Duplicate	5
21 Oct	Old Swan Hotel Harrogate	Duplicate & Tour	4
28 Oct	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	4
01 Nov	White Swan Hotel Alnwick	Duplicate & Gin	4
04 Nov	Chilworth Manor Hotel Southampton	Duplicate	4
10 Nov	Charingworth Manor Hotel Exclusive Use	Duplicate & Walk	4
29 Nov	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford-upon-Avon	Duplicate	3
24 Dec	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford-upon-Avon	Christmas Bridge	4 - 9
24 Dec	Holiday Inn Hotel Ironbridge	Christmas Bridge	4 - 9
19 Jan	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	5
06 Feb	Holiday Inn Hotel & Spa Winchester	Duplicate	4
24 Feb	Charlecote Pheasant Hotel Stratford-upon-Avon	Duplicate	4
02 Mar	Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth	Duplicate	5
13 Mar	The Lambert Hotel Watlington Thame	Duplicate	4



Google us to see our reviews



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 (Chair),
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	■
Events Calendar & Competition News	6	■
Teaching Bridge – <i>Mary Sharp</i>	8	■
Crossword & Caption Competition	10	■
European Team Championships	12	■
Open – <i>Paul Barden</i>	12	■
Womens – <i>David Burn</i>	14	■
Seniors – <i>Paul Hackett</i>	15	■
Mixed – <i>Derek Patterson</i>	16	■
European Youth Team Championships	17	■
U26s – <i>Joseph Clark</i>	17	■
U26 Womens – <i>Harriet Cork</i>	20	■
U21s – <i>Lucy Norman</i>	20	■
U16s – <i>Paul Barden</i>	21	■
U31s – <i>Kripa Panchagnula</i>	23	■
Lady Milne Trophy – <i>Heather Dhondy</i>	24	■
Teltscher Trophy – <i>David Jones</i>	26	■
Obituaries	27	■
ACOLytes – <i>India Natt</i>	28	●
Beat Today's Experts – <i>Bird's questions</i>	32	■
Heffalump Traps – <i>Bakhshi's questions</i>	33	■
Club Bidding Quiz – <i>Pottage's questions</i>	33	■
Basic Cardplay – <i>Paul Bowyer</i>	34	●
Traps for the Unwary – <i>Michael Byrne</i>	36	●
Crocs on Defence – <i>Stephen Kennedy</i>	38	●
Bridge Fiction – <i>David Bird</i>	40	■
Prize Leads Quiz – <i>Mould's questions</i>	42	■
EBED Quiz – <i>Lorna Watson</i>	43	■
May's Leads Quiz – <i>Mould's answers</i>	44	■
Heather's Hints – <i>Heather Dhondy</i>	46	●
Ask Robin – <i>Robin Barker</i>	48	■
Heffalump Traps – <i>Bakhshi's answers</i>	50	■
Beat Today's Experts – <i>Bird's answers</i>	54	■
Letters to the Editor	57	■
Landmark Promotions	58	■
Summer Meeting results	60	■
Club Bidding Quiz – <i>Pottage's answers</i>	61	■
National Results	62	■

ONLINE EXTRA

Bridge Club Live	65	■
Funbridge	66	■
EBU Board	67	■
India's extra quiz	68	■
Bowyer's extra quiz	70	■
Byrne's extra quiz	72	■
Letters on 1NT v 1♠/♥	73	■
European Champions photos	76	■
Computer lead simulations	80	■

merciantravel
BRIDGE & BOWLING

Low Deposit from
£75.00 per person*
accommodation only

No Single Supplement
Subject to availability

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

Different durations available – ask today for your tailored package

Join Mercian Travel for

Bridge and Bowling

At the 4* hotel Sol Don Pedro in Torremolinos

26th October - 24th November 2024

19th January - 30th March 2025

Why Book with Mercian?

- 6 days a week – EBU licensed 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



*Terms & conditions apply (see website). £75 pp low deposit offer applies to accommodation only bookings. ATOL protected flight inclusive packages carry a higher deposit. Pétanque is subject to minimum numbers.



Daily Celebrity
Challenge
by IntoBridge

Play 5 boards against
the world's finest bridge players!

Pete



Gavin



It's FREE to create an
account and play, go to
www.INTOBRIDGE.com



Our robot Lia plays
various bidding systems,
including ACOL!

Have you ever asked yourself - how a top
player would bid or play this hand?
Play, compare and learn from the best!

IntoBridge.com



Steering the EBU

I have been the Chair of the EBU Board for almost a year now, and so much seems to have happened in the last nine months. We have seen a great deal of positive change, including the composition of the board; I was first elected at the AGM in November 2020 and the only common members now are myself and Patrick Shields. We are a re-energised and forward-looking board, always seeking new ways to improve the experience of bridge players, new and old.

I would like to highlight four particular outcomes we have achieved in the months since the AGM:

First, our *Bridge it's a Big Deal! - a Festival of Bridge* is an important and innovative way to bring bridge to the attention of many people who have either never played the game or did once and can now be reacquainted with it. I hope that as you read this every club and county will be celebrating their successful showcasing of bridge and will be welcoming new members. The original idea of the festival came from Tony Russ, who sadly died recently (*see obituary on p27*) but I hope this is a lasting tribute to him

Second, there have been major changes at EBED; the entire set of trustees has changed from the early part of this year and, in an unrelated change, a new CEO has been appointed. This has allowed a total reset of the EBU/EBED relationship and we are jointly confident that the consequences of these changes are all positive and will reap tangible rewards, notably in youth bridge and the teaching of bridge, in the foreseeable future. Board members Ian Sidgwick and Abbey Smith are EBED Trustees, and Ian is Chair. Paul Gibbons was the interim Treasurer but that role has now been taken over by one of the two new EBED trustees. We are very grateful to them for taking on this important work.

Third, the board has been looking at our Articles of Association and Bye Laws. They are almost historical documents, written in a language more familiar to a bygone age, and have been rewritten

(overseen by Paul Gibbons) to suit our current needs. Assuming that the necessary legal checks are complete in time, we will be presenting these to the shareholders at the November AGM for approval. There will be changes proposed to our structures and some marked modernisations.

Finally the whole board has been working on a new strategy, led by Diana Nettleton, which will also be presented to the November AGM. Our overarching 'mission' is:

- ❖ to work, at all times, within a supportive, respectful and courteous culture which properly values all players, staff, volunteers, shareholders and sponsors;
- ❖ to welcome, help and support all players on their own personal journey into and through the world of bridge; and, of course
- ❖ to promote the game of bridge in England as an inclusive mind sport, working with and through our bridge clubs and county associations.

The EBU board is a group of dedicated **volunteers**, who oversee policy and strategy and work closely with the CEO, Gordon Rainsford, and the staff. We form a diverse group and our variety of backgrounds, experiences and skills ensures there is healthy debate at meetings while maintaining a harmonious collective responsibility for decisions.

Details of all the board members and their responsibilities are in the Online Extra on p67. There will be elections to the board at the AGM when all current members whose terms are ending are planning to stand, which we hope will allow us to continue the work we have started, as a unified and effective body. My election as Chair in 2023 means I am not required to seek re-election and I look forward to chairing the board until 2026.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all shareholders and player-members for their consistent and warm support for the EBU in general and specifically for the work of the board. □

COMPETITION NEWS

YEAR END LONDON 2024

Early bird discount!

Join us between Christmas and New Year (27 – 30 December) for four fabulous days of bridge. Don't forget to book before 13th November to take advantage of the special early bird offer and receive £10 off the price of the full congress.

The Year End Congress will remain in London – at the popular venue of Marlborough Primary School, near South Kensington tube station, where the Easter Congress was held earlier this year.

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

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

ALGARVE CONGRESS

The first Overseas Congress of 2025 will be taking place in Tavira, Portugal, from 3 – 10 February 2025 and is sponsored by First For Bridge.

Join us for a fabulous week at the elegant Hotel Vila Galé Tavira, ideally located in the centre of the town. It is just 100m from the nearest shops, tapas bars and restaurants and close to the stunning Ria Formosa Natural Park. The highly rated hotel is built in traditional Portuguese style and offers excellent facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a spa, making it an ideal location for a winter bridge congress.

WINTER MID-WEEK ONLINE CONGRESS

This new congress will be held online over three days from 3 – 5 December. It takes the place of the previous Seniors Congress on RealBridge and is open to all EBU members. On Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a two-day Championship Pairs and on Thursday there will be a Swiss Teams event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Red – F2F Events

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 16-21 WBF World Bridge Tour, New Delhi
- 21-22 Crockfords Finals, Coventry
- 21-22 Cumbria/Westmorland GP Congress, Kendal
- 21-22 Surrey GP Congress, Richmond
- 21-22 Sussex Autumn (BP) Congress, Patcham
- 22 Notting'shire GP Swiss Pairs, Spondon
- 27-29 WBF World Bridge Tour, Vilnius
- 28-29 Premier League 2nd w/e, various clubs
- 29 Essex GP Swiss Pairs, Billericay

OCTOBER 2024

- 5-6 Gold Cup Finals, Young Chelsea BC
- 5-6 Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Leeds
- 5-6 Suffolk Congress GP weekend, Elmswell
- 7-10 Autumn SIM Pairs, various clubs, BBO & RealBridge
- 12 OODGP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 13 Super Sunday Special, RealBridge
- 13 West of England GP Swiss Teams, Woolavington
- 15-22 Overseas Congress, Crete
- 19 EBU 9 High Pairs, RealBridge
- 20 Derbyshire GP Swiss Pairs, Spondon
- 21-3 World Bridge Games, Buenos Aires
- 26-27 Kent & Sussex GP Congress, Tunbridge Wells
- 26-27 Malvern GP Congress, Worcester

NOVEMBER 2024

- 1-3 North East Congress, Gateshead
- 1-3 Autumn Junior Bridge Camp, Woldingham
- 2-3 Berks & Bucks GP Congress, Windsor
- 9-10 Tollemache Qualifiers, RealBridge
- 10 EBU Jack High Pairs, RealBridge
- 11-15 Children in Need SIM Pairs, various clubs, BBO & RealBridge
- 14-16 EBL Champions Cup, Boario Terme, Italy
- 16-17 Lancashire GP Congress, Preston
- 16-17 Middlesex GP Congress, Richmond
- 17 Super Sunday Special, RealBridge
- 23-24 Premier League 3rd w/e, various clubs
- 24 OODGP Swiss Pairs, RealBridge
- 28-8 WBF World Bridge Tour - NABC, Las Vegas
- 30 EBU Jack High Pairs, RealBridge

DECEMBER 2024

- 3-5 EBU Winter Mid-Week Congress, RealBridge
- 8 Super Sunday Special, RealBridge
- 13-15 Junior Channel Trophy, YCBC, London
- 14 OODGP Swiss Teams, RealBridge
- 27-30 Year End Congress, London
- 30 EBU Jack High Pairs, BBO

JANUARY 2025

- 3-5 Camrose Trophy, first weekend, Scotland



EBU CONGRESSES AND COMPETITIONS

All events are Green Pointed unless stated

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

Great Northern Swiss Pairs

5 – 6 October
Village Hotel, Leeds North



Swiss Pairs
9-high Swiss Pairs – LP
Entry via events@ycba.co.uk

EBU Cretan Congress

15 – 22 October
Kernos Beach Hotel



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

EBU Winter Mid-Week Online Congress

3 – 5 December
RealBridge



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

Year-End Congress

27 – 30 December
Marlborough Primary School, London



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

EBU Algarve Congress

3 – 10 February
Vila Galé, Tavira, Portugal



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

Harrogate Congress

7 – 9 February
Cedar Court Hotel
Harrogate



Swiss Pairs
Really Easy Pairs – LP
Swiss Teams
includes two meals in breaks

Ranked Masters Pairs

22 – 23 February
RealBridge

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

Separate competitions for:

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



For Better, For Worse



When I was learning bridge, I was partnered with a dashing young man. We enjoyed playing together and subsequently began dating. There were a few bumps in the road, and he eventually confessed, 'I'm not sure I want to go out with you anymore, but I can't afford to lose my bridge partner.' The sequel to this low moment will be revealed. Clever though (if disheartening) – he had realised the vital importance of a good partnership to success in our game. The crucial process of finding Mr Right at the table is fraught with danger so how can we guide our students?

Most of my pupils arrive on their own or with their life partners. I like to couple up the former and decouple the latter. Allowing married couples to only partner each other can create a world of grief. Perhaps one has dragged the other along or one is quicker to learn and too often the power dynamics of the relationship play out at the table. I remember one wife who never dared play a card as declarer without her husband at her shoulder. Even with a well-matched pair, it's good practice to play with others or it becomes a huge point of anxiety when you finally need to. Introducing randomness helps – pick a card for a partner and change after coffee. Establish from lesson one that they will be expected to play with different people and all will be well – wait until lesson three and they will resist.

Explicitly outline good partnership behaviour (at the risk of sounding patronising). It's better to preempt trouble than clean up afterwards. Praise the opposition and your partner and criticise neither. Beware that a casual negative word can deflate an anxious partner who may carry despair to the next table and the one after. Building a partnership takes time and it needs maintaining. Students may not realise the benefits of setting aside time to go through hands and to agree systems.

Sometimes you find that partners at bridge have different ambitions. One is there for the social and

it's something to do that gets them out of the house. The other thought this was fine, but has become ambitious – just listening to the chat at the table and seeing Stayman, transfers and other systems come to life has made them keener to try to master these things. When brave pupils take to the duplicate floor some teachers strongly encourage them to only play together once a month. Twelve times a year you can put up with anything. It does mean finding four or five bridge partners, but that's so good for the club too. The brave ones are great at encouraging others to give it a go.

Most of all we can all celebrate the joy of the partnership aspect of our game. It's rare to have to work with another in this way and it gives bridge its very particular quality. It's so close to dancing – such pleasure when it works but so dreadful when it doesn't. This view, given by Jane Austen's lovely Elizabeth Bennet when forced to dance with the odious Mr Collins, nails it for me.

The two first dances . . . were dances of mortification. Mr. Collins, awkward and solemn, apologising instead of attending, and often moving wrong without being aware of it, gave her all the shame and misery which a disagreeable partner for a couple of dances can give. The moment of her release from him was ecstasy.

There is no *Tinder* in the bridge world so we need to value what we have. My bridge partner and I take inspiration from one of the greatest pairs of all time – Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth – described by the portmanteau 'Meckwell'. They work so well together that their identities have merged. But also (I understand) they never speak to each other after a hand at the table – an excellent policy it seems to me, though I don't always succeed.

And who is this bridge partner now you may ask? Reader, I married him. That same young man is my husband of 26 years – I think I might just have forgiven him as long as he doesn't ignore my signals.

Do write to me at marysharp@btinternet.com □

Christmas Bridge 2024
 Webbington Hotel & Spa, Somerset
 23rd December for 4 nights from £520pp
 Hosted by Frank & Gina Coltman

Your Bridge Break includes:

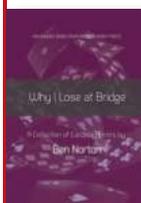
- ◆ Welcome Drinks Reception
- ◆ Full Board including Full English Breakfast and Traditional Christmas Lunch
- ◆ Bridge Licensed by EBU with Duplicate Pairs and Teams
- ◆ Master Points and Prizes

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

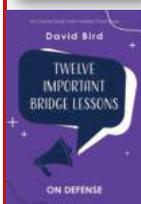
T: 01934 750100 | info@webbingtonhotelandspa.co.uk
 www.webbingtonhotelandspa.co.uk

BRIDGE BOOK AWARDS

Two EBU members were nominated for awards by the American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA). The contest recognises excellence in instructional resources for bridge players of all levels.



Ben Norton was runner-up in the Advanced category for his book *Why I Lose at Bridge: A Collection of Cardplay Errors*.



David Bird was the joint winner of the intermediate category for his book *Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Defense*.

Both books are published by Master Point Press.

PREMIER GRAND MASTERS

Congratulations to

Stefan Lindfors, Devon
Robert Miller, Northamptonshire
David Mossop, Direct Overseas

on becoming

Premier Grand Masters

the English Bridge Union's highest rank, requiring a minimum 1,500 Green Points

AA **WORTHING 2025 BRIDGE EVENTS** **AA**
 No. 1 privately owned Hotel on www.Tripadvisor.co.uk



PRIVATE CLUB WEEKENDS 2025
 Tailor made arrangements to suit your club, contact Richard to arrange a complimentary reconnaissance visit.

FRIENDLY DUPLICATE ONLY BRIDGE
 February 21 – 24, March 28 – 31, April 25 – 28, all at £348.00
 May 30 – 2 June £360
 Full Board - 3 Nights - 5 Sessions
 NO SUPPLEMENTS for single bedded rooms

THE ARDINGTON HOTEL
 • Worthing • reservations@ardingtonhotel.co.uk
 • Tel: (01903) 230451
 • www.ardingtonhotel.co.uk

BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN 2025 GOLD CUP

The premier British teams event

Closing date for entries:

Monday, 16th November 2024

The 2025 Gold Cup will run from November 2024 to the Finals in December 2025. The Silver Plate, also administered by BGB, is open to all first and second round Gold Cup losers, with the exception of Scottish teams who have their own Plate, and will commence in April 2025.

Entry fee: £96 per team
 (half-price pro-rata for players under 26)
 The entry fee includes the fee for the Silver Plate

Enquiries to Sandra Claridge
sclaridge31@gmail.com

Entry form at
www.bridgegreatbritain.org



CAPTION COMPETITION

CROSSWORD NO 44

Compiled by MERMEN

Answers online, p69

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 Operagoer from Hampton (7)
- 9 One governed the country (4)
- 10 One deal expectant passengers expect to hear after all (6)
- 11 An element of political intrigue needed to become, ultimately, mayor — try it, Dick (10, two words)
- 12 Team's turned up but it's about time for changes (5)
- 15 Material suitable for screening through glasses, I hear (7)
- 17 A private refuge concerned with cure (7)
- 20 Unsettling a rich presiding officer (5)
- 21 Seen on the grand crumbly old monument (10)
- 22, 2d Capital game marketed in the U.S. (6,6)
- 23 Grew moss occasionally on diamonds, perhaps (4)
- 24 Father Christmas's travel arrangements have given trouble (7)

DOWN

- 1 Team member's weapon (7)
- 2 See 22a
- 3 See 16d
- 5 For example, take notice of Spooner's country bumpkin (7)
- 6 Leading national organisations realised metric systems provide standards (5)
- 7 List a panel that can provide aircraft parts (10)
- 8 Started across then went back to look for killer (4)
- 13 Lydian woman fated for a change when fog cleared (7)
- 14 Racing paper (7)
- 16, 3 Gamine and in game — examples with an original theme (6,10)
- 18 Player finally finishes in tears (5)
- 19 Getting some Stoics to agree where they would meet (4)



I can hear the windows shattering! 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 Loucie Smithson for my favourite, shown beneath the picture. Other close contenders were Brian Gladman's *'Brian exits with his latest squeeze'*; Michael Canton's *'They played their hearts out, but we trumped them at the finish'*; and Richard Wilson's *'Two definite losers'*.



Love doubles, don't you?

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



A NEW CAST WITHIN EBED



Richard Croot has been appointed as the new CEO of English Bridge Education & Development, starting in September.

Richard has been in education since 1994, running school bridge and chess clubs, and has bought on some notable players. On his appointment he said, 'I am thrilled to be heading a team dedicated to significantly increasing the number of bridge players, with a particular focus on youth and enhancing participation in EBED's junior camps.' You can read this bio here: www.tinyurl.com/richard-croot

EBED chair Ian Sidgwick has also announced two new appointees to serve on EBED's board, noting 'they are both great additions to the team bringing complimentary skills and experiences'.

Tony Cherrett is a life-long player and has been teaching in Surrey for 12 years after a career in IT and banking. William Bourne, who has taken up the role of treasurer, has been involved with EBED and youth bridge since 2016. He was a recipient of the Tom Bradley Award for services to Youth Bridge in 2022.

The trustees have also appointed Charlie Bucknell and BucknellBridge to provide leadership and drive to co-ordinate and expand youth bridge. Charlie is a professional player who rose through the ranks of the junior squads and now teaches the U21s.

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

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

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.

European Championships 2024

All teams qualify for World Championships

This year the European Championships took place in Herning, Denmark. Held every two years, the tournament is the qualifier for the World Championships.

England sent four teams – Open, Womens, Seniors and Mixed. The Championships were played as complete round robins in each category, with gold, silver and bronze medals for the first three teams, and entry to next year’s World Championships for the first eight.

At the last event, in 2022, none of our teams qualified, but this year it was a different story ...

EUROPEANS – OPEN TEAMS By NPC Paul Barden

England’s Open Team comprised a pre-selected pair, Andrew Robson & David Gold, the winners of a pairs trial, Tom Townsend & Ben Handley-Pritchard, and a pair chosen by the Selection Committee in consultation with the first two pairs, Ben Norton & Stefano Tommasini. Claire Robinson and your writer were appointed as coach and non-playing captain.

Andrew & David, both well-known players on the world bridge scene, had won the equivalent trial in January 2020, their last venture together in representative bridge. Tom & Ben HP had been our best pair in the previous European Open Championship in Madeira, while Ben N & Stefano, a new partnership, have both deservedly gained considerable international experience at, for bridge players, an early age. Having booked our flights to Billund, home of Lego, we felt we had the building blocks for a successful campaign.

We were to play a round robin of 29 16-board matches over eleven days, a gentle schedule including two days with only two matches each, and just one match on the last day. We started the tournament against Spain, falling behind in the early boards. This deal was the turning point:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Torres	Gold	Frances	Robson
	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Norton	F Goded	Tommasini	G Goded
	1NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Souths judged that their 6-card diamond suit made game worth bidding opposite a 15-17 1NT opening. For Spain, Gonzalo Goded transferred to diamonds, then showed spade shortage, but the final contract was the same.

Both Easts led a fourth-best ♠5 to the king and ace, and both declarers naturally played on diamonds. Federico Goded started with the ♦8 to the three and king. Norton, West, wanted to see another card from partner before he chose which major to play, and judged that declarer wouldn’t have attacked diamonds this way missing the queen, so he ducked. He got to see East’s ♦10 on the next trick, revealing a reverse Smith Peter in their partnership methods – Tommasini liked spades. On winning the ♦A, Norton continued with the ♠9.

Declarer could and should have given East a problem by covering that, but he didn't, and the defence made four spade tricks and the red aces for two off.

At the other table, Gold wanted to keep his chances if $\heartsuit A1093$ were onside, so he started with the $\heartsuit Q$. That was easy to duck, so West again saw East play diamonds upwards. But for this pair, high-low in diamonds would have encouraged spades, so West switched to $\heartsuit 4$. Gold misguessed, his $\heartsuit J$ losing to $\heartsuit Q$, and East returned $\heartsuit 10$ to West's ace. Gold, however, was watching the spots and followed in tempo with the king. From West's point of view, East's majors could have been something like $\spadesuit J10652 \heartsuit Q1083$. He continued hearts, and Gold claimed ten tricks. (If you saw the play go differently on VuGraph, that's because the operator was less quick-thinking than North.)

Good wins against Spain and Portugal put us in second place at the end of the first day. But over the next three days we lost matches alliteratively against Italy, Iceland and Israel, falling to twelfth position after four days' play.

We weren't playing badly, but there were too many mistakes to counteract the good things we were doing. Decisive action was required from the captain: I bought the team ice-creams. That did the trick, we won nine matches in a row. Perhaps the most pleasing of these wins was against France, where we again turned the match round at the end:

N/S Game. Dealer South.

	$\spadesuit Q$		
	$\heartsuit A 8 5 4 3$		
	$\diamondsuit 9 7 2$		
	$\clubsuit K Q 10 7$		
$\spadesuit K J 10 6$		$\spadesuit 7 4 3 2$	
$\heartsuit Q$		$\heartsuit J 9$	
$\diamondsuit K 10 5 3$		$\diamondsuit A Q J 8 6$	
$\clubsuit A 9 8 6$		$\clubsuit J 3$	
	$\spadesuit A 9 8 5$		
	$\heartsuit K 10 7 6 2$		
	$\diamondsuit 4$		
	$\clubsuit 5 4 2$		

West	North	East	South
<i>Combesure</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>H-Pritchard</i>
			Pass
1 \heartsuit	1 \heartsuit	Dble	4 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Norton</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
			Pass
1 \clubsuit	1 \heartsuit	Dble	4 \heartsuit
4 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The Wests opened the minor their systems demanded, the Norths overcalled 1 \heartsuit , and the Easts doubled to show their 4-card spade suit. Handley-Pritchard showed a game raise with diamond shortage, leaving Townsend well placed to judge over competition from West, which was not forthcoming. For France, Lorenzini simply raised to game, and Norton, looking at a singleton heart, felt it was his duty to compete to 4 \clubsuit .

Playing 4 \heartsuit , Townsend made an early claim for eleven. With East-West favourable, England seemed to be onto a good thing playing 4 \clubsuit doubled, but the double-dummy result of one down seemed unlikely to be achieved at the table. However, Bessis chose to lead the $\spadesuit Q$, which could have been right, but wasn't. West won his king, gave up a heart, ruffed the heart return, and led the $\spadesuit J$, claiming one off when North showed out – a ruff-and-discard would let declarer get dummy's club away so that South could make his trumps but nothing more, or any other defence would let declarer draw another trump before playing on diamonds, losing a heart, a club, and two spades.

All this took us up to fourth place: we'd done enough for a top eight finish to be likely. A 20-0 VP win against Estonia made qualification almost certain. We were chasing Italy, 9 VPs ahead for a medal place. And for a few minutes in round 27 we'd narrowly overtaken them in the running scores. Then on board 15 of the match only three teams in the Open field bid a poorish 6NT: two of them were Italy and our opponents, Türkiye. On the lie the slam was fated to make, and we lost six VPs relative to our rivals. Things went badly from there. We lost heavily to Sweden, while Denmark, fighting for a place, self-destructed against Italy. Our final position, fourth, was a fair reflection of how we played, but we're confident we can improve in the next year – this team believes in one another and can go from strength to strength.

In the final standings, Norway were the deserving winners, the internationally-recruited Swiss team came second, Italy third, and England fourth. We'll meet them next year in the Bermuda Bowl. □

EUROPEANS – WOMENS TEAMS By NPC David Burn

The England Womens team for the 2024 European Championships contained four players who had previously won at least two European titles, and two players who hadn't because they were playing in the event for the first time. Diana Nettleton and Helen Erichsen were the debutantes, playing with Sally Brock and Fiona Brown respectively. As Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith and I were walking to the venue before the first match, Nicola wondered 'how many times have we done this, David?' I didn't know the tactful answer to that. 'A few', I said.

The team's principal goal was to finish in the top eight and qualify for the 2025 Venice Cup, the world championships. A medal would be a bonus. With two rounds to go England had to play France – who together with Norway were a long way clear of the rest of the field – and Israel, who were out of the hunt for anything meaningful. The match against the French made two things clear: the new-look French team was at least as formidable as its illustrious predecessors, and the old-and-new-look English team could relax in the final match because they would qualify comfortably for the Venice Cup but would not win a medal.

Fiona Brown is clearly an admirer of Lewis Carroll, judging by this deal – Board 1 from the match against eventual champions Norway:

Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Vist</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Heskie</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♦ ¹
¹ spades	4♠	All Pass	

Brown led the ♦Q and declarer reflexively allowed this to hold as Erichsen encouraged with the ♦3. When Brown switched to the ♥Q ('Off with her head!' said the Red Queen) declarer covered with the ♥K, which held, then belatedly tried a club. Erichsen won with the ♣A and played a heart, defeating by a trick a contract that was made at just about every other table in the entire event.

An encouraging feature of the England performance was their ability to score a lot of IMPs in the final four boards of most matches. The 11 IMPs picked up on the first board were replicated on the last of the Norway match, where many Wests faced a horrible decision:

E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Harding</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Fuglestad</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
TYP ¹	All Pass		
¹ Thank you, partner			

Marianne Harding, West, made the best of a bad job when she decided to pass out 3♣ doubled lest worse befall if she bid anything. At first sight, on the obvious spade lead there would be five losers, but with even breaks in every suit it was not too hard for a declarer of Senior's ability to take nine winners first. At the other table Brown, facing a passed partner, did not think enough of her flat hand to do other than pass over North's 3♣, and when declarer mistimed the play to go down one, England picked up 50 in one room and 470 in the other. □



EUROPEANS – SENIORS TEAMS By NPC Paul Hackett

England fielded an experienced team for the Seniors European Team Championships. David Mossop played with Gunnar Hallberg, Alan Mould & John Holland, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields, with myself as NPC.

Our team had a very tough start against two of the favourites – Poland and Sweden. After the first two days we were struggling with only two teams below us.

One of the few bright spots was John and Alan's bidding to 6♠ on this board in our match against Poland. Although a diamond lead would have beaten it, the contract came in. They were the only pair to find the slam and gained 11 IMPs:

In our second round against Sweden, Patrick had an interesting problem in 5♥.

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ A Q 3
♥ 9
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ J 9 8 7 5

♠ 4
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ K 10 7 5 3
♣ 6 4 2

♠ 9 5
♥ J 10 8 6 2
♦ A 6
♣ A K Q 3

♠ K J 10 8 7 6 2
♥ K 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ 10

West	North	East	South
Chamberlain	Efrainsson	Shields	Morath
			3♣
Pass	4♠	Dble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ 4 2
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ J 9 4
♣ 9 7 6 5

♠ K Q 7 3
♥ 8
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ Q J 10 4

♠ A 10 9 6 5
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ 10 6
♣ A 2

♠ J 8
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ K Q 5 3
♣ K 8 3

West	North	East	South
Holland	Tuszynski	Mould	Kowalski
			1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

After the club lead, and with no help from the bidding, the technical way to play the heart suit would be to take the heart finesse. However, after South's pre-emptive 3♣ opening the ♥K is more likely to be in the North hand. He therefore played ace and another to discover the pre-empter had the king and was able to put his partner in with a spade to get the club ruff. Unlucky.

Despite the poor start John Holland & Alan Mould kept us afloat. The camaraderie was high and gradually the team performed at the level we were hoping for. Indeed we won our last nine matches claiming the scalps of France, Denmark and on the final match we beat the eventual gold medalists, the Netherlands. It was a team which I was proud to captain, and sliding into seventh place we qualified for the all-important d'Orsi Seniors Trophy at the World Championships next year. □

All team photos online, p75



EUROPEANS – MIXED TEAMS

By NPC Derek Patterson

The phone rang. ‘Hi, we’re looking for someone with the wisdom of Solomon ... a steadying influence ... and a good sense of humour.’ Notwithstanding these preferences and despite explaining that the wrong number must have been dialled, by the end of the call I seemed to have been appointed captain of the mixed team.

The players were Sarah Bell & Mike Bell, Heather Dhondy & Kieran Dyke and Maggie Knottenbelt & Michael Byrne, with myself as NPC.

Previous championships – such as the one in Wroclaw – had taught me that misfortune could strike at any moment. While there I was arrested for, ‘being a pedestrian on a wide road’. In Herning, during the early rounds, bad luck seemed to strike every time we bid a slam!

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Hodosi</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Lajos</i>
		1♠	Pass
4♠ ¹	Pass	5♣ ²	Pass
5♦ ^{1,2}	Dble	Pass ³	Pass
Redble ^{1,4}	Pass	6♣	All Pass

¹ Not holding back; ² Cuebid; ³ Waiting,
⁴ 1st round control

Consider Heather’s bidding on this hand against Hungary. Never before, in the field of human conflict, has so much been bid on so little! The wonderful slam was reached, only to crash on the rocks of bad distribution. The spade finesse failed and, furthermore, a lethal club break led to the inevitable demise of what was, in truth, a truly excellent and very well bid contract.

Further bitter twists of fate at the six level were to follow and qualification for the Wuhan Cup (the World Mixed Teams Championships) seemed to be in considerable doubt. Fortunately, when the going got tough ... the tough went into overdrive! Look at this hand with Maggie sitting West opposite Michael, against Serbia:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Veljko</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Simic</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	All Pass

Maggie Knottenbelt wrapped up 13 tricks and it was 9 IMPs to England. We were climbing up the table!

In the match against Scotland, Sarah & Mike Bell were dealt these cards:

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

The auction had been competitive, with the opponents opening 1♦ in front of Mike (West). With most tables going down in 4♠, Mike and Sarah made the inspired decision to try 3NT! The Scottish responder had shown both red suits and so the spades were finessed (Qxx outside) leading to a fabulous result – 3NT making and 8 IMPs!

The last few matches were incredibly exciting – one slip and we were gone – but the team played exceptionally well and when we started the final match against the mighty Poles, we knew that a 17 IMP victory would secure us a place in next year’s World Championship. Our luck seemed to have changed – especially in the grand slam zone. We bid 7♣ to take an early lead. Then the Poles slipped up in 6♦. Further swings in and we had prevailed by 40 IMPs! We had qualified (6th position). Bring on the Wuhan Cup! □

European Youth Team Championships 2024

Two medals and 100% qualification

This year the European Youth Team Championships took place in Wroclaw, Poland. Held every two years, the tournament is the qualifier for the World Championships.

England sent five teams – U31, U26, U26W, U21 and U16. The Championships were played as complete round robins in each category, with gold, silver and bronze medals for the first three teams, and entry to next year's World Championships for the first eight.

This was the first year that England was represented in the U31 category, which was introduced in 2022.

YOUTH EUROPEANS – U26 TEAMS By Joseph Clark

The England U26 team came into the tournament full of pep and energy. Most of us immediately regretted having ever complained about the English 'summer', since the only alternative was apparently battling 36° of heat in a room with no air-conditioning. Sweating our way through it were Daniel Winter & Liam Sanderson, Harry Madden & Oscar Selby, and Liam Fegarty playing with myself, Joseph Clark.

We lost the first match by a small margin to a very respectable Swedish team. Then the wins started coming.

One of our NPC Michael Byrne's foreboding instructions at the start of the tournament had been, 'If you double them in a part-score, you must beat them.' The Italians would have done well to heed that advice in the second match:



N/S Game. Dealer East.

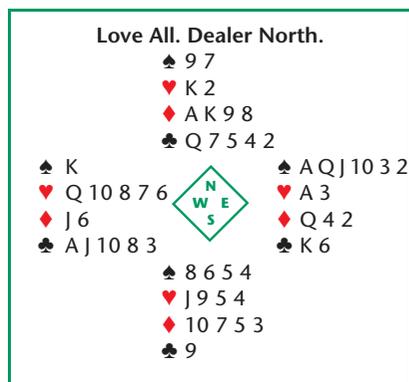
♠	A 10 9 8 5 2
♥	3
♦	2
♣	K 10 8 7 3
♠	K Q J
♥	K 10 7
♦	A Q 10 9
♣	J 9 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> N W E S </div>
♠	3
♥	9 5 4 2
♦	K J 6 5
♣	A Q 6 2
♠	7 6 4
♥	A Q J 8 6
♦	8 7 4 3
♣	5

West	North	East	South
<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Sanderson</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	2♠	Dble	3♥
Pass	3♣	Dble	All Pass

The Italians, playing a variable NT, opened 1♣ in third seat and when the dust settled, Daniel Winter was playing in 3♠ doubled. The Italian East had a textbook trump lead, after which down two is not difficult, but he had other ideas and started with a diamond. West won and belatedly shifted to a trump, won by Winter who crossed to the ♥A to lead a club to the ♣10 and ♣Q.

Having no more trumps to play, East tried his luck with another diamond which Winter ruffed. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart back to hand and now made the key play of leading the ♣K from hand, pinning West's jack. Thanking fortune for his crucial ♣8, declarer could now claim nine tricks. It was 12 IMPs to England when E/W were in 3NT going one off at the other table, a valuable contribution to a 16 IMP victory over the Italians.

Two days later, having not lost a match since the initial loss to the Swedes, England was on Vugraph against an underperforming, but potentially very dangerous, Norwegian team. The very first hand showcased the importance of a plan at trick one:



Both tables bid confidently to 4♠, North having opened 1♣. Naturally, South led his singleton ♣9, a lead consistent with the actual holding or ♣9x in their methods. After a moment of wishing the contract was 3NT, the English declarer called for the ♣10 to tempt a cover. When none was forthcoming, he overtook with the king, played a spade to the king and a heart back and drew trumps, pitching a heart and two clubs from the dummy. A heart to the ♥10 now guaranteed the contract so long as North held the ♥K: almost a certainty on the opening bid. Any suit North now played would give the contract away. When South turned up with the ♥J in any case, declarer was home in a slightly less exotic fashion.

At the other table on the same lead, the Norwegian declarer held the first trick with a club honour and played a club immediately to his king which was ruffed. Our boys still had two diamonds and a heart to collect, so that was +10 IMPs to England in an overall convincing 47–26 victory.

At this point we were firmly in third position, but some big losses against very respectable teams meant that we dropped a bit towards the end. Then, on the final day, we played Denmark with whom we were neck-and-neck. About halfway through the set the following deal came up:



West	North	East	South
<i>Brandgaard</i>	<i>Clark</i>	<i>Rolf-Larsen</i>	<i>Fegarty</i>
Pass	1♠ ¹	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	2♥	Pass
Dble ²	All Pass	Pass	Pass

¹ No 4-card major; ² Asking for a club lead

Neither table chose to open the East hand with a weak 2♥, but both competed with 2♥ on the second round of the auction. At one table, the Danish West tried what can charitably be described as a ‘speculative’ lead-directing double. The result was catastrophic: the ♣9 lead blew the suit up, enabling the ♣6 to be finessed on the second round, and declarer could ultimately take 10 tricks for +950.

At the other table, Harry Madden (sitting East) found the brilliant lead of a small spade which went to partner’s ten. A spade return went to the king, and declarer won the third round with the ace. Declarer played a club to the jack and a diamond to the jack and queen, at which point Oscar Selby could cash his ♠Q for book. He then exited with a heart to North’s ace. Playing for a miracle in the club suit, declarer ended up down two, so that was 1150 on aggregate and an unusual 15 IMPs to England in a match which finished 44–40 in our favour.

When the dust had settled, England were in seventh place, comfortably (in terms of VPs) into qualification for the World Championships next year. Thanks go to the team, coach Stephen Kennedy, NPC Michael Byrne, and all those who contributed to enable the team to play in the event. □



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

YOUTH EUROPEANS – U26W TEAMS

By Harriet Cork

The U26W team was represented by Dido Coley & Lily Kearney, Liz Gahan & Imogen La Chapelle with Claire Robinson as NPC and me, Harriet Cork, as the travelling reserve.

On the final match of the round robin, we were in 3rd place playing Denmark and hopeful of hanging on to a medal. This board came up:

Love All. Dealer West.

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

In the open room Lily, sitting West, opened 2♥, showing a 10-13 point hand with 5+ hearts, no 4-card spade suit and unbalanced. North passed, and Dido made an invitational raise to game. After South aggressively overcalled 3♠, Lily raised to 4♥ which bought the contract.

North led the ♠3, South won with the ace and returned a spade, which Lily ruffed. After this, Lily was concerned about being forced in the event of a 4-1 heart split, so needed to retain trumps in the West hand in order to avoid losing control of the hand. She made the key play of running the ♥8. When this held she cashed the ♥K and was hit with the bad news of the 4-1 heart split.

Lily now knew of three certain losers: one spade, one heart and one club. Trying to pick up the diamonds, Lily led a small diamond to the ♦K and returned a small diamond to the ace, the percentage play for picking up a suit with nine cards missing the queen. When this worked, Lily continued with diamonds, waiting for the inevitable ruff from North. By not drawing any more trumps, Lily was able to maintain full control of the hand and made five hearts, four diamonds and the ace of clubs for 10 tricks, for +420.

In the closed room, Imogen and Liz's defence started the same, but the declarer blocked herself and allowed them to take the contract off one, +50, and a 10 IMP swing to England.

Unfortunately for Team England, the remainder of this match, although ending in a draw overall, did not go well enough to secure a medal position. However, the team still finished in a very respectable 5th place, qualifying us for the World Championships next year, venue yet to be announced. □

YOUTH EUROPEANS – U21 TEAMS

*** SILVER MEDAL ***

By Lucy Norman

The England U21 team, composed of Henry Rose & Tom Furness, Thomas Gardner & Jamie Fegarty, and Lucy Norman & Charlotte Bedford, came away with the silver medal.

One of the team's biggest wins was our match against France, where we dropped only 8 IMPs and picking up 52 for an 18-2 VP victory.

While many swings were gained on games and part scores, the 16th board came with the only slam of the set – a board which cemented England's lead.

E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chanal</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Ben Guigui</i>	<i>Norman</i>
2♦ ¹	4♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
¹ Weak; ² 5-5 in majors, strong; ³ balanced slam try; ⁴ keeping the bidding open			

France's West opened a weak 2♦ which was quickly quashed by Charlotte's 4♦ bid showing a strong hand with five cards in both majors. Holding

South's powerful hand but with a distinct lack of support for partner, I tried a 4NT bid, attempting to show a balanced slam try. Unfortunately, this left my partner quite confused, but not wanting to discourage any slam interest Charlotte bid 5♦. This fuelled my confidence enough to jump to 6♥.

The contract's prospects at first seemed relatively dire, but the lead of a small heart by Chanal gave me more hope. After running the heart to my 10, I cashed the ♥K and played jack and another spade. I drew the two remaining trumps, throwing clubs from my hand, and began to plan. I can see 11 tricks after the spade split but I'd much prefer to make 12. While the club finesse is feasible, West's 2♦ opener gave rise to a more viable line of play.

I played another spade, again throwing a club, and saw Chanal show out. Knowing he held no more major cards I played a diamond to the jack, which West took with the ♦Q. West is now endplayed, as he must lead away from either the ♦A or the ♣K. He chose a low diamond, on which I threw a club, winning my king to make the contract.

While others ended in slam, our partnership was the only one to pick hearts over clubs or NT. The controversial decision can't be criticised too heavily as we were also the only ones in slam to make 12 tricks! At the other table France's N/S made 3NT+3 for +490, a result of +10 IMPs to England. We were second in the round robin, but with a long way to go.

A terrific run of matches – barring a big loss to Sweden in round 12 – meant we remained in the top four for the rest of the tournament, and finished in second place, just 5 VPs behind the gold medallists, the Netherlands. □

YOUTH EUROPEANS – U16 TEAMS
 *** BRONZE MEDAL ***
 Compiled by Paul Barden, NPC

The U16 event consisted of eleven 14-board matches played over four days – we played fewer boards than the older categories, to give the players more time to wrestle with unfamiliar problems, or else more time outside in the Polish sunshine. The England team was Maks Blicharz & Thomas Bradkin, Cecilia Birdsall &

Holden Clark and roving player, Sophie Morris, all members of the U16 Squad coached by Alan Shillitoe. Alan being unavailable, I had been drafted in as NPC. Maks & Thomas came into the event on top form, winning the strong IMPed pairs game at the Young Chelsea the previous Friday.

We started against Türkiye, with Maks backing his read in the play:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

♠ K J 9 7 6
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 8 6 5
 ♣ 10 4 2

♠ 8 2
 ♥ Q 7 2
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ A Q 9 8 3

♠ A Q 10 5
 ♥ K 9 6 4
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ J 6 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Gungor</i>	<i>Blicharz</i>	<i>Akyurek</i>	<i>Bradkin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

East led the ♠8 to the queen and king, and West unwisely returned a spade. Maks won with dummy's ten, played a heart to his ace, and led the ♥J. When East played low he had a close decision – spades were evidently 5-2, making East a slight favourite to hold ♥Q, but on the other hand West hadn't bid 1♠, suggesting that East would have the minor-suit aces, which evens up the vacant-spaces calculation. Maks judged that the odds and his table feel favoured the finesse, and ran the ♥J successfully. He cleared the last trump then played the ♠A discarding a club, and a club to the king and East's ace. Dummy had only one trump for declarer's third and fourth diamonds, but East was endplayed, forced either to give dummy a trick with the ♣J, or to open up the diamonds, solving declarer's problem in the suit.

We won our first match 20-0, and followed that by winning the next five by smaller margins. After two days' play we were in second place behind Hungary. Luck turned against us on the third day, but we were getting some things right, including

this board in round seven against Greece – Sophie Morris, at ten the youngest player in the whole event, takes up the narrative:

Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Clark	Kapidaki	Morris	Ntereka
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	2♣	3♥	Pass
3♠	4♣	5♦	All Pass

‘This was my favourite board because I think it has some interesting views of competitive bidding. After North’s 4♣ bid I had three fun choices – Pass, 5♦ or double. The reason I chose to bid 5♦ over 4♣, rather than double (pass to me is not an option) is because partner has shown a non-minimum hand and it is likely partner will be ruffing hearts.’

With the heart finesse working, Sophie’s 5♦ bid was the winning choice.

Despite this, we lost narrowly to Greece, who struggled against the other leading teams, and then to eventual winners Poland. But we bounced back in the ninth round against Hungary, helped by this team effort:

Game All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Nguyen-Kovacs	Birdsall	Kontra	Clark
4♥	5♣	3♥	3♠
		All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Bradkin	Zabradi	Blicharz	Szabo
4♥	4♠	3♥	3♠
		All Pass	

Unlike many Norths, Cecilia Birdsall knew that 5♣ would be natural, and probably the right contract. Holden Clark knew it too, so they played in the minor-suit game. After a heart lead it was easy to make by ruffing a heart in dummy. On a trump lead, declarer ducks a spade at trick two, and soon establishes the suit for a heart discard.

The 4♣ contract played at most tables often made, but not here. Thomas Bradkin cashed the ace of hearts then judged correctly to switch to a club. Declarer couldn’t make her contract after that: when she chose to play a spade to the nine, Thomas gave Maks a club ruff for two off.

We were in fourth place overnight with two matches to play, but Hungary, in third, still had to play the two leaders, so we had very good chances to overtake them. We had an unlucky loss in the morning to mid-table Israel, while Hungary beat Norway, leaving us 11 VPs behind Norway and 12 behind Hungary. Our last match was against last-placed Netherlands. It started badly: in the first four boards we went off in two games you’d want to be in, and one which depended on the opening lead – none of them bid in the other room. Meanwhile Hungary and Norway both built substantial leads. However, we turned it round with good bridge and good luck, finishing with a 19-1 win while the other leaders were still playing. It was very close at the top. Hungary lost their match and we were in third place by half a VP.

Well done to all the players. Maks, Cecilia, and Sophie will be back next year – Alan Shillitoe is scouting for players to join them as you read this. Good luck to Thomas and Holden joining the Under-21 squad, and to the U16 team in the World Championships! □

All team photos online, p76

YOUTH EUROPEANS – U31 TEAMS

By Kripa Panchagnula

England made its first foray into the U31 category with the team comprising Aaron Hutton & Oliver Powell, Jonathan Clark & myself, Kripa Panchagnula.

We started the event fairly well, picking up steady wins throughout the first day, after which we ended top. However, we struggled during the middle two days and, after a few mistakes combined with some bad luck, we dropped out of medal contention. Despite the end result, there were some good boards to look back upon, including this one against Bulgaria:

Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 9 8 7
♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 4 3 2

♠ Q 4 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ A K 9



♠ A 10 5
♥ K J 10
♦ A J 6
♣ Q 10 8 6

♠ K J 6 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ J 7 5

Both tables were in 6NT with a heart lead. At my table Bulgaria's declarer, sitting East, won the queen, and immediately tried to guess the two-way diamond finesse, running the diamond ten into my queen. With no way to avoid a spade loser later in the hand, he went one down. At the other table Oliver, also East, decided to garner more information about the hand before taking the diamond guess. He started by winning the heart in hand and playing a spade to the queen. South won the king, and played another heart. Oliver won this, played four rounds of clubs with South and dummy throwing diamonds. He now proceeded to cash both spades, and the final heart, ending in hand and took stock.

He knew that the defenders should be leading passively against 6NT and the fact that South turned up with the spade king and club jack, he reasoned that they could only have led a red suit. Using the principle of restricted choice, Oliver

inferred that South would have led a diamond half the time if he did not hold the queen, and the speed at which South played hearts twice suggested he held the diamond queen. Oliver's discovery play was duly rewarded with 14 IMPs.

At the end of a disappointing match against Scotland, we managed to salvage some VPs with a nice defence on the penultimate board:

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ 7 5 4
♥ J 5
♦ K 8 3
♣ A Q 9 7 3

♠ K 8 6
♥ Q 8 4
♦ J 10 9 7 4 2
♣ 10



♠ A Q J 9
♥ K 10 7 6 3
♦ A 6
♣ K 4

♠ 10 3 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ Q 5
♣ J 8 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Falconer</i>	<i>Clark</i>	<i>Valentine</i>	<i>Panchagnula</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both sides were playing 4♥ by East. In defence Scotland, fearing club ruffs in dummy, played two rounds of hearts and England's declarer wrapped up 10 tricks. The auction at my table (shown above) indicated an aggressive lead and looking at three trumps to the ace, I chose the diamond queen. Declarer won and played a heart to the queen. He then tried a club from dummy, taken by Jonathan's ace. Jonathan now played the diamond king and another diamond, which left declarer with no winning option. He ruffed in with the ♥10 and I discarded a club, playing for partner to have the heart jack. I ended up taking the two heart tricks setting the contract by one trick, and we were the only pair in our field to defeat the contract, winning 10 IMPs.

Despite enduring these difficult setbacks, we managed to steady the ship enough to finish in sixth place and qualify for the World Championships next year. □

One hell of a final day!

The home for the Lady Milne this year was in Gormanston, near Dublin. As Ireland were the hosts, they had two teams in the event with the second team called CBAI. The other teams competing were England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

England were fielding a debutant for the Lady Milne – Maggie Knottenbelt – although she is already a seasoned international player and has played for England at open level.

After the first two rounds we were lying second, three points behind Scotland. We needed to get going against the CBAI in round three because it was Scotland we faced in the fourth round.

We started brightly enough, gaining a couple of swings in the first three boards, and then this tricky deal came up on board 4:

The key is to avoid a slam in clubs, but the suit is likely to be agreed early on as happened with this English pair. Nevena Senior's 2♣ bid was natural and game forcing, and Anne Rosen's 3♥ was a splinter agreeing clubs. Senior now bid 3NT in an attempt to play there, but Rosen continued on with 4♣ suggesting a slam in clubs.

Perhaps 4♦ would have been a better continuation given the poor quality of the club suit. 4♥ showed the ace, and Rosen now tried 4NT, RKCB with clubs as trumps. Senior showed one keycard and Rosen bid 6♣ to play. Senior then made the fine decision to remove this to 6NT, and a potential banana skin was avoided. The Irish pair stopped in 5♣ at the other table so this was a big swing to England.

A couple of small swings to the CBAI followed, and then Sally and Maggie found themselves bidding the following deal:

Game All. Dealer West.

♠ Q 10 7 5 3
♥ J 9 8 7
♦ J 2
♣ J 9

♠ A 4
♥ 4
♦ A K 10 8 6 5
♣ A 7 6 4

♠ K J 2
♥ A K Q
♦ Q 9 4
♣ 10 8 5 2

♠ 9 8 6
♥ 10 6 5 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ K Q 3

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ A 8 4
♥ Q J 5
♦ A 2
♣ K J 9 8 7

♠ K 6 2
♥ 10 9 8 4 3
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ Q

♠ J 5 3
♥ K 7 6 2
♦ K 10 8 6 5 4
♣ –

♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ A
♦ 7
♣ A 10 6 5 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Anne	Louise	Nevena	Lucy
Rosen	Mitchell	Senior	Phelan
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Kathleen	Maggie	Noreen	Sally
Vaughn	Knottenbelt	Pender	Brock
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

All pairs reached 6♣ except the ones playing against Rosen and Senior who stopped in five. Sally Brock and Maggie Knottenbelt's auction got the job done nicely, but how do you play it?

Four of the six declarers took a guess in spades and every one of them guessed right but, as Sally and also Sam Punch for Scotland showed, you can avoid any guess. On a heart lead, you can draw the one trump, and eliminate both diamonds and hearts by ruffing all dummy's red cards in hand. There are ample entries for this. Having finished this play, you can lead a spade, it doesn't matter which, but don't play the ace. If you lose to the jack, East will be endplayed.

This article is continued online, p75



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.

SCARBOROUGH CONGRESS



Jason Hackett & John Sansom were the victors in the Scarborough Summer Congress's main event, winning the Swiss Pairs on a split tie ahead of Robert Miller & Daniel Baines. In third place were Matthew Brown & James Thrower.

The **Multiple Teams A** final was won by Magnus Spence-Jones, Croz Crosswell, James Thrower & Matthew Brown. They finished ahead of Dave Robinson, Tony Sowter, Frank Dixon & Paul Breerton. In third place was the team of Anne Catchpole, David Schiff, Chris Taylor & Joyce Taylor.

The **Multiple Teams B** final was won by Agnes Baxter, Sue Pell, Freda Conquest & Stephen Berson. The team of Richard Creamer, Mike Bull, John Pemberton & Graham Horscroft finished in second place.

In the **Teams Consolation final**, the winners were Susanna Gross, Alice Coptcoat, Andrew Woodcock & Catherine Draper. In second place were the team of Jason Hackett, John Sansom, Phil Morrison, Tom Cohen.

CATEGORY PAIRS

In the Category Pairs, the overall winners were Jeremy Willans & Jill Skinner who also won the Patrick Jourdain Trophy for the Seniors Pairs. Jonathan Jacobs & Andy Clery finished second and won the Jim Proctor Trophy. The Category Pairs also included prizes for the highest placed pair in each of the following categories: Men's Pair – Alan Jarvis & Alan Hayward; Ladies Pair – Carol Duke & Anne Scott; Mixed Pair – John Brearley & Judy Brearley.

England pip Scotland

The Senior Camrose for the Teltscher Trophy was held at the Stirling Court Hotel in mid-May and organised excellently by the Scottish Bridge Union. Our thanks to the organisers, TDs and Vugraph presenters.

As is customary, all the home countries were represented and the SBU had a second team to provide six teams and avoid a sit out.

England were represented by Kay Preddy & Norman Selway, Trevor Ward & David Kendrick and Roger Bryant & Nick Smith – the latter making his debut with your correspondent as the non-playing captain.

The format was five 32-board matches played in two halves. England started against Northern Ireland on Friday evening and secured a 14-6 win. On Saturday we were a little below par scoring a total of 20 VPs against Ireland and Wales.

Sunday featured matches against the two Scotland teams and we defeated the SBU in round 4 by 39 IMPs. But Scotland had a similar sized win against Ireland and held a lead of just over 8 VPs going into the critical last round. We needed to win by 22 IMPs over 32 boards to take the trophy. The first set saw the following hand crop up:

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

At half time against Scotland we led by 5 IMPs but midway through the second half we secured a lead in excess of the required 22 IMPs after Norman Selway, sitting North, made a 4♠ contract which failed in the other room on this hand:

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

The lead was a diamond and West won the ♦Q and erred by trying to cash the ♦A. Declarer ruffed and played a trump to the ace and a low trump back, inserting the ♠10 from hand and East discarding. He continued with a heart to the ace which dropped the singleton king reducing his heart losers to none (the ♦K was a winner) and then on the run of the trumps squeezed East in clubs and hearts for an overtrick and a gain of 13 MP. The bidding had offered a clue to the winning line as North knew of a possible spade suit on his right and the bidding placed the ♥K with West as well.

Over the final few boards 9 IMPs dribbled away with three small swings out and the lead was only 17 when the last board hit the table.

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

Roger and Nick conducted an excellent uncontested auction to a spade slam which was missed in the other room.

The Scots took their revenge when Barnet Shenkin & Brian Spears managed to find the 6♦ contract on this hand, and they were the only successful pair to do so from the six tables in play:

This article is continued online, p74.



PHILIP BENNETT 1939 ~ 2024

Philip Bennett was a recipient of the Dimmie Fleming Award, nominated for his volunteer work with Wiltshire CBA as their treasurer for over 15 years. Phil will be fondly remembered for his sense of humour, support and advice in the running of club and county. He played in both Wiltshire and Hampshire and represented Wiltshire in many competitions over the years.

He died 'at the table' playing on the BBO platform, doing what he loved.



DAVE HARRISON 1946 ~ 2024

Dave did sterling work for more than thirty years for both the Cambs & Hunts County Association and the Cambridge Club in a variety of roles, and was instrumental in producing early bridge scoring programs. He held most of the board positions for the Cambridge Club taking on Chairman, TD, and scorer between 1976 and 2010. Dave also won almost every County Competition. In 2010 he was awarded the EBU's Dimmie Fleming Award.



**NEIL BEASLEY
1935 ~ 2024**

In 2020 Neil Beasley, and his wife Pat, were recipients of the Dimmie Fleming Award, in recognition of their volunteer work for Leicestershire CBA. Neil was a long time member of Blaby Bridge Club and was the LCBA's Tournament Secretary for many years.



TONY RUSS 1945 ~ 2024

Tony Russ was a do-er. Until the age of 50 his professional life revolved around first teaching, then rugby and its organisation. His considerable skills were easily transferred to bridge administration and Tony became Chair of the Somerset County Bridge Association in 2017. He injected a fierce enthusiasm into the role, travelling widely to support all initiatives. Despite a gruff exterior it was widely acknowledged that he had a heart of gold.

Within weeks of lockdown Tony had organised daily games on BBO for Somerset-wide players and matches for individual clubs. When it was over, Tony ensured that in 2021 Somerset was one of the first counties to return to a F2F congress and it was well attended.

He was elected to the EBU Board in 2021 and threw himself into the role with his characteristic verve, becoming vice-chair after a couple of years. On presenting Tony with the EBU's Silver Award earlier this year, fellow director Abbey Smith said, 'Tony was a marvellously fun person to work with – full of ideas for how to improve the EBU.' He was the driving force behind the *Bridge – It's a Big Deal! Festival of Bridge* which is expected to raise the profile of bridge and to generate funds for Cancer Research UK. It is hoped that the festival will become Tony's annual legacy to the EBU.



**SARAH MATHEWS
1936 ~ 2024**

Sarah Mathews leaves Herefordshire a happier place for 100s of people to whom she taught bridge, laying the foundations for a game they love and creating a family of friendship and support. Sarah was given the Dimmie Fleming Award in 2021 in recognition of her teaching, her contribution to county bridge as a player, director and organiser and The Birches Bridge Club which she founded.



Responder's rebids when opener could be minimum

In an auction that starts with one of a suit, you will notice a pattern to the role of each bid.

- ❖ The opening bid is the start of the conversation.
- ❖ The response shows a willingness to engage in that conversation.
- ❖ Opener's rebid clarifies their hand type.
- ❖ Responder's rebid takes control of the auction, either by making a decision about where or how high to play or by asking an appropriate question.

Responder's rebid, then, is the one that gets you to the contract you want to be in. It is therefore very important to know which bids are forcing and which are non-forcing in this position.

Here are some general rules:

- ❖ Previously-bid suits are non-forcing (unless the auction is already game-forcing).
- ❖ NT bids are non-forcing (unless the auction is already game-forcing).
- ❖ New suits are forcing.
- ❖ New suits at the three level are forcing to game.
- ❖ Responder's reverse is forcing to game.

Let's look at some examples. In this article, we will focus on auctions where opener can still have 12 HCP. As you look through the examples, you will start to notice patterns. Don't worry about memorising what all of the bids mean! Just understanding the general principles about forcing and non-forcing bids will take you a long way.

OPENER SHOWS 5-4 WITHOUT REVERSING

Our first example occurs after you have made a 1-level response, which can include anything from a weak hand upwards.

West	East
1♦	1♥
2♣	?

Pass = Weak, and a preference for clubs. Note that this does not necessarily promise 4-card support because sometimes you just have no better option, such as with this hand:

♠Q543 ♥A6532 ♦7 ♣1083

This is called a *preference* bid because you don't actually necessarily like clubs: you just prefer them to diamonds.

2♦ = Weak, preference for ♦ which may be *false preference!* In order to give preference to opener's second suit, you should ideally have two cards more in that second suit than you have in the first suit. This is because keeping the auction open is a priority in case partner has extra strength or extra shape to tell you about. *True preference* would be if you had a hand such as:

♠Q54 ♥A632 ♦875 ♣1083

because you would know that partner had 5+ diamonds; whereas *false preference* would be a hand such as:

♠Q54 ♥A6432 ♦75 ♣1083

as only a 7-card diamond fit is guaranteed.

Partner does not know if it is false or true preference but the key is that you have said you are a weak responder (6-9 points) and partner has a chance to pass. You may not be in the best fit, but you are at least only at the two level.

2♥ = Weak, with *at least six hearts*. A common mistake is to make this bid with only five cards in the suit; but consider that partner has at most four cards in the two unbid suits and has already denied the ability to support. When you hold five hearts, partner is very likely to hold a singleton, in which case, you will have to play in 2♥ when the opponents have more trumps than you!

Instead, give preference (or false preference) to 2♦ and see whether partner is able to bid 2♥ over that. This is one of the reasons I recommend that with a minimum hand, 3-card support for partner's major and a side-suit singleton, opener

supports to 2♥ instead of bidding a second suit: it enables you to find your 5-3 heart fit.

2♠ = This is *fourth suit forcing* as all three of the other suits have been bid. It is the only **forcing** bid responder can make as there are no other **new suits**. Fourth suit bids at the 2-level show game invitational or better values, say 11+ points. At the 3-level they are forcing to game.

Hands that use fourth suit forcing might be:

- ♣ hands without a stop in the fourth suit:
♠7532 ♥AKJ8 ♦K3 ♣QJ6
wanting to play in 3NT if opener has a spade stop;
- ♣ hands that want to know whether opener has any extra shape. For instance this hand:
♠KQ3 ♥AKJ83 ♦93 ♣J96
wants to find out whether opener has three hearts; or
- ♣ hands that know which suit should be trumps but would like to investigate slam. This hand:
♠AKJ3 ♥AKJ8 ♦3 ♣QJ96
wants to investigate slam in clubs.

A straightforward way of thinking about this is that fourth suit forcing bids show a hand that knows the partnership has game, or near-game values but still does not know what the final contract should be.

2NT = Invitational (ostensibly the usual 10-12 range, though twelves might be upgraded to a game-force) and must contain a spade stop as the opponents are sure to lead one! An example hand might be:

♠KQ3 ♥AJT3 ♦973 ♣J96.

3♣/3♦/3♥ = Invitational in the suit bid. But do note that the invitational range is much wider when the alternative for showing a weak hand would be to pass. Therefore, 3♦ and 3♥ tend to be in the 10-11(12) range, whereas 3♣ should be more like (8)9-11. A hand such as:

♠7543 ♥AK75 ♦8 ♣J1095

is too strong to simply pass 2♣ and should therefore invite.

3NT = To play with no interest in playing anywhere else (must contain a spade stop!).

Patterns that you might have observed:

- ♣ The lowest non-forcing bid in each strain shows a weak hand, unless responder can show such a hand by passing; the next level up in a non-forcing bid shows an invitational hand.

- ♣ To bid NT, responder must have a stop in the fourth suit, as the opponents are almost certainly going to lead that suit.

- ♣ To force opener to bid again, the only forcing bid responder has available is the fourth suit.

In our second example auction, you have already made a 2-level response and have therefore shown an invitational hand. Let us look at the bids that are different.

West	East
1♥	2♣
2♦	?

2♥ = Invitational, preference for hearts. A hand such as:

♠865 ♥K3 ♦AQJ ♣J10863

would have to make this bid as it does not have a spade stop, nor a sixth club nor true support for either of partner's suits, so do not forget that this might be false preference.

2♠ = Fourth suit forcing and a reverse by responder, so game-forcing.

3♣/3♦/3♥ = Invitational and promising the advertised length in each suit: six clubs, four diamonds or three hearts.

Patterns:

- ♣ The lowest non-forcing bid in each strain shows an invitational hand.
- ♣ Jump-supporting opener's first-bid suit shows real support (three cards), rather than false preference.
- ♣ To force opener to bid again, the only forcing bid responder has available is the fourth suit.

In our third example opener rebids their first suit. Remember that this normally shows a 6-card suit and a minimum opening (12-a poor 15). It could be five diamonds and four hearts without the strength to reverse.

West	East
1♦	1♠
2♦	?

Pass = A weak hand. Partner has made a non-forcing bid, so stay as low as possible by passing. Trying to 'rescue' partner leads to the auction getting higher and higher, which can be very dangerous. Don't be tempted to bid again with hands such as:

♠A7643 ♥Q754 ♦2 ♣982.

Cont/...

ACOLytes continued from p29

2♥ = Invitational or better. It is a new suit, so it is forcing; but not game-forcing because it is not a reverse. It is mostly natural but might only be a 3-card suit if you have a game-forcing hand that is stuck for a bid, such as:

♠KQ864 ♥AQ4 ♦Q4 ♣853.

You cannot bid your spades again as you do not have six, nor can you support diamonds with only two, nor bid NT without a club stop.

2♠ = Invitational with a 6-card suit. You are choosing to bid over partner's non-forcing bid, so you must have interest in game – but it is not forcing.

2NT = Invitational (must contain heart and club stops)

3♣ = A new suit at the three level – this is game-forcing. It might be a real 4-card suit but can be three. It is usually a hand missing a heart stop (or just a very strong hand).

3♦ = Invitational with three diamonds.

3♠ = Game-forcing with six spades. This one does not fit with general principles, so it is easy to forget. But because 2♠ is already invitational, you can use 3♠ to force with a hand such as

♠KQJ643 ♥K4 ♦Q5 ♣A32

Generally, partner bids 3NT with a singleton spade and 4♠ with a fit.

3NT = To play (must contain heart and club stops).

Patterns:

- ♣ Passing shows a weak hand; making the lowest possible non-forcing bid shows an invitational hand.
- ♣ A jump in responder's own suit is game-forcing and single-suited.
- ♣ A new lower-ranking suit forces opener to bid at least once more, depending on responder's follow-up; a new suit at the three level (or responder's reverse) is game-forcing, as usual.
- ♣ To bid no trumps, responder must have stops in both unbid suits, as the opponents will lead one of those. It can work to punt no trumps and hope that the opponents lead the wrong one ... but that's a dangerous path! □

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

ONLINE ONE-DAY GREEN-POINTED SERIES

Swiss Pairs - August – The winners were Stefano Tommasini & Stephen Kennedy, ahead of Kay Preddy & Norman Selway.

Swiss Pairs - July – Nick Stevens & Clive Owen finished in first place, ahead of Richard Hillman & Stefano Tommasini.

Swiss Teams - June – The winners were the *Davies* team comprising Derek Maggs & Jackie Davies with Ryan Stephenson & Tony Verran. In second place was Ken Rae & Grzegorz Blicharz, Maks Blicharz & Holden Clark.

Swiss Pairs - May – The winners were Sam Anoyrkatis & Rob Lawy, with India Natt & Robert Miller coming second.

WORLD JUNIOR TRANSNATIONALS



Congratulations to Dido Coley & Lily Kearney who finished third with bronze in the final of the U26 Women's Pairs.

Well done to Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz who followed up their Euro U16 Teams bronze with a late charge to another bronze in the final of the U16 pairs.



Congratulations also to EBU member Louise Weiss-Selway who was competing in the Austrian U31 team and finished third with a bronze medal in the Open BAM final.



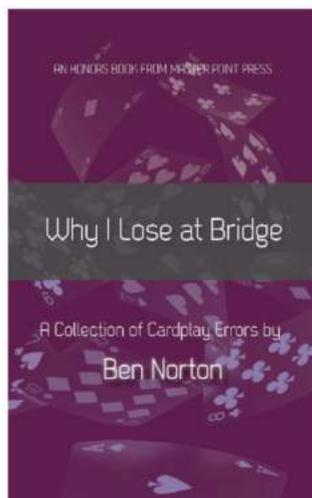
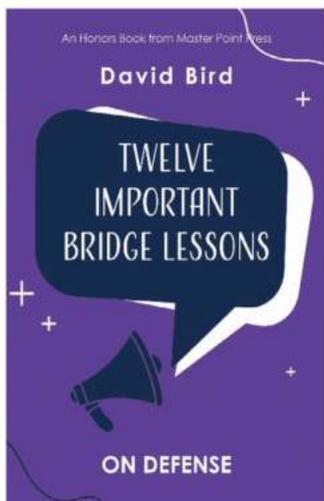


The Bridge Warehouse

The first and only choice for Bridge Players

NEW IN THIS AUTUMN

Award winning Books



Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Defense: winner of ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) Book of the Year Award 2024!

Why I lose at Bridge: winner of ABTA Book of the Year Awards 2024 - Top rated runner up in advanced category!

£19.99 Each + Postage, while stocks last

Order online via our website

www.bridge-warehouse.co.uk

The Warehouse is now open Mon-Fri between 9am & 2pm

Beat Today's Experts

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

SEPTEMBER 2024 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- E/W Game ♠ –
Dealer South ♥ K 10 6 5
 ♦ K Q J 9
(Kalberg) ♣ Q 10 9 7 3
* South passes, North bids 1♠
- Love All ♠ 7 2
Dealer South ♥ A J 6 4 3
 ♦ Q 8
(Brogeland) ♣ J 7 6 2
* South passes
- Game All ♠ Q J 8 7 4
Dealer South ♥ 7
 ♦ Q 8
(Bianchedi) ♣ A K Q J 9
* South opens 1♥, North bids 4♥
- E/W Game ♠ 6 2
Dealer South ♥ Q J 10 6 3
 ♦ A 9 8 4
(Angeleri) ♣ A 10
* South opens 1♦, North bids 1♠
- E/W Game ♠ A J 5 4
Dealer West ♥ J 9 3 2
 ♦ Q 4
(Humphries) ♣ A 8 2
- N/S Game ♠ A Q 10 6 2
Dealer East ♥ K
 ♦ K J 7 4 3
(Cope) ♣ A 3

Did you beat the experts? – page 54

Beat Today's Experts

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

SEPTEMBER 2024 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- E/W Game ♠ A Q 10 8 7
Dealer South ♥ A 9 4
 ♦ 7 6 3 2
(Thomassen) ♣ 5
* South passes, North bids 1♠
- Love All ♠ A J 10 8 3
Dealer South ♥ K
 ♦ A 4
(Bakke) ♣ A 10 9 4 3
* South passes
- Game All ♠ 10 9 6 5 2
Dealer South ♥ A J 9
 ♦ A 10 9 3
(Madala) ♣ 10
* South opens 1♥, North bids 4♥
- E/W Game ♠ A J 10 8 5
Dealer South ♥ A 8
 ♦ J 10 5 2
(Poleschi) ♣ Q 6
* South opens 1♦, North bids 1♠
- E/W Game ♠ K 10 9 2
Dealer West ♥ A 10 8 6 5
 ♦ A 10
(Brake) ♣ 10 4
- N/S Game ♠ K 9 8
Dealer East ♥ A Q 8 3
 ♦ 2
(Crouch) ♣ K Q 9 7 5

Did you beat the experts? – page 54

Heffalump Traps

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

Hand 1

♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 5 3
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ 8 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ A Q 9 2

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♠2. Plan your play.

Hand 2

♠ Q 10 6
♥ 6
♦ A 10 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K J 9 4
♥ K 9 3
♦ 8
♣ A 6 3 2

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

Hand 3

♠ 8 6
♥ A Q 8 4
♦ A 8 5
♣ K 7 5 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 3
♥ K J 9 7 6 3 2
♦ K
♣ A 9 4

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

Hand 4

♠ A 8 4
♥ 10 5
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ K Q 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A 3
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ A 8 5 4

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♠5. 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? **Love All.**

Hand 1

	W	N	E	S
♠ 9 2		1♣	Pass	1♦
♥ K J 10 8 7 2	1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
♦ A 10	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
♣ K 8 2	?			

Hand 2

	W	N	E	S
♠ Q 6	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
♥ J	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
♦ A 7 6 5 2	?			
♣ K Q J 9 4				

Hand 3

	W	N	E	S
♠ –				
♥ K J 7 4 2	1♦	1♠	1NT	2♠
♦ A Q 9 7 3 2	?			
♣ A 8				

Hand 4

	W	N	E	S
♠ Q 10 4 3		1♠	Pass	Pass
♥ A K Q	?			
♦ J 9 4				
♣ Q 5 3				

Hand 5

	W	N	E	S
♠ 9 7 4			1NT ¹	Dble
♥ A 6 5 3 2	?			
♦ Q 9	12-14			
♣ Q 3 2				

Hand 6

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

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 61



Timing the Hand ~ 2

Return to the ever vexing problem of how to time the play of the cards in suit contracts. The questions you always have to ask yourself are: *Do you draw trumps immediately? Do you ruff your losers? Do you discard your losers?* Remember, all you can do with excess losers is to **trump them** or **dump them**.

Note that it is only profitable to ruff losers in the *short trump hand*; ruffing in the long hand is usually ruffing in the wrong hand. To aid your thought processes, therefore, it is best to count losers from the perspective of the long trump hand.

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

♠	J 10 3 2
♥	A 4
♦	A Q 7 4
♣	6 4 2

♠	K Q 8 6 5 4
♥	K Q 5
♦	9
♣	K 7 5

Now you can play a trump, virtually assured of success. Note that the tenth trick comes from an eventual club ruff in dummy, in the short trump hand. Here's the full deal:

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♥J

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

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

Online readers can click here

Ten tricks emerge from six spades (five in hand and a club ruff in dummy), three hearts and the ♦A. Sure, a highly unlikely 7-1 heart split would probably defeat you, as might a 6-2 heart split, although you'd still be fine if the ♣A lay to your right. Still, these are unlikely, and less likely than the layout above.

A more subtle form of this idea is found in the next deal, shown overleaf. You find yourself in 4♥, against which West leads the ♣Q. You contemplate the dummy and must decide what to do:

Your preliminary *Count and Plan* reveals two spade winners, four heart winners, two diamond winners and two club winners. That totals ten tricks, so everything is hunky-dory, right? You should just win the opening lead and play trumps? Well, it is important to count losers and here there are four – two trumps, one diamond and, if the defence can set it up in time, one club.

Hand 2
South plays in 4♥.
West leads the ♣Q.

♠	J 8 6
♥	9 8 7 2
♦	K J 4
♣	A 8 5

♠	A K
♥	Q J 10 6 5 3
♦	Q 2
♣	K 7 4

Hand 3
South plays in 4♠.
West leads the ♦J.

♠	10 8 7
♥	A 9 2
♦	A 5 2
♣	Q J 8 3

♠	A K Q J 4 2
♥	J 7
♦	K 6 4 3
♣	7

Note that the club lead gives E/W the tempo. They may get their club trick going before you can get at your ten winners. To make the hand you must be careful – win the club lead in hand and immediately play the ♦Q to knock out the ♦A. Take the club return and cash the remaining diamonds, ditching your club loser. Now, and not before, can you afford to tackle trumps. Here's the full deal:

Your essential *Count and Plan* reveals nine easy winners: six spades, one heart and two diamonds. That's one trick short. How about losers? Here, you can see one heart, two diamonds and one club. Some players may see only one diamond loser, but if you look at the hand from the perspective of South there are two losers in the suit (unless diamonds were to split 3-3).

Assuming diamonds are going to split 4-2 (the most likely break when missing six cards), how should you play?

The answer is to ruff your last diamond on table, in the short trump hand. Before touching trumps, play off the ♦A, the ♦K and give up a diamond to the enemy. When next on lead, ruff the last diamond with dummy's ♠10 (don't send a boy on a man's errand!), draw trumps and claim your game. Here's the full deal:

South plays 4♥. West leads the ♣Q

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

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

♠	A K
♥	Q J 10 6 5 3
♦	Q 2
♣	K 7 4

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♦J

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

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

♠	A K Q J 4 2
♥	J 7
♦	K 6 4 3
♣	7

There are two important points to make here. First, you must take the opening lead in hand with the ♣K. Why? Well, suppose you took the ♣A and then played a diamond to the ♦Q, which was allowed to win. Now you could set up a diamond winner on table, but would be unable to reach it in time.

Second, you must lead the ♦Q at trick two and not play a diamond to one of dummy's honours. Were you to do that, East would win his ace and a club return would see the diamonds blocked. There's many a trap for the unwary on deals such as these.

Another type of deal requires a hard-to-see ruff in the dummy. Try playing 4♠ on this hand:

Ten tricks come from seven spades (six spade winners in hand and a ruff in dummy), one heart and two diamonds. □

Have you got it? Paul's quiz is online p70



Coping with Pre-empts ~ Part 4

The final look at defending against pre-empts will cover what to do when you are the responder with a weak hand, and partner takes some action against a 4♠ opener – the hardest of all of the normal pre-empts to cope with.

Imagine first that partner doubles a 4♠ opener, which shows a strong hand (typically 15+) and is in principal for take-out – you hold one of the hands below. It is game all so the 4♠ opener shows a respectable hand, and partner's double should have the edge of reliability to it.

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

Hand 1 would automatically take out a double of 1♠, 2♠ or 3♠, yet it should pass the double of 4♠. Why is this?

For starters the spade holding is useful in defence but dreadful in attack. Assuming declarer has ♠AQJ or so (and that's not a given, it's amazing how often partner has a singleton honour on these auctions) there will need to be two spades in dummy and two entries in order to pick up your king, all very unlikely given that dummy is the only one at the table that hasn't bid.

Your singleton diamond suggests partner should be able to cash a few tricks there, and if partner has the good hand they are promising then I would rate the odds of 4♠ succeeding at about 30%.

Will we make 5♥? We might do if partner has 4-card support, and the smaller honours are working well. Partner could hold:

♠x ♥AK10x ♦Axxx ♣AJxx

and we should be alright. However partner could also hold:

♠x ♥A10x ♦AKQxx ♣Kxxx

and now 5♥ is doomed to fail. We have too many losers to take care of, and the 4♠ opener will often have a singleton club or diamond to lead and threaten a ruff.

On balance we should take whatever plus score we can get and pass. Two off for 500 is fairly likely, and even if that isn't as good as +620 from 4♥, it's better than -100 from 5♥.

Hand 2 should remove the double. You have shortage in spades and the opponents rate to hold a decent fit. You have little defence since all of your high cards are in your long suits, and this is the sort of deal where both sides might make a lot of tricks.

Should you take it out to 5♥ then, as you would have done a double of 1♠, 2♠ or 3♠? No, because at the five level all suits are equal. Instead we need to try and show the red suits, and we do this by responding 4NT. This traditionally shows a two-suited hand (two places to play) and partner will bid 5♣ if they want to play there when clubs is one of your suits. Then you can convert to 5♦ to show that you don't have clubs, you have diamonds and hearts. That way, facing

♠A ♥Axx ♦AKxxx ♣Qxxx

we will play in 5♦, but facing

♠x ♥AQxx ♦AQx ♣Axxxx

we will play in 5♥, both of which will be correct. (It's not clear how many tricks either contract will make, but on the days we go down due to bad breaks then they will have been making 4♠, and on the days when we make because the cards lie well then we score better playing in game than taking 4♠ dbled just one or two off).

Hand 3 should pass the double. It's easy to say 'I have four low spades so partner must be void' but remember a lot of the time when partner is void they would have their own suit to overcall.

You have little playing strength and even if partner is 0-5-4-4 or similar there are just so many losers. The defence will no doubt start with a top spade forcing the dummy and there will be terrible communication problems, I'd be amazed if you even got to nine tricks.

And the fate of 4♠? It might well make, but a lot of the time it will go down due to the weight of partner's high cards. You'd be amazed how often partner has four quick tricks, and they might even produce something in the spade suit to give you a trump trick. (If I had a pound for every time partner had singleton jack ... let's just say I'd be writing this article from a beach if I did).

Hand 4 should pass the double, and although you may well be writing minus 790 on your score card in due course, this won't be as bad as if you take the double out and go for minus 1400. Sometimes 4♠ dbled will go down, but ultimately it doesn't have anything to do with you. This is partner's party and they must shoulder the blame. If it was right for your side to be bidding at the five level then partner would already be there.

Hand 5 should take the double out to 6♥. It's quite possible that you might miss a grand slam, but there is no way to bid it scientifically when you have to start at the five level, and a leap to 6♥ looks practical.

The crucial cards are the ♥KQ, ♦A and the ♣KQ which is 14 perfect points, it's fair to hope partner has 10-12 of them. You might not need the queen of hearts if partner has Kxx or better (which they should) and there might be time to develop partner's diamonds to throw away your clubs, for example facing

♠Kx ♥KQx ♦AJ10xx ♣Qxx

you will make four diamond tricks, seven hearts and the ♣A.

No doubt there would be votes for many esoteric choices if given to an expert bidding panel, such as 5♠, 4NT, 5NT etc. In my view all these bids do is serve to confuse partner, and they go against the spirit of these articles which is to judge the hands well and make bids which partner can understand.

Now so far you'll notice I've made several references above to partner overcalling – is that something that really happens at the five level?

Well actually it is pretty rare, but there is one tool that partner can use when they have a two-suited hand, and that is to overcall 4NT.

Everyone is very happy these days using a jump to 2NT to show a two-suited hand (the unusual no trump), and the overcall of 4NT just takes this a little further and says to partner 'I have two strong suits and don't want to give you a chance to defend as I am confident our side should be playing the hand. Please bid 5♣ if you're happy to play there when I have clubs (shows 3+ clubs). Otherwise bid 5♦ if you prefer that, and I will pass or correct to 5♥ if I have clubs and hearts'.

To overcall 4NT you would typically be at least 5-5 (often 6-5) and have very strong suits that will take a lot of tricks as declarer but few in defence. Over a 4♠ opener you can have any two suits. (If the enemy opening bid is 4♥ then a 4NT overcall just shows the minors, as a hand with spades and a minor suit should overcall 4♠).

These sorts of hands are ideal for an overcall of 4NT after a 4♠ opening:

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

The Dos and Don'ts of defending against a 4♠ opening

Do be aware that partner is under pressure when they face a 4♠ opener and has to double on a wide variety of hands. You can't assume partner has a perfect 1-4-4-4 hand with fitting honours in your long suit every time.

Do respond 4NT to a double if you have a two-suited hand and want partner's help in deciding which of your long suits should be trumps.

Don't take out partner's doubles when you hold a flat hand, regardless of how many tricks you make it will always be the wrong thing to do.

Don't assume partner has the minor suits when they overcall 4NT after a 4♠ opening. They might hold hearts and clubs, or hearts and diamonds. Plan which suit you want to have as trumps accordingly. □



An Exotic Beginning

It's hard to believe, but I've been writing *Crocs on Defence* for almost five years now. I have covered a wide range of topics such as third hand high, second hand low, and even count and attitude. Each article I wrote would introduce the topic and then show how such things could apply in an actual deal.

This has worked well but I've started to run out of topics! Of course, bridge is an impossibly complex game with infinite things to talk about, but hands are typically more complex than just one specific topic.

Moving forward, the structure of my articles will shift to an over the shoulder format. Each hand will see a fictional version of myself playing bridge and taking you through my thought processes as I defend.

I guess that means I need to go play some bridge! Luckily, the EBU have a friendly congress as I write which I'm booked to play. I'm playing with my regular partner, and at the halfway point we are in with a good chance of qualifying for tomorrow's A Final. It's all non-vulnerable and I'm fourth in hand when I pick up this hand:

♠ 8 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ 8 6 5 4 2

The auction begins with two passes and my right-hand opponent opens 1NT, announced as 14-16. 14-16 you say? Wow. People play all sorts of wacky stuff these days. I pass and my left-hand opponent bids 2♣ (Stayman). RHO bids 2♥. LHO bids 2♠ as invitational with four spades. And RHO jumps to 3NT which ends the auction.

And so the first part of the defence has been reached. The opening lead. Typically, against 3NT, I prefer a major suit lead, but that is only when the opponents have failed to mention the majors. On this board, declarer has shown hearts and dummy

has shown spades, and as such, I am more inclined to lead a minor.

A diamond lead isn't very appealing because underleading the king could give a trick away and the shortness of my suit means that such a lead is unlikely to set up many tricks. I prefer a club lead because it is safe and has the possibility to set up tricks in my hand.

So, I lead the ♣6 (standard 2nd and 4th leads) to tell partner that I don't have an honour in the suit. Dummy comes down and this is what I can see:

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

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

I feel relieved that I didn't lead a diamond. If declarer has the ace of diamonds, that would have given a trick away. Declarer thanks her partner for the dummy and calls for the ♣A. Under the ace, partner follows with the ♣J.

Partner and I play standard attitude at trick one, so a high card shows interest in the suit, but normal rules don't apply when signalling with honours. The ♣J promises the ten and denies the queen, similar to when leading top of a sequence, and this leads me to believe that declarer has the ♣K and ♣Q.

It is true that partner would also play the ♠J from ♠KJ10, but I don't think that's very likely in this case. If declarer had just the ♣Qxx, she probably would have played low from dummy at trick one in case I had led away from the ♣K.

Regardless, declarer calls for a heart from dummy a trick two. Partner plays the ♥10. Declarer plays the ♥Q. And I follow with the ♥4.

Now, I know that looks odd, but let's think about it for a second. Can ducking the ♥K cost a trick? Well, ducking will look very stupid if declarer has AQxx in hearts, but can declarer have that? Partner and I are playing standard count, so a high heart shows an even number. Partner's ♥10 suggests top of a doubleton which would give declarer AQJxx in the suit.

That would make ducking the ♥K perfectly safe, but you might still ask what the point of ducking is. The answer is really quite simple. I don't know what I would do if I won the ♥K!

At this stage, partner could have anything in diamonds or spades and a switch to either suit could be disastrous. For now, I will duck the ♥K and hope that I can learn more about the hands before having to make an important decision. I also hope that I manage to duck in reasonable tempo so as to not give away the position!

Luckily, declarer smiles as the ♥Q wins the trick and then plays the ♠3 to dummy's king, partner following with the ♠7. As expected declarer calls for another heart so she can repeat the finesse and I am not so eccentric as to duck again. Declarer's previous smile vanishes as my ♥K beats her ♥J, and I sit back to think about the hand.

At trick one I decided that declarer must have the ♠KQ. We know for sure that declarer has ♥AQJ. And the play in spades has also been quite revealing. Partner couldn't beat dummy's ♠K which means declarer must hold the ♠A as well. Add all those points together and that's 16 points, which is the maximum for declarer's exotic 14-16 1NT. Partner must hold all the remaining points: which includes the ♠QJ and the ♦AJ.

Despite my fears of a diamond lead giving away a trick, it appears that I should have led a diamond from the start. If partner has three diamonds, we can only take three tricks, but if partner has four, then we might manage four tricks, but only if we can lead through dummy's diamond suit twice.

I switch to the ♦2 (a low card promising an honour in the suit). Declarer plays low from dummy and partner plays the ♦J, confident that this won't be conceding a trick to declarer's ♦K. Partner's diamond return fells declarer's ♦10 and another diamond through dummy allows us to pick up four tricks in the suit, putting the contract one down. Here's the full hand:

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

Online readers can click here

POSTMORTEM

In essence, this hand was quite simple. At the end of the day, all the defence needed to do was cash their diamond tricks. But with the queen in dummy, a lead away from the ♦K could have been quite dangerous, and I needed to take advantage of every possible hint.

Partner's ♣J was a useful signal that helped me place the ♠KQ. Partner's ♥10 was a subtle card that gave me the confidence to duck the ♥K. And even declarer's exotic 14-16 1NT was helpful. Had declarer been playing 15-17, I would not have been so sure as to the location of the ♦J. And a diamond switch would have given away the tenth trick if declarer held the ♦J.

Still, such careful defence is not always rewarded. A look at the digital traveller shows that most pairs played in 4♥, one off due to there being four inescapable losers. I needed to find the diamond switch just to tie the board.

Perhaps my opponent's bidding wasn't so wacky after all. □





The Headmaster's Birthday

Somehow, all the boys seemed to know that it was the Headmaster's birthday. He and Norma had enjoyed a couple of sherries to celebrate, before taking their seats for the school duplicate. An early round saw them facing the Matron and Stefan Götel.

'I understand congratulations are needed,' the German master declared.

The Headmaster winced. Was this going to happen at every table? 'Last week, you mean?' he queried. 'We only came second.'

'No, no, I meant...'

The Headmaster pointed at the board to be played. 'Let's play this one,' he said.

been bid on a 15-count. 'A fine collection,' she observed. 'Play the jack, will you?'

Stefan covered with the queen and the ♥2 came from Norma. Placing declarer with three hearts, East was reluctant to return the suit. He switched to the ♦2. If the Matron could win and send another heart through, all would be well.

Norma Doulton won with the ♦Q, crossed to dummy with a spade and ran the ♣Q. This lost to the king, and the heart continuation went to the nine and ace. She faced her remaining cards. 'I'll just take the ten tricks,' she said.

'You only had two hearts?' gasped Stefan Götel.

The Matron peered across the table. 'Clear the hearts, before my king is knocked out,' she reprimanded. 'We get four hearts, two diamonds and a club. That's three down, isn't it?'

Not long afterwards, Alfred and Norma faced two of the brighter fifth-formers.

Love All. Dealer East.

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

♠ AK 4 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ A 9 6
--

West	North	East	South
The Matron	The Headmaster	Stefan Götel	Norma Doulton
Pass	3NT	1♥	1NT
		All Pass	

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

♠ K J 9 7 4 ♥ - ♦ 8 7 6 5 3 ♣ AK 6

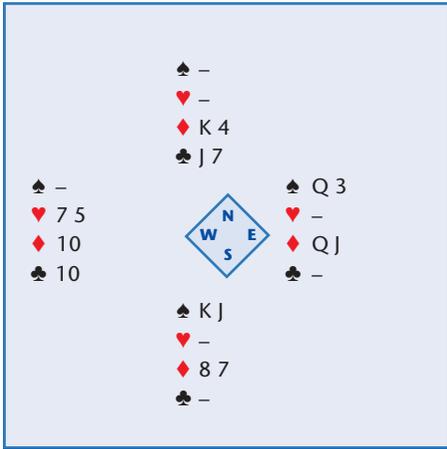
West	North	East	South
Neil Phillips	The Headmaster	John Hutson	Norma Doulton
4♥	4♣	Pass	1♠
		All Pass	

The Matron led the ♥8, and Norma Doulton raised an eyebrow as dummy went down. Seven points and a handful of queens and jacks? Had the sherry gone to Alfred's head? Her 1NT might have

Neil Phillips led the ♥A, ruffed in the South hand. Norma crossed to dummy's ♣Q and ran the ♠10, East playing low. 'And the spade six,' she said.

John Hutson put up the ace of trumps, drawing a heart discard from West. When another heart was returned, Norma Doulton was in danger of losing trump control. She discarded a diamond, West winning and persisting with another top heart. Once again, declarer threw a diamond.

Neil Phillips defended strongly with a fourth round of hearts, which was ruffed with dummy's ♠8. East discarded a club and Norma Doulton had to find a discard from ♦876 ♣AK. With no apparent thought, she threw the ♣K, keeping her three low diamonds. After crossing to the ♣A, she returned to dummy with the ♦A. These cards were still out:



Thanks to declarer's earlier club discard, the ♣J left East powerless. If he ruffed, declarer would overruff, draw the last trump and score dummy's ♦K followed by the ♣7. When East chose to discard a diamond, Norma cashed the top diamond and led the ♦4, facing her remaining cards – the ♠KJ.

'What an amazing play, discarding that top club,' congratulated the Headmaster.

Norma smiled happily at her husband. 'Not really,' she replied. 'Think of it as a small extra birthday present!' □



INTER-COUNTY LEAGUE

The National Finals of the Inter-County Leagues took place online in early June. Champions from each of the five regional Inter-County leagues competed alongside last year's national champions.

Yorkshire leapfrogged both Kent (the reigning champions) and Sussex to secure their first 'A' division title. Herts 'B' and 'C' both won their respective divisions, the latter regaining the title which they have now won six times in eight years.

The winning Yorkshire team was: Dave Robinson & Tony Sowter, Frank Dixon & Paul Brereton, Alan Jarvis & Tom Copeland and Brian Senior & Sandra Penfold.

1ST EURO WINTER TRANSNATIONAL

Congratulations to team *Orca* (Espen Erichsen, Richard Plackett, Mikael Rimstedt & Ola Rimstedt) who won the BAM teams in Alpe d' Huez, France at the 1st European Winter Transnational Championships, held in April

LAMBOURNE JERSEY FESTIVAL



The Swiss Teams was won by Helen Lawton-Smith & John Slater, Kathy Talbot & Denis Talbot, ahead of Susan Parkins & Angela Treen, Rachel Bingham & Matt Bingham.

The Swiss Pairs was won by John Holland & Raymond Semp, ahead of Nick Woodcock & Sue Woodcock. These two top pairs joined forces for the Multiple teams which they also won, ahead of the team of Carolyn Fisher, Pat Watson, Allan Sanis & Judith Sanis.

The Championship Pairs was won by Matthew Bingham & Rachel Bingham. Sue Woodcock & Nick Woodcock triumphed in the Senior Pairs and David Hole & Rox Bavin won the Mixed/Open Pairs.

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 15 October 2024.

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

ANSWERS TO MAY'S QUIZ: page 44

TWO answers - Teams & Pairs

Hand 1

♠ J 10 6 4 3
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ 4

South	West	North	East
2♣ ²	Dble ³	1NT ¹	Dble
		All Pass	

¹ 14-16, ² clubs & another suit, ³ Take-out. You might consider this a bit thin, but your side has the balance of points and you have a shortage in their suit – you have to bid.

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Hand 2

♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ K 2
♦ A 10 5
♣ 7 6 3

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♠ ¹	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass	Dble	Redble ²

¹ Playing 5CM and strong NT; ² Max 2♠ bid & interested in penalty

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Hand 3

♠ Q 6 5
♥ J 8 7 6
♦ K 4
♣ 10 8 7 5

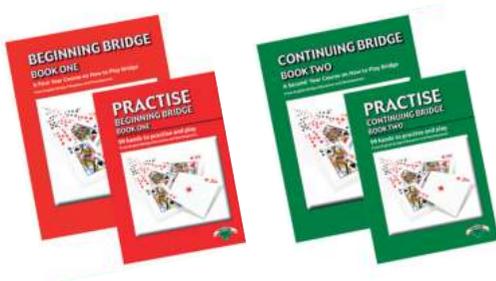
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣ ²	Pass	4♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	5♣ ²	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

¹ game forcing; ² cuebids

What is your lead playing teams and, playing pairs?

Knowing which card to play and what partner may want you to lead is a key part of bridge play, but can be a daunting decision for new players. They have thirteen cards to choose from! How will they decide?

Book One Beginning Bridge tackles leads and how to choose the best suit and card while taking note of the auction. ‘Attitude’ signals are introduced. *Book Two Continuing Bridge* progresses to include ‘suit preference’ and other signals.



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

Q1&2. Sitting North, what do you lead?

Q3. You are sitting North and lead the ♠A. Partner plays the ♠9. You continue with the ♠K and partner plays low. How do you continue?

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

Q4. You are sitting East. West leads the ♣J and you win the first two club tricks with the ♠K and ♠A. On the second trick partner plays a low club. What should you lead next?

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♥
All Pass			

4 You know that partner has a doubleton as the jack led was followed by a small club. Return a club for West to ruff, but play the ♣3 to signal the lower of the two remaining suits (excluding the trumps and the suit being ruffed). West will know that your suit preference is diamonds and can return that suit on the next trick.

1 Lead the ♥J, top of a sequence.
 2 Your best and longest suit is hearts, but wait! Dummy bid them. Look for another lead – the ♥J is the best choice. If partner holds some honours over dummy's your side might defeat the contract.
 3 Play another club to give partner a ruff.



Answers to May's Problems

This month it is an 'all Manchester affair' with problem 1 from Alan Jones and problems 2 and 3 from Espen Gisvold, both local Manchester players. The former I have known for nearly 50 years, the latter for less than ten.

Hand 1

♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ 7
♦ A Q J 8 6
♣ K 10 7

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

2NT contracts are rare at expert level (so rare that almost all 2NT bids are conventional!). But here we are. So what is your fancy?

(a) ♠2: 6 marks, ♠10: 4 marks, ♠9/5: 1 mark.

I *hate* leading round into declarer's suit, but I suspect this may be the computer's choice given recent examples. If you must do this, then lead low as you are assuming partner has some values in the suit.

(b) ♥7: 3 marks. I also hate leading singletons against no trumps. Partner can never read them and often gives away a trick because of that. And on the odd occasion partner's suit is strong enough that they want a lead of this suit, you can never lead another one.

(c) ♦Q: 6 marks, ♦other: 2 marks. Fan as I am of leading my longest suit against NT contracts there are limits even for me. Partner has some values (they are not in 3NT and I have a 10 count) yet did not raise diamonds (a real plus for this disgusting overall) so is very likely to have two diamonds at most. This reduces the chances of a diamond being the right lead, plus it gives a cheap trick.

(d) ♣7: 10 marks, ♣other: 2 marks. Since I don't like spades, hearts or diamonds I am left with this as the least of all evils. If you are going to lead a club, you should lead the natural card.

Which all goes to show what I know. At the table, a club was disastrous as declarer had ♣Jx and dummy ♣AQxxx so you have just blown the whole suit.

Pairs Bonus: ♣7: 5 marks. I loathe leading against 2NT at Pairs. You know the room will not be in this contract – it is likely to be either 1NT or 3NT, so you have no idea how many tricks you are needing from the hand. I would still lead the ♣7 and it would still be wrong. I learn nothing.

Computer simulations:

♠10/9: 72.7% highest chance of defeating the contract (teams) while the ♠10 lead scored an average of 6.15 tricks proving to be the best lead at pairs.

I picked this right in that the computer continues its fetish for leading round into declarer's first bid suit. I am convinced this is a facet of the DD nature of the simulation. The computer knows declarer will always play that suit to maximum advantage and hence is passive. It will be played to maximum advantage a lot less often by a human player - unless of course you lead round into it!

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			

As I said when the hands were set, it is very rare to see an Acol Two these days. Note the takeout double from us, of which I thoroughly approve. Never be cowed by Acol Twos – treat them as you would a one opener and if you have a bid, particularly a takeout double, make it. Acol Twos are almost always based on very good suits and you would be unlucky to get caught for a penalty when it is wrong to bid. Meanwhile you won't get talked out of things when it is actually your hand. Anyway, back to the lead...

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

(a) ♠3: 10 marks, ♠A: 3 marks, ♠other: 5 marks. No one is going to convince me that it is not percentage to simply lead your longest suit on this auction and hope to beat the hand. From the very little I understand, the computer leads from 5-card suits, but not 4-card suits, so I think we may be in agreement for once!

(b) ♥4: 6 marks, ♥other: 2 marks. The computer will hate this lead, and I cannot see why we would want to lead this rather than a spade. I suppose it could be right if we need both aces to set up our suit and then cash it, but it is really so unlikely. Unlikely but not impossible since this time partner had ♥QJ10x and nothing else of significance. You can survive a spade lead if you then switch to hearts after winning the diamond ace. Perhaps that is possible.

(c) ♦A: 1 mark. It cannot be right to help declarer set up their Acol Two suit!

(d) a club: 3 marks. This lead isn't much better, but I suppose it might *just* be right if you need to lead through the dummy, partner having clubs good enough to do so. Dummy had AK109xxx of them, and declarer was void. If you lead this, you need to switch to hearts when in with the ♦A. A lot more difficult.

Pairs Bonus ♠3: 5 marks. I stick with the fourth highest of my longest and strongest.

Computer simulations:

♥7/4: 30.1% highest chance of defeating the contract (teams), ♠A produces the highest average of 3.71 tricks (pairs).

Just when I thought I understood that the computer *never* leads from 4-card suits, here it does. Sigh! However, the argument about having two aces making it more attractive does make sense. I do accept that the ♠A at pairs has some logic as well.

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.

(a) ♠4: 10 marks, ♠A/Q: 1 marks ♠9/2: 2 marks. Sorry to be boring, but this is, in my view, far and away the best chance of beating the contract – find partner with two spades and an entry and the opposition spades 3-3 and there you are. Everything else needs much more. Once in a blue moon it will give declarer the 9th trick which they could not have got and once in a blue moon partner will have a suit that is running, but bridge is about playing the percentages, and I believe this is the percentage.

(b) ♥2: 6 marks, ♥Q/6: 2 marks. I suppose that if I were not going to lead a spade, then this is what I would lead, as it needs less from partner to be right since I have an honour. At the table it struck granite as declarer had Axx on dummy opposite KJx in hand. However, all was not lost, as declarer had to lose the diamond finesse to partner. But this is another example of where the computer is not like human players. Partner at this point had to choose between switching to QJ10xx of clubs or Kx of spades!! In case you are wondering why declarer bid 3NT on 10xx of spades the simple answer is that they had a weak NT and could not think of anything else sensible to do. Reasoning that you had not led a spade and would have done so whenever you had a decent suit partner switched to the ♣Q and that was 10 tricks instead of seven for declarer. Oops! The computer would never get that wrong and is another example of why the simple leads have the merit of not misleading partner.

(c) a diamond: 1 mark. I cannot see any case for this.

Continued p47



Clever play

Love All. Dir West

♠ A K 10 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 4
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ -

♠ -
♥ A J 2
♦ K Q 10 6 2
♣ K Q 7 6 2

♠ N
♥ W
♦ S
♣ E

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Playing pairs, West opens 1♥, North overcalls 1♠ and East passes. What call do you make with the South cards?

You have a difficult decision. Your values and heart holding would suggest 3NT, but this is not ideal since you could be missing a minor suit slam, or five of a minor could be a better game. Worse still, partner might remove to four spades!

The alternative is a quiet 2♦, hoping to get another chance to describe your hand further. This is my preferred choice. Over your 2♦, partner jumps to four clubs, a splinter, and you co-operate with four hearts. Partner jumps to six diamonds and this becomes the final contract.

The lead is the ♥K which you win and you cash the ♦K, West following with the jack. How do you plan the play?

Begin by crossing to the ace of diamonds and cashing two top spades, discarding hearts. On the third spade you must ruff high to retain the nine as an entry, and you discover that East began with four spades. What do you do now?

This is where you have got to:

♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ 10
♦ 9 7
♣ -

♠ N
♥ W
♦ S
♣ E

♠ -
♥ -
♦ 10 6
♣ K Q 7 6 2

West opened the bidding, so you can assume that they have at least 11 of the 14 outstanding points, so West must hold the ♣A. This means you can safely play for an overtrick by taking the ruffing club finesse now. West covers and you ruff, ruff another spade high, cash your club discarding the heart from dummy, and eventually draw the last trump by crossing to the nine. Table's spades are all good. Here's the full deal:

South plays 6♦. West leads the ♥K

♠ A K 10 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 4
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ -

♠ Q 9
♥ K Q 9 8 6 3
♦ J
♣ A 9 8 3

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ 7 5
♦ 8 5 4
♣ J 10 5 4

♠ N
♥ W
♦ S
♣ E

♠ -
♥ A J 2
♦ K Q 10 6 2
♣ K Q 7 6 2

Online readers can click here

Cont/...

HEATHER'S HINTS

- ❖ Try to avoid rushing to guess the final contract where possible. Involve partner in the conversation especially in competitive situations. On this hand 2♦ will seldom be passed out, and if it is, it is unlikely that you have missed anything. Here, it enabled you to reach an excellent slam. If you had simply bid 3NT, partner would probably have corrected to 4♣ and that would be where the auction ended.
- ❖ You are likely to get a decent pairs score for bidding and making your slam, but you should always be greedy if you can do so relatively safely. Here it was safe to play for your overtrick and was virtually certain to work. □

Prize Leads Quiz Answers

cont/ from p45

(d) ♣6: 3 marks, ♠4: 1 mark. It could *just* be right, but partner either needs running clubs or one loser in clubs and an entry. Heavily against the odds.

Pairs Bonus: ♠4: 5 marks. The same lead for the same reasons. Apart from anything else you will be with the field, so even if it is wrong you will only get slightly below average. Doing something 'clever' is top or bottom stuff.

Computer simulations:

♠4/2: 17.6% chance of defeating the contract (teams) while the ♠A scores the highest average of 2.68 tricks (pairs).

My correspondent Espen Gisvold led a heart and only needed a computer opposite to beat the hand ... but he had a human. As you can imagine the fact that the computer flashing out the ♠A at pairs lets through a no-play contract when the mundane 4th highest beats it by two upsets me not at all (ROFL)□

Full details of the computer simulations can be found online, p79

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Meic Goodyear, Lewes
Open: Michael Tyas, Torquay

Sponsored by

Gibsons



WINTER MID-WEEK ONLINE CONGRESS

RealBridge, 3rd - 5th December 2024

Enter via My EBU or email comps@ebu.co.uk



Trouble at the table

A player asked: Playing Acol and following a 1♥ opening an overcall of 2♣ was made. The overcall hand comprised ♣QJ10876 and just these three points. Normally a two-level overcall should comprise ten high card points. Law 40C1 says that a player may deviate from his side's announced understandings provided that partner has no more reason than the opponents to be aware of the deviation. I take this to mean that the overcall in question was legal but does it fall into the category of a psychic bid?

Although there are 'standards' for two-level overcalls – players do many strange things, and pairs have non-standard agreements.

There are (at least) two possibilities.

- ♣ The pair has agreed that two-level overcalls can be very light (meaning they can be 'weak'). This agreement is allowed and is not alerted. It should be on a convention card – but if playing at a club where convention cards are not routine, the pair would only have to explain the meaning if asked. In this case the bid is not a psyche because it conforms to their agreements.
- ♣ The pair have an agreement that two-level overcalls are stronger than this or have no firm agreements. The player has deviated from their agreements, for some reason. This bid would be classed as a psyche because it has deviated wildly from the expectations of other players. Such psyches are legal. If the player does this routinely, the pair will develop an implicit agreement, which should be disclosed.

In my experience the second case is more likely. The player is just pursuing his own private theory (or just going out on a limb) as to what a two-level overcall can be, and his partner is not aware.

Chris Catchpole asked about the laws which apply to: Drawing attention to the number of tricks won or lost; and observing from where the opponents draw their cards.

These are violation of procedure (Law 74C4/5).

Law 74

C. Violations of Procedure

The following are examples of violations of procedure:

4. commenting or acting during the auction or play so as to call attention to a significant occurrence, or to the number of tricks still required for success.
5. looking intently at any other player during the auction and play, or at another player's hand as for the purpose of seeing his cards or of observing the place from which he draws a card (but it is appropriate to act on information acquired by unintentionally seeing an opponent's card).

If a player does 'call attention to a significant occurrence', this gives their partner unauthorised information and then Law 16B on the use of unauthorised information can lead to an adjusted score.

Brian Hammond asked for advice on the following bidding sequence:

West	East
1♣ ¹	1♦ ²
2NT	3♣
3♦	3♠
3NT	Pass

¹ Strong club;
² Less than 8 HCP;
 All other bids natural

The opposition said we were in breach of EBU rules as my partner did not announce that the 3♣ was not asking for 4-card major suits and was a natural bid. Did partner have to alert that the 3♣ bid was not asking for 4-card suits?

Announcements only apply on the first round of the auction, so the 3♣ bid by responder on the

second round is not announced. If a 3♣ bid by responder on the second round asks for majors, or has another artificial meaning, then it is alerted.

If a 3♣ response to a natural 2NT rebid is natural and non-forcing then 3♣ should be alerted, because ‘non-forcing’ is unexpected.

If a 3♣ bid by responder on the second round is natural and forcing then 3♣ is not announced or alerted.

A question about alerting a forcing pass:

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

The pass at the five level was described as forcing and it was said to be on their convention card. Should the forcing pass be alerted? According to the alert instruction table it does not need to be but I feel that we should be made aware of this.

The regulations for alerting above 3NT are:

Once the auction is above the level of 3NT, no calls are to be alerted except for:

- (a) Artificial suit bids ...
- (b) Lead-directing passes
- (c) Doubles and redoubles ...

Forcing passes above 3NT are not lead-directing so they are not alerted.

The idea behind the regulation is that you do not need to be made aware during the auction that the pass was forcing, and opponents can volunteer to explain their bidding at the end of the auction.

A director asked: A player revoked, but did not win the trick. The opponents claimed that without the revoke they would have made three more tricks. As the director, I agreed and adjusted the score accordingly. The opponents queried whether they should have received the one trick penalty for the revoke as well as the three tricks as redress for the damage. Who was correct?

The director is correct: three tricks are transferred, not four.

Law 64C1

When, after any established revoke, including those not subject to trick adjustment, the Director deems that the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated by this Law for the damage caused, he shall assign an adjusted score.

The assigned adjusted score awarded by Law 64C is instead of the compensation (automatic trick adjustment) from Law 64A, not in addition to the trick adjustment.

A player asked about a bidding error:

W	N	E	S
	1NT ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
2♦	2♠	Pass	4♠
¹ 12-14, ² Stayman			

Early in the play, East realised that North (my partner) had opened 1NT with a singleton diamond. I suggested the hand be played out. My partner made 10 tricks, as did other pairs.

The director did not know how to adjudicate.

I assume that you haven't (as a pair) opened 1NT with a singleton before. In which case there is no infraction, and no adjustment is required. The laws allow players to make the wrong bid – either deliberately or accidentally. The important thing is that your agreements are properly explained to the opponents – which they were. □

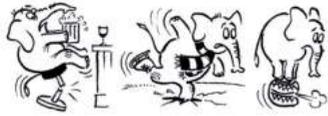
If you have a question for Robin please email him at robin@ebu.co.uk

Robin Barker is the EBU's Deputy Chief Tournament Director. He is editor of the White Book and looks forward to answering your questions. Please email him – robin@ebu.co.uk.

The author, English Bridge and the EBU are not responsible if the information provided is incorrect or incomplete.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Answers from page 33



Hand 1

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

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

3NT. West leads the ♠2.

3NT is almost certain to be the contract at the other table, so making your contract will ensure that you do not lose a big swing.

You have eight top tricks, with a possibility of an extra trick in hearts, diamonds or clubs. How should you decide the order in which to try those suits?

Both hearts and diamonds could give a winner through length (hearts needing a 3-3 split, and diamonds a 3-2 split), while clubs will give an extra trick with the ♣Q if East holds the ♣K. While one could consider the probability of success in each suit, it is worth noting that both hearts and diamonds can be tested without losing the lead,

while finessing clubs runs the risk of West gaining the lead and reverting to spades, leading to at least five tricks for the defence.

The safest approach is to leave clubs till the end. Missing only five diamonds, you can first test diamonds. If they split 3-2, you can test hearts for the chance of an overtrick. When diamonds split 4-1, you turn to hearts, hoping for a 3-3 split to make your contract. When they split evenly, you should not risk the club finesse since you have nine safe winners.

Had hearts not split evenly, you would have tried the club finesse as your last chance to make the extra trick.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 2

♠ Q 10 6

♥ 6

♦ A 10 7 6 5 3 2

♣ 9 4

♠ 8 2

♥ A 10 7 4

♦ K J 9

♣ J 10 8 5



♠ 7 5 3

♥ Q J 8 5 2

♦ Q 4

♣ K Q 7

♠ A K J 9 4

♥ K 9 3

♦ 8

♣ A 6 3 2

4♣. West leads the ♣J.

You have reached a game with minimal values, so making your contract could result in a big swing for your team.

You have seven top tricks, and could either plan to make extra tricks by trumping in the dummy, or by establishing length winners in diamonds. Which strategy should you choose?

In order to trump three losers in the dummy, you will need to lose the lead in hearts and clubs. If the opponents play trumps when you lose the lead, then you will be unable to take more than one ruff.

However, diamonds can be established as long as the missing diamonds split 3-2, (and trumps are not

4-1), by trumping twice, then returning to dummy to cash the established diamonds. Since dummy has two potential trump entries in addition to the ♦A, you should immediately focus on diamonds.

You therefore win the ♣A, and lead the ♦8 to the ♦A, then trump the ♦2. To maximise entries to the dummy, you should trump this trick with the ♠K. You now lead the ♠4 to the ♠10, and trump the ♦3 with the ♠A. With the diamonds established you now need to draw trumps ending in dummy, so you play the ♠J followed by the ♠9 to the ♠Q. With the missing trumps having been drawn, you can now cash dummy's ♦10765, and end up making an overtrick.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 3

	♠ 8 6										
	♥ A Q 8 4										
	♦ A 8 5										
	♣ K 7 5 2										
♠ A J 7 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; 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 9 5 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 5		♥ 10									
♦ Q J 9 7 3		♦ 10 6 4 2									
♣ J 8 3		♣ Q 10 6									
	♠ K 3										
	♥ K J 9 7 6 3 2										
	♦ K										
	♣ A 9 4										

6♥. West leads the ♦Q.

You have bid aggressively to a thin slam, so finding a way to make your contract could be crucial.

You have 11 top tricks. You can win an extra trick with the ♠K if East has the ♠A, or an extra trick in clubs could be available if they split 3-3. Which suit should you try first?

If you test spades and West has the ♠A, then the defenders can take two tricks before you discover whether clubs were splitting evenly, so you should plan to play clubs first. However, if you lose a club trick at any point, then the defenders can also win at least one spade trick to defeat your contract. Is it possible to test clubs without losing the lead?

Dummy's ♦A will provide a chance for a discard,

and throwing a club will allow you to play three rounds of clubs without losing a trick since you will be able to trump the third round of clubs. You should therefore win the ♦K, draw trumps ending in the dummy, and cash the ♦A, throwing the ♣4. You now play the ♣A, ♣K and trump the ♣5. When they split 3-3, you can cross back to dummy in hearts, and cash the ♣7, throwing the ♠3. The defenders will still win a spade trick, but you have made the extra trick that you need without having to risk the spade finesse.

If clubs had not split 3-3, then you could have tried the spade finesse, and if East held the ♠A then you would still make your slam, but if clubs split unevenly *and* West had the ♠A, then your slam would fail.

Heffalump Traps

by David Bakhshi



Hand 4

♠ A 8 4
♥ 10 5
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ K Q 2

♠ J 9 7 5 2
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ Q 7 2
♣ 9



♠ K 10
♥ K Q J 9 2
♦ 4
♣ J 10 7 6 3

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A 3
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ A 8 5 4

3NT. West leads the ♠5.

3NT looks to be the normal contract, so any swings that occur will likely result from the play. Fortunately you have escaped a heart lead, so taking full advantage of that may offer the possibility of a positive swing for your team.

You have seven top tricks. Following West's ♠5 lead, you could play low from the dummy, hoping to win the first trick with the ♠Q, and if East wins the ♠K, then the ♠Q will still give a second winner. Is there any danger in playing low? If East wins the first trick with the ♠K and switches to hearts, you will have to win the ♥A on the first or second round and will be exposed if hearts are played again.

When it comes to playing diamonds, you could hope that the ♦Q will fall in two rounds, and if it does not, you will still have two extra winners after losing a trick to the ♦Q. If you could consider either opponent to be safe or dangerous to lose the lead to,

then you could instead finesse diamonds into the safe hand rather than playing your winners from the top.

If the opponents attack hearts, there will be no safe hand, but there is a play that allows you to treat West as a safe hand. Can you see what it is?

If you win the ♠A at trick one, there will be a danger that the defenders can win four spade tricks if West started with five spades headed by the ♠K, and East gets on lead to play a second spade. You can therefore ensure success by winning the ♠A, then playing the ♦A, followed by the ♦3 towards your hand. If East followed, you would finesse, prepared to lose a trick to West. When East discards, you play the ♦K and another diamond. If West continues spades, then your ♠Q will provide a second stopper, and if West switches to hearts, you can win the ♥A and cash the nine tricks you need to make your game. □



Beat Today's Experts

1. E/W Game. Dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalberg</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Thomassen</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
1♣	1♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

The deal is from a World Bridge Tours Masters tournament in Norway. What should Thomassen say at his second turn? Is it not clear to pass? You have already expressed your values; the spades are breaking badly and you have a singleton in partner's suit. McIntosh doubles the 3NT, bid on a mis-fitting 21-count. He leads the ♠2 to the ♣3, ♠6 and ♠8. Take declarer's cards now. How would you continue?

Amazingly, you can make the contract if you find the right card at trick two: the ♠Q! Not gifted with second sight, Thomassen played a diamond. The contract was then one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Livgård</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Bogø</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	2♣ ^A
			All Pass

South's 2♣ was Drury, showing a sound spade raise. North was two down doubled, for -300 and 11 IMPs away.

Awards: 3♦ (10), 2NT (7), 3NT (5), 1♠ by N (5), 4♦ (4).

2. Love All. Dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Black</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣ ^A	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

We stay at the same event. After 1♠ – 1NT (also after 1♥ – 1♠ and 1♥ – 1NT), E/W use the Gazzilli 2♣. This would show 11-15 with clubs or any 16+ hand. So, 3♣ was natural, 16+ points. Brogeland's final bid was wonderfully judged. Black led the ♥2 to declarer's king. Bakke cashed the ♣A and ♠A, continuing with the ♠J to North's queen. When the ♦J was returned, he rose with the ace. The ♠10 drew South's king, ruffed in the dummy. After discarding his diamond loser on the ♥A, Bakke drew the outstanding trumps and scored a great +400.

3NT, on a ♦J lead to South's king, would have appeared a write-off. Sadly for Brogeland's great 5♣ bid, the 7-2 diamond break would allow the vastly inferior 3NT to be made!

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass
			All Pass

The pre-empt did its work. I can't fault the East/West actions, but the +200 for 3♣+2 cost them 5 IMPs.

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

3. Game All. Dealer South

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

West <i>Bianchedi</i>	North <i>Scanavino</i>	East <i>Madala</i>	South <i>Fellus</i>
2♥ ^A	4♥	5♥	1♥
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
All Pass			Dble

This deal is from the final of the Italian Olympiad trials. Both auctions were unimpressive, to put it politely. Maybe we can learn something from them. Bianchedi's 2♥

showed specifically spades and clubs. What should East say over the pre-emptive 4♥ response?

Madala, who could place his partner with at most one heart, sensed a slam. Bianchedi had good clubs, yes, but I think his 5NT (presumably 'pick a black suit') was ambitious. Fellus doubled 6♣ and led the ♥K. It was one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Montes</i>	<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Pejacsevich</i>	<i>Rizzo</i>
2♥ ^A	3♥	4♣	1♥
All Pass			Dble

A sensible start, but what a truly awful double by Rizzo! He led his singleton club, and won trick two with the ♠K. He then led the ♥Q, hoping to force partner to overtake with the ace and deliver a club ruff. A small flaw in this plan emerged, and a doubled overtrick was made for +990 and a 15 IMP swing.

Awards: 4♣ (10), 5♠ (8), 4♥ dbled by S (3), 6♣ (1).

4. E/W Game. Dealer South

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

West <i>Angeleri</i>	North <i>Macri</i>	East <i>Poleschi</i>	South <i>Palazzo</i>
1♥	1♠	2NT	1♦
3NT	All Pass		Pass

Switching continents in the blink of an eye, we will visit the final of the Argentina senior Olympiad trials. E/W assigned full value to their middle cards. Just look at the difference the four 10s make! Despite facing a one-level overcall, Poleschi bid a full 2NT. Angeleri made it 3NT, liking the trick potential of his hearts and the control offered by his two aces.

A club lead would beat 3NT, as it happens, but South started with the ♦6. Winning with the ♦10, Poleschi cleared the hearts and later finessed the ♠J. That was a fine +630.

West	North	East	South
<i>Cameros</i>	<i>Elijovich</i>	<i>Fornasari</i>	<i>Scanavino</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	1♦
			All Pass

Is a change of suit opposite an overcall forcing? Opinions differ. Most bridge teachers say 'yes', but I sometimes wonder if that's because it is easier to teach. East picked up +110, losing 11 IMPs.

Awards: 3NT (10), 2NT/♠/♥ (6), 3♣/♥ (4), 4♠/♥ (1).

Continued overleaf

5. E/W Game. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Humphries</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Brake</i>	<i>Reynolds</i>
1♣ ^A	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT ^A	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

The deal is from the final of the 2024 Australian Women's playoff. 1♣ shows clubs or a weak no trump, and 2NT asks whether West has 3 or 4 hearts, also whether minimum or maximum (an excellent method). 3♥ says 'four hearts and minimum'. As I see it, East has an easy raise to 4♥. The four 10s add value, and her side was vulnerable. Also, you cannot count two losers in trumps when in a 5-4 fit.

South led the ♠7, to the queen and king. At double-dummy, declarer can now make two overtricks, forcing the defenders to open the diamonds at the end. Back in the real world, ten tricks were made for +170.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jacob</i>	<i>McLeish</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Rankins</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass

Thompson was there with a well-judged 4♥. Bravo! That was a 10 IMP swing to the eventual winners.

Awards: 4♥ (10), 4♠ (8), part scores (5).

6. N/S Game. Dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cope</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
		6♣	All Pass

This deal, from the 2023 Gold Cup final, illustrates the commendable 3-card raise of responder's major. Three cue-bids and RKCB completed the investigation. On the favourable lie of the cards, only a ♦A lead (rather than the chosen ♥2) would have prevented the overtrick.

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>De Botton</i>	<i>Robson</i>
1♣	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass	3♥	Pass

Malinowski bid just 4♣ at his third turn. 11 IMPs to the Allfrey team.

Awards: 6♣ (10), games (5), 6NT (4).

Our stars manage 41/60, on a quite difficult set. How did you fare?

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Raise responder's major on 3-card support and a minimum hand. Then responder can use 2NT with a game try and just four spades, or 3NT (or 3 of a new suit) with game values.
- ❖ Tens and nines are valuable, particularly when accompanying honour cards. □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the editor, Lou Hobhouse, Raggett House, Bowdens, TA10 0DD, or email 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.

OPENING 1NT OR 1♠/1♥

I hope readers spotted the three articles in July's online *Discovery* magazine on this topic, including a computer simulation to show how 3NT performs against 4♥/♠ when there is a fit.

I have included a further Letters Page online, p73 to publish more correspondence on the subject. *Ed*

HELPING TEACHERS

I've enjoyed reading Mary Sharp's articles on teaching. They are by far and away the most innovative and thought provoking material in the magazine.

I'm always on the lookout for ways I can improve my methods and I've found the column to be a great source of ideas. The science of skill acquisition is a fascinating one and one that is sorely neglected by most 'coaches'.

*Alan Shillitoe
England U16 Coach*

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

Good bridge teachers know the game itself is secondary to the community it creates. The coffee and biscuit at half time is more important than the weak take-out.

Does it really matter that Janet/John never 'get' the weak take-out? 'I didn't have enough points to respond' she/he says every time when partner opens 1NT and she/he passes with four points and a 6-card heart suit.

While Janet/John understands the concept when explained, she/he forgets every time in the heat of battle. There are plenty of

Janets/Johns about. They are in every class.

The age profile of the class intake is often well over 50 years. Some are in their 80s! That can be a challenge. Not just for Janet/John but for the teacher too. The thing is Janet/John may quote vast excerpts from the sonnets, beat anyone on Osman's House of Games (given time) and explain Pythagoras to a grandchild slaving over boring homework.

While some teachers are happy to take the course fee in advance from an elderly person, they know it can be a challenge. But does it need to be? The person least upset about forgetting the weak take-out will be Janet/John themselves. Why is that?

Well, they didn't enrol to be a grand master. They have been told that bridge staves off dementia but actually, Sudoku is good for that. Playing chess with an eight-year-old is too.

Very often they have enrolled because they enjoy company, it gets them out of the house under the guise of participation. They sit in the same seat for two hours and guess what? They have chosen your company. They want to enjoy being part of your community.

Is it hard for the rest of the table? Actually no. It makes everyone feel so much better when they themselves forget the weak take-out. And anyway, Janet/John are lovely.

So, we love Janet/John.

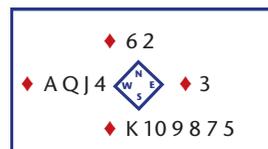
Actually, more than that, it is a privilege to have them join us. Good teachers get that!

*Sue Maxwell,
Smaxibridge.com*

ODD TRICKS

Reading Simon Cochemé's article in July's online *Discovery* magazine, I can offer you an interesting trick which Simon himself contributed to. Many years ago, I was playing in the Committee match between London and Surrey, and we came to play at Simon's table. The auction was dreary, ending in 2♦ by me.

After winning the first trick in hand I opened the diamond suit, leading the ♦5 from hand. The next three hands played the ♦4, ♦2 and ♦3 respectively, allowing the ♦5 to hold the trick! The suit layout was as follows:



My intention as declarer had been to give up a round of trumps so that I could play towards the king on the second round, and West looking at the ♦62 in dummy must have thought there was a chance that partner could win the trick, hence ducked it. I didn't have many entries in dummy; if I'd known the layout, I'd have covered with dummy's ♦6 ... Simon was very impressed at the time, since from his hand, it looked clever!

Chris Stableford

EBU YEAR END CONGRESS
27th – 30th December 2024
Marlborough Primary School
South Kensington, London

Enter via My EBU
or email comps@ebu.co.uk

SYLVIA CELEBRATES 100!

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY SYLVIA



Sylvia wins the monthly Cup at Moseley Bridge Club

WATER OUT FOR SHARK ATTACK

Congratulations to Sylvia who recently celebrated a milestone birthday at Moseley Bridge Club. Sylvia, who turned 100 years old in May was joined by fellow bridge players to mark the momentous occasion.

Sylvia's son made a wonderful biographical speech about his mother and her full and varied life as a scientist, and as a teacher, and raising her family. And then she found bridge and the rest, as we say, is history.

The party was attended by the local radio West Midlands who broadcast some of the event. Sylvia and her party also made the national news!

Landmark Promotions March – July 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY PROMOTED

PREMIER GRAND MASTERS
Stefan Lindfors, Devon
Robert Miller, Northamptonshire
David Mossop, Direct Overseas

GRAND MASTERS
Tom Dessain, Manchester
David Owen, Berks & Bucks
Janet Smith, Dorset

Avon

Master

Caroline Drugan
Reg Richards

Bedfordshire

Master

Susan Kaye
Edith Mickleburgh

Berks & Bucks

Grand Master

David Owen

Life Master

Alan Scott

Master

Ian Blazey
Bob Downey
Barbara Duffy
Barbara Gibbs
Brendan King
Lisa Luck
Noirin McCarthy
Hugh Morgan
Bernadette Ruane
Michael Simpson
Eleanor Smart
Marion Smart
Peter Westcombe
Malcolm Williams
Peri Wing

John Young

Camb's & Hunts

Master

Elaine Wilson

Cornwall

Regional Master

Peter Scott

Cumbria

Regional Master

Paul Davies
Wendy Owen

Gaynor Williams

Master

Janet Braisted
Ian Rudd

Derbyshire

Master

Julie Groves
Ann Martin
Ian Martin
George Nash
James Nelson
Glenn Partridge
Lynda Rowell

Devon

Premier Grand Master

Stefan Lindfors

Master

Linda Cann
Nancy Galloway
Avril Turnbull

Direct Overseas

Premier Grand Master

David Mossop

Direct UK

Regional Master

Rumen Trendafilov

Master

John Howie
Vladislav Isporski
Robert Law
Gyan Mehta

Dorset

Grand Master

Janet Smith

Regional Master

Richard Denning
Lucy Norman

Master

Barbara Ralph
Heather Tarbard

Essex

Master

Andrew Shaw
Sue Whittle

Gloucestershire

Regional Master

Alastair Catchpole
Lindsay Stewart

Master

Stewart Harrison
Ivy Hawkins

Alastair Jollans

Louise Keeling

Mary Woolley

Hants & IOW

Master

Mary Ferguson
Keith Gee

Ann James

Herefordshire

Master

Owen Evans
Ruth Wethery

Herts

Life Master

Michael Kaltz
Ian Kemp

Regional Master

Marion Fenn
Tony Hall
Tony Yip

Master

Peter Ancell
Richard Barnett
Graham Butterfield
Michael Carn
Liz Carrington
Ann Cartner
Dawn Clark
John Craggs
Adam Davis
Martin Holden
John Horgan
Lindsay Leslie
Jane Rawling
Peter Weisner

Kent

Regional Master

David Hudson
Adrian Lis
Jan Newcomb
Jennifer Viles

Master

Lynda Aldous
Catherine Grant
Ian McIntosh
Charles Mocatta
Bob Norrish
Graham Pearce
Pam Rutter
Joanna West
Philip Wolfson

Lancashire

Life Master

Nicholas Sutcliffe

Regional Master

Stephen Bentley

Master

Miriam Becker
Shirley Gowers
Andrew Grant
Steve Lamb
Nina Leigh
Dave Morris
Michael Rushworth
Jim Sumner
Alan Talbot
David Tandy
Jean Tandy
Ann Taylor
Christopher Waddington

Leicestershire

Regional Master

Phil Harrison
Susan Perrett

Master

Jackie Dean
Rita Duckham
Neil Henfrey
Graham Kendal

David Paine

Debbie Pullen
Judith Simpson

Lincolnshire

Master

David Marshall

London

Regional Master

Alex Hannon
Maggie Knottenbelt
Duncan Thomas

Master

Laurence Blumberg
Christophe Grosset
Kostas Kousis
Jenny Staples
David Willis

Manchester

Grand Master

Tom Dessain

Life Master

Ann Farquhar

Regional Master

George Leigh

Master

Mike Wood

Merseyside/Cheshire

Master

Janet Almond
Linda Dearnley
Sheena Parker
Penny Roberts

Middlesex

Life Master

Gill Stock

Regional Master

Hasan Said

Master

Marc Alain Bibaud
Angela Cranston
Michele Modino

Norfolk

Master

Laurent Bernard
Mary Hendrie
Sidha Sambandan
Andrew Shaw

North East

Life Master

Margaret Andrew

Regional Master

Reg Hornsey

Master

Rachel Lillycrop
Bill Sharp
Frances Watson

Northamptonshire

Premier Grand Master

Robert Miller

Life Master

Nick Hunter

Regional Master

Brian Churchill

Master

Catherine Holt
Jan Taylor

Notts

Regional Master

Shirley Ashtari
Lesley Forman
Ewa Hardwick

Master

Phillip Burley
Huw Cadwallader
Margaret Denham
Geof Forster
Kathryn Horberry
Diane Sharrock
Robert Simpson
Paul Ward

Oxfordshire

Regional Master

Sarah Gregory

Master

Joan Bailes
Diana Cannon
Adrian Cantwell
Arthur Harold
Malcolm Higgins
Nicholas Lee
Gillian Moore
Frances Pike
Phil Savage
Pat Swain

Somerset

Regional Master

Jonathan Spring

Master

David Clayton
Yvonne Eve
Pip Verge

Staffs & Shropshire

Regional Master

Tony Spiers

Master

Irene Jan-du-Chene
Joan Kershaw
Judith Milnes
Nigel Williams

Suffolk

Regional Master

Noel Mullan

Master

Rex Barker
Humphrey P Carey
Paul Dixon
David Green
Mike Morris

Surrey

Life Master

Roger Pratt

Regional Master

Nick Elmslie

Master

Brenda Adamson
David Beaumont
Roy Burberry
Jody Butters
Stephen Fordred
Izzy Gibbons
Veronica Gibson

Lesley Hunter

Mumun Kilic
Christine Lynagh
Sue McDonald
John Oliver
Sarah Patel
David Penny
Bharat Shah
Sanjay Shah
Helen Smith
Sue Smith
John Stewart
Peter Streetfeild
Phill Tait
Ray Tarling

Sussex

Regional Master

Richard Cleminson
Mike Palmer

Master

Rosemary Easton
Sandy Fell
Jill Hassan
Alison Herga
Kathleen Hill
Jean Judson
Robin McCaughan
Linda McRae
John Nott
Sarah Peacock
Martin Pearson
Tony Rolt
Rob Zijlstra

Warwickshire

Regional Master

Melanie Boynton

Master

Annabel Anderson
Patrick Bookey
Walter Green
Pak-Hin Lee
David Nicholls
Maggie Pritchard
Sarah Reed
Theo Schilderman
Sonia Yagi

Westmorland

Master

Sarah Bullock

Wiltshire

Regional Master

Garry Towns

Master

Mike Barnard
Jacoba Day
Jo Dix-Perkin
Penny Ewing
Wendy Hodgson
Edwina Hutchison
Keith Mitchell

Worcestershire

Master

Dido Coley
Barry Menheneott
Mark Poxon
Rob Trow

Yorkshire

Life Master

David Beresford
Regional Master
Alex Wood

Master

John Armstrong
David Banks
Mike Brocklehurst
Roxana Clifton
Barry Copley
John Dalton
Mark Dunkley
Hazel Greenwood
David Grice
John Healey
Diana Killi
Andrew Morrison
Rajiv Puri
Sue Reynard
Kath Robinson
Ann Shelton
Joyce Storer
SL Thick
Frieda Wilkinson
Maureen Williams
Kit Wong
Christopher Wright
Keith Wright



2024 Summer Meeting at Eastbourne

Mixed Pairs

8 August 2024

- 1 Iain Sime & Fiona McQuaker
- 2 Peter Lindon & Dee Lindon
- 3 Jeremy Willans & Jill Skinner

Open Pairs

8 August 2024

- 1 Simon Gass & Alan Scott
- 2 Martin Lerner & Nathan Piper
- 3 Andrew Bannock & John Dagnall

Swiss Teams for the Brighton Bowl

9 August 2024

- 1 Mike Bell & Marion Robertson
Paul Barton & Jake Milne
 - 2 Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter
Stefano Tommasini & Ben Norton
 - 3 Dave Robinson & Rob Lawy
Rhona Goldenfield & Kathleen Nelson
 - 4 Samantha Punch & Stephen Peterkin
Martin Bateman & Callum McKail
- Top Senior Team (John Carter Trophy)**
- 3 Dave Robinson & Rob Lawy
Rhona Goldenfield & Kathleen Nelson
- Highest B&C stratification teams**
- 47 Jen Middleton & Jack Ronayne
Duncan Thomas & Alex Wood

Serious Fast Pairs

9 August 2024

- 1 Simon Gass & Alan Scott
- 2 Norman Inniss & Christine Kempton
- 3 Robin Barker & Sarah Amos

Saturday Swiss Pairs Lite

10 August 2024

- 1 Mike Fawcett & Roger Forster
- 2= Lawrence Goldberg & Milli Fawssett
- 2= David Lampert & Jeanne Boydell
- 4 Faith Holland & Croz Crosswell

Online 9-High Improvers

10 August 2024

- 1 Michi Ashikaga & Paul Nightingale
- 2 Marcia Scane & Robert Scane
- 3 David Parkinson & Patrick Gough
- 4 Daniel Benison & Jo Lormor

Swiss Pairs for the Harold Poster Cup

10-11 August 2024

- 1 David Dawson & David Norman
 - 2 Jeremy Willans & Peter Law
 - 3 Andrew McIntosh & Sara Moran
 - 4 Stefano Tommasini & Ben Norton
 - 5 Raymond Semp & John Holland
 - 6 Alice Coptcoat & Ollie Burgess
- Top Senior Pair (Mercian Bridge Trophy)**
- 2 Jeremy Willans & Peter Law
- Highest B stratification pair**
- 33 Rob Corrie & Howard Ludlow
- Highest C stratification pair (Brighton Plate)**
- 57 Duncan Thomas & Alex Wood

Sunday Swiss Pairs Lite

11 August 2024

- 1 Faith Holland & Croz Crosswell
- 2= Gillian Cavell & Jackie Taylor
- 2= Nick Newell & Sally Clark
- 4 David Dodd & Helen Smithson

Combined Swiss Pairs Lite

- 1 Croz Crosswell & Faith Holland
- 2 Janet Ward & Jenny Jessup
- 3 Susan Charsley & Peter Dass
- 4 Annie Simmons & Rosemary McKinnel

Seniors Team



Swiss Teams - Brighton Bowl



Harold Poster Cup



Open Pairs



Mixed Pairs



Play under way



Saturday Swiss Pairs Lite



Combined Swiss Pairs Lite



Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



Julian's answers to questions from page 33

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

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
?			

3♥. Here, while you do not know quite how good the opposing diamond fit is, you expect your side to have a 9-card heart fit. You thus compete to the 9-trick level. It would be unlucky if both 3♦ and 3♥ are going down. If either contract makes, you are better off declaring than defending (140 beats 50 or 100, -50 or -100 beats -110).

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

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

3♣. Having already shown that you have both minors what do you do next? You should rebid the clubs because you have a good 5-card suit and so far your bidding has been consistent with five diamonds and only four clubs. Your ♠Q6 is another useful feature, which you might get the chance to show at your next turn.

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

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	1NT	2♠
?			

3♥. Although your partner might have doubled 1♠ if holding four hearts, a 5-3 heart fit remains a possibility. For sure, with so much shape you do not want to let the opponents play quietly in 2♠. It is also unlikely that they would let you play in 3♦. By bidding 3♥ you show five hearts and, as you bid diamonds first, six diamonds.

Hand 4
♠ Q 10 4 3
♥ A K Q
♦ J 9 4
♣ Q 5 3

W	N	E	S
?	1♠	Pass	Pass

1NT. In the re-opening seat a 1NT overcall is like a weak no-trump opening (if both players needed 15 points, you could be passing 1♠ out with two 12-14 point hands facing one another). Here you have the right strength and a spade stopper.

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

W	N	E	S
?		1NT ¹	Dble
¹ 12-14			

Pass. With eight points in your hand, your side has at least half the points. You also have values in three suits and poor spot cards in the heart suit. If 1NT doubled makes, 180 is sure to be a good score (better than 110 if you get to 2♥ and make that); if 1NT doubled goes down a trick, -100 should be no disaster.

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

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

2♦. Sometimes with 3-card support and a singleton, it would be right to raise. Here the hand is too good for a single raise to 2♠ – and you cannot make a jump raise opposite what might be a 4-card suit when holding just three trumps. You should bid your second suit, planning after a 2♥ preference to continue with 2♠; this describes the shape and strength nicely. □

CORWEN TROPHY



Manchester's John Holland & Alan Mould won the Corwen Trophy in mid-June. The

event is for counties' leading pairs from the most recent pairs championship.

In second place were Ed Scerri & Steve Eginton from Berks & Bucks, with Oxfordshire's Charles Bucknell & Jonathan Davis in third place.

GARDEN CITIES TROPHY



Cambridge BC from Cambs & Hunts won the Garden Cities Trophy – the competition for each county's 'teams-of-eight' club champions – for the second year running. Avenue BC (Sussex) finished second and Coventry & North Warwickshire BC (Warwickshire) were third.

Cambridge BC was represented by Victor Milman, Nadia Stelmashenko, Julian Wightwick, Jonathan Mestel, Liam Fegarty, Catherine Curtis (pictured), and Jon Cooke & David Kendrick.

HUBERT PHILIPS



The 2023-24 Hubert Phillips Bowl, the National Championship for Mixed Pivot Teams, has been won by the *Knottenbelt* team (Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, David Gold, Kieran Dyke & Ben Handley-Pritchard), who beat the *Hinden* team (Frances Hinden, Chris Jagger, Graham Osborne & Jon Cook) in early August.

SPRING FOURSOMES



The *Orca* team of Andrew Robson, Espen Erichsen, Richard Plackett, Alexander Allfrey, Peter Crouch & Simon Cope won the Spring Foursomes in early May – all members of last year's winning team.

Orca faced the undefeated *Hauge* team (Stian Evenstad, Rune Hauge, Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad & Dan McIntosh) in the final. The defeated semi-finalists were the *Penfold* and *Mossop* teams.

PUNCHBOWL

The Punchbowl, the secondary knockout event, was won by Catherine Draper, Ian Pagan, Catherine Seale & Andrew Woodcock. They beat the *Duursma* team in the final.

HAMILTON CUP



The winners of the Hamilton Cup, for the Swiss Teams on Monday, were Sarah Bell, Mike Bell, Phil King, Paul Gruenke & Matt Brown.

EBL ONLINE WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural EBL Online Women's Teams Championship took place in mid-June on RealBridge. Congratulations to the *Valkyrie* team, comprising Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Helen Erichsen, Diana Nettleton, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith and NPC David Burn who finished in third place in the A final.

PORTLAND BOWL



The Portland Bowl Finals took place in late April at the Portland Club in London. In the final, Oxford A beat Warwick A. The Oxford line-up, pictured, with Richard Pollitzer (Vice Chairman of the Portland Club), included Thomas Gardner, Ewa Wiczorek, Henry Rose, Nicholas Lee & Lawrence Wang. This is Oxford's 12th victory in the Portland Bowl. The Warwick A team were Madelina Amza, Patrick Gaudart, Matthew Honey, Nathan Lockwood & James Wilson.

In the Portland Bowl Plate final (the consolation event), Imperial A beat Durham B.

PACHABO CUP



The Pachabo Cup took place in mid-June and was won by Hants & Isle of Wight who were represented by Jeremy Dhondy, Andy Hughes, Steve Preston, Dave Huggett & Jeremy Baker.

The event is for the winners of the each county teams championship. Cambs & Hunts (Catherine Jagger, Jonathan Mestel, Jamie Fegarty, Paul Barden, Paul Fegarty & Catherine Curtis) were second and Worcestershire (Mike Willoughby, John Sansom, Nick Forward, Steve Allerston & Stewart Fishburne) were third.

HUBERT PHILLIPS PLATE

The Hubert Phillips Plate - the consolation event - was won by won by the *Rosen* team of John Atthey, Ian Draper, Anne Rosen, Neil Rosen, Gerald Tredinnick & Jeremy Willans. They beat Richard Edwards, John Griffin, Roger Mallinson, David Marshall & Mary Marshall in the final.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS



The Swiss Bank Holiday Congress was held at the end of May. The Swiss Teams was won by Stefan Lindfors, Tracy Sherman, Gunnar Hallberg & Frederic Wrang. In second place were Mike Huggins, Irene Robinson, Carrie Eden & Mike Eden.



SWISS PAIRS

The Swiss Pairs was won by Sharon Winton & Croz Crosswell. In second place were Cathy Smith & Andrew Smith.

TWO STAR PAIRS

Steve Root & John Atthey won the prestigious Two-Star Pairs. In joint second place were Sebastian Atisen & Stefano Tommasini and Andrew McIntosh & Sara Moran.



JACK HIGH SWISS PAIRS



In the Jack High Swiss Pairs, Bob Plant & Hiroko Plant finished in first place. In second place were Nick Howard & Tom Keith.

The online **9-High Improvers Pairs**, was won by Daniel Benison & Jo Lormor, with Charles Scott & David Martin-Sperry taking second place.

Discover your perfect bridge holiday

There's still time for you to book a fantastic bridge holiday departing this year!
Carefully curated to captivate and challenge bridge players of all skills levels,
browse the full collection today and discover your perfect escape...

Hurry – last chance to book for this year!



Five-Star Bridge at La Quinta Menorca by Portblue Boutique

4th Oct 2024

with EBU-qualified director Mark Hooper and hosts Maggie Pyner and Jacky Baker

Enjoy an indulgent bridge holiday at the luxurious, adults-only La Quinta Menorca.

8 or 15 DAYS from **£995**_{pp}



Autumn Bridge in Llandudno

21st Oct 2024

with EBU-qualified director Gary Conrad and host Lesley Conrad

Discover the fabulous Merriem Hotel in Llandudno, renowned for its excellent location and superb dining.

5 DAYS from **£645**_{pp}



Bridge Retreat at the Dartmouth Hotel, Golf & Spa

4th Nov 2024

with EBU-qualified director Eddie Williams and host Kathy Williams

Set in 225 acres of glorious countryside, join us for an idyllic bridge retreat.

5 DAYS from **£545**_{pp}



Festive Bridge & Bowls in Paphos

21st, 28th Dec 2024

with EBU-qualified director Sarah Amos and hosts John and Sarah Barker

Join us at the popular Athena Beach Hotel on the beautiful island of Paphos, enjoying a Christmas and/or New Year overseas bridge and bowls break.

8 or 15 DAYS from **£865**_{pp}



Christmas Bridge at Makeney Hall

23rd Dec 2024

with EBU-qualified director Colin Simcox

Take on an unforgettable, festive bridge holiday to the very special Makeney Hall, with its Victorian feel and warm and welcoming staff.

5 DAYS from **£695**_{pp}



Twixmas Bridge at the Oxford Belfry Hotel

27th Dec 2024

with EBU-qualified director Gary Conrad and host Anne Wright

Enjoy a Twixmas bridge break near Oxford, staying at the fantastic Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry Hotel.

4 DAYS from **£420**_{pp}

We have 30+ holidays to choose from on our website!

Call **01858 459 055**
or visit **firstforbridge.co.uk**
to book your next bridge holiday



SCAN TO
BROWSE
OUR FULL
COLLECTION
OF HOLIDAYS!



West's tale of woe

Among our many competitions and events in Bridge Club Live, we have a daily 18-board IMP Pairs movement at 8pm which is usually completed in under two hours. After one recent event, I was given a tale of woe from a player who had sat West and lost 12 IMPs when the South player at his table was the only declarer to bid and make a vulnerable 3NT contract.

Love All. Dealer South

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

West led ♠5 and the defence took four spade tricks ending in the East hand, with declarer throwing two hearts from dummy and a diamond from hand. If East had now found the lead now of the ♦Q, declarer would have been in difficulty. But East led a low club and declarer inserted the ♣10. When this won, declarer crossed to ♣Q and back to the ♦A. We were here:

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

When South now led the ♣A, West discarded. This meant that when South led the ♦K, East had to keep his clubs so discarded the ♥6. South cashed the ♣K, and then knew that by crossing to the ♥AK, the ♥Q would fall to promote the ♥J for the ninth trick and the contract.

The next F2F reunion of Bridge Club Live members will be in Winchester next month and I look forward to seeing many of our members again then. □

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 Tournaments, and Teams events;
- Full programme of special competitions (Swiss Pairs, Leagues, KO's);
- Full bidding and play records;
- System cards;
- Discussion forums & reunions;
- Free coaching by senior members;
- Free dedicated teaching area for teachers and their students;
- Free participation in dedicated sessions for your F2F local club;
- Clear playing cards and options for colour-blind players;
- Daily email w personal results;
- Messaging facility;
- Spectating and kibitzing;
- Grading scheme similar to NGS;
- 25 years of experience providing support to members.



Defence is Hard

Defending is the most difficult part of the game, and it is important to understand that partner finds it just as difficult as you do. One of your primary aims, therefore, should be to make the winning defence glaringly obvious for your partner. Of course, it is easy to tell yourself that ‘partner will work it out’, but you should make every effort to paint a crystal-clear picture. The more obvious you make the winning defence, the more likely it is that your partner will get it right.

Take the East hand from a recent *Funbridge* team game, and see if you can spot how to make the winning defence easy for your partner:

Game All. Dealer North. IMPs

♠ Q 5 4 2
♥ 8
♦ Q J 9 8 5 3
♣ Q 8

♠ 9 7 3
♥ K 10 6 5 4 3
♦ –
♣ 9 6 4 2

♠ K J 10 6
♥ Q 7
♦ A 7 4
♣ K J 10 5

♠ A 8
♥ A J 9 2
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ A 7 3

West	North	East	South
All Pass	2♦	Dble	3NT

North opens a natural weak two in diamonds and, sitting East, you choose to make a take-out double rather than overcalling 2NT. That seems like a good move when South jumps to 3NT.

West leads the ♥5 to your queen and declarer’s ace. Declarer plays the ♦10, partner pitching a low spade. What is your plan? (If you hold up the ♦A, declarer continues with a diamond to the queen, partner discarding a club.)

You already have a fairly accurate picture of the hand. Clearly, declarer will hold both black aces. What is the heart position? The Rule of 11 tells you that declarer began with three hearts higher than partner’s ♥5 opening lead. If declarer holds the ♥K or ♥AJ10x, you will never be able to beat the contract. What, though, if South started with ♥AJ9x or ♥A109x?

Can you see what is likely to happen if you win the ♦A and return the ♥7? Suppose declarer covers your ♥7 with the ten or jack. What is partner likely to do next?

I suppose you can tell yourself that partner should realise that declarer would have held up the ♥A with only three hearts. (Would declarer though if he started with ♥AJ9?) It is likely (particularly after your take-out double of 2♦) that partner will think you began with ♥Q72. In that case, West will win the second round of hearts and cash their second winner in the suit, expecting to be able to cash the rest of the suit. Of course, *you* know that this will set up the ♥9 as declarer’s ninth trick.

You need partner to get in with a high heart and, rather than cashing their second winner in the suit, switch to a club through dummy’s queen. How can you make the winning defence clear for your partner? Yes, by not returning your second heart when you get in with the ♦A.

You know that switching to a black suit will give declarer his ninth trick with dummy’s queen, so what is left to you?

The correct defence is to take the ♦A (on the first or second round) and to exit with a diamond. Declarer can make eight tricks (five diamonds and three aces), but has no way to generate a ninth. If declarer exits with a heart in the endgame, the position will, by then, be crystal clear and partner will not make the mistake of setting up a heart winner for declarer.

To beat this contract, you need to make the winning defence obvious for West. Don’t give partner a losing option early in the play. □

EBU Board, September 2024



Adrian Darnell (Chair) is a retired professor of economics. He joined the board in 2020, chaired the Education Working Group, became vice-chair at the start of 2023, and then chair later in 2023 when Ian Payn stood down. He was re-elected to the role of chair at last November's AGM.



Michael Hornung was appointed to the board earlier this year when he retired (for the second time!). His legal background and IT knowledge have identified him as an important member of the board who is looking forward to getting more involved in various aspects of its work, including the update of the Articles and Bye-Laws.*



Paul Gibbons was appointed to the board at the end of 2022 and elected at last November's AGM. He has been involved in the Marketing Working Group and the Competitions Working Group where he has been instrumental in expanding competitions for NGS 9-High players. He was also on the Laws and Ethics Committee, as well as acting as Treasurer for EBED for a few months earlier this year when there was a change in the composition of EBED's trustees. More recently he has been the driving force behind modernising the EBU's Articles of Association and Bye-Laws, which shareholders will be asked to vote on adopting at the AGM.

The intention is that these should bring us in line with standard practice among membership organisations, with the shareholders electing the board and the board electing their own officers, as well as appointing the majority of members of the standing committees.



Debbie Sandford's earlier career was as a management consultant in business, but she is currently a magistrate and sits as a Deputy Bench Chair of the Central London bench. She joined the board earlier this year and has been involved in the governance pillar of our recent strategy discussions, as well as taking responsibility for our diversity and inclusion policies.*



Diana Nettleton's professional career is in farming – as a consultant, a farm manager, an expert witness, and a farm contractor, developing experience in building businesses and making the most of opportunities. She has been involved in the *Bridge – It's a Big Deal!* festival project from its inception in September last year and was then appointed to the board at the start of 2024. Since then she has been extremely active in developing a new strategic plan for the EBU, as well as liaising between the EBU's international players and the board, and is actively supporting initiatives to expand junior bridge in the EBU.*



Patrick Shields (Treasurer) joined the board in 2020, having been a long-standing member of the Gloucestershire committee and the Midland Counties Working Group, of which he was the chair. Patrick was very involved in the provision of online bridge as the pandemic struck, nationally and at county level, and as a Competitions Working Group member has since been active in finding a balance between the provision of our online and face-to-face games. He is currently the board member responsible for the Bridge Warehouse, was central to our previous strategic plan, and has been a member of the Education Working Group and the Selection Committee. Since March of this year he has been our Treasurer, having shadowed the previous incumbent Kay Preddy.*

* Standing for election at the AGM Nov 2024

India's Quiz from p28

Q You are sitting East. For each auction, you will be given different responding hands. What should your rebid be?

<table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1♣</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>?</td></tr> </table>	W	E	1♣	1♥	1♠	?	Hand 1 ♠ Q 2 ♥ K J 7 4 3 ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ J 2	Hand 2 ♠ Q 2 ♥ K J 7 5 4 3 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ J 2
W	E							
1♣	1♥							
1♠	?							
Hand 3 ♠ Q 7 2 ♥ K J 7 4 3 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ J 2	Hand 4 ♠ 6 2 ♥ K J 7 4 3 ♦ Q 8 7 3 ♣ J 2	Hand 5 ♠ Q 2 ♥ A K J 4 3 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ J 7 2						

<table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1♣</td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>?</td></tr> </table>	W	E	1♣	1♦	2♣	?	Hand 6 ♠ K 7 6 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ A 7 5 4 2 ♣ J 4	Hand 7 ♠ 7 6 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ A K J 5 4 2 ♣ 7 4
W	E							
1♣	1♦							
2♣	?							
Hand 8 ♠ Q 7 6 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ A J 5 4 2 ♣ K 4	Hand 9 ♠ K 7 6 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ A Q J 4 2 ♣ K 4	Hand 10 ♠ A K 6 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 9 5 4 2 ♣ K 7 4						

<table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>?</td></tr> </table>	W	E	1♠	2♦	2♥	?	Hand 11 ♠ Q 4 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ 7 6 3	Hand 12 ♠ Q 4 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ K 6 3
W	E							
1♠	2♦							
2♥	?							
Hand 13 ♠ Q 4 ♥ K 10 4 3 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ 6 3	Hand 14 ♠ K Q 4 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ A 8 6 5 4 ♣ A 3	Hand 15 ♠ Q 4 ♥ A K 3 ♦ A Q 10 8 6 5 ♣ 6 3						

INDIA'S ANSWERS

- 1 – 2♣. You have a weak hand without six cards in your suit or a stop in the unbid suit, so you must give preference for one of partner's suits. This is not false preference; your partner has promised longer clubs than spades, so you are correcting to the suit you know you have a better fit in.
- 2 – 2♥. This shows a weak hand with 6+ hearts and no fit. Partner's change of suit could still be strong. Let them decide whether to go on.
- 3 – 2♣. This one is false preference because you have a known 7-card fit in both of partner's suits. However, you cannot raise spades with only three and you should keep the auction going, so your best option is to give preference to 2♣ anyway.
- 4 – 1NT. A weak hand with a stop in the unbid suit. 2NT here is still invitational, even with a jump.
- 5 – 2♦. Fourth suit forcing showing an invitational or better hand giving partner the opportunity to show 3-card heart support, or try no trumps with a diamond stop.
- 6 – 2NT. Invitational with stops in both majors.
- 7 – 3♦. Invitational (10-12 points) with six diamonds. It's unlikely partner will bid on having repeated their suit showing a minimum opening hand, but the option is there.
- 8 – 3♣. You are invitational but without stops in both majors. In this auction, partner is promising a 6-card club suit, so a doubleton is good enough for a raise.
- 9 – 2♠. Your partner is not going to raise this, don't worry! He couldn't rebid 1♠ over 1♦, so he does not have four spades. Use 2♠ to show your stop; skipping over 2♥ indicates that you do not have a heart stop.
- 10 – 2♠. Why? It is nothing to do with stops: you have a perfect hand for making a slam try in clubs but you need to tell your partner that you have a game-forcing hand first by reversing.
- 11 – 2♠. You have no good option here, as you do not have enough diamonds to bid those again,

Cont/...

EBU Board, September 2024



Ian Sidgwick retired from The Jockey Club after ten years as procurement director. He joined the EBU board at the start of 2023, since when he has been involved in the Marketing Working Group, the Competitions Working Group, and the EBU's procurement processes. From March this year he has also been the Chair of [English Bridge Education and Development \(EBED\)](#).



Abbey Smith (Vice-Chair) runs her own bridge club and over many years has taught hundreds of new players how to play bridge. As well as being our Junior Liaison Officer she is a member of the Selection Committee, is a trustee of EBED and is the Safeguarding Officer for both organisations, in which role she has recently been heavily involved in updating our [Safeguarding Policy](#).*

* Standing for election at the AGM Nov 2024

INDIA'S ANSWERS cont/d

nor do you have a club stop. Bid 2♠ just to say that if push came to shove and you had to pick between partner's suits, you would pick spades.

12 – 3NT. Enough strength for game, no major fit, a stop in clubs and no slam interest. Simply telling partner where you want to play.

13 – 3♥. Invitational with a heart fit.

14 – 3♣. You are always planning to bid spades next but you are too strong to bid 4♠ straight away. By bidding fourth suit forcing first, you show partner that you are interested in slam.

15 – 3♣. You definitely want to be in game but you do not have a club stop. If it turns out that partner doesn't have one either, you plan to play in diamonds. However, you cannot bid 3♦ straight away because that is not forcing! □

CROSSWORD NO 44

Compiled by MERMAN

Clue and grid, p10

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR BOURNE!



Congratulations to Bourne End Bridge Club, who celebrated their 50th anniversary with a somewhat boisterous party. Originally started by pupils from Borlase School, the club had a ceremonial cutting of the golden anniversary cake made by Anne Shaw, a member of the club for 48 years.

Obviously members even found time for some competitive bridge. The rest, as we say, is history.

Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 34

Q1

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

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

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ K 8 5
♣ 8 7 2



♠ K Q J 9 5
♥ Q J
♦ A 7 4
♣ K Q J

Preliminary analysis: You have reached 4♠ with a simple auction. The ♦Q lead is not particularly welcome as it threatens to set up a diamond winner for the defence. What is your plan?

ANSWER

Your mandatory *Count and Plan* shows ten winners, although many of them are slow tricks. You have four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. When you count losers, though, you can see four – one spade, one heart and one club off the top and a diamond if the opposition can set one up in time.

You must set up hearts for a crucial discard and the time to do that is now. Win the diamond lead in hand with the ♦A (crucial) and play a heart. The enemy may win that and play another diamond, but you can win that, cash the ♥K, dropping the jack, and cash the ♥10, throwing the diamond loser.

Now you can play on trumps and, when they have been extracted from the defence, can knock out the ♣A.

The full hand follows. Note the vital role played by dummy's ♥10 on this deal.

[click to play online](#)

♠ 8 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ A 9 5 4

♠ A 7
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ 10 6 3

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ K 8 5
♣ 8 7 2

♠ K Q J 9 5
♥ Q J
♦ A 7 4
♣ K Q J

Question 2 overleaf

Paul Bowyer's Quiz from page 34

Q2

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

W	N	E	S
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

♠ AK74
♥ AJ7
♦ A65
♣ 642



♠ 105
♥ KQ1098
♦ J8
♣ A753

Preliminary analysis: You have reached 4♥ after North has raised your suit. You note ruefully that 3NT has nine on top, but you cannot rewind the auction. 4♥ it is. West leads the ♣K. What is your plan to make ten tricks?

ANSWERS

Your *Count and Plan* shows nine winners (two spades, five hearts, one diamond and one club) and four losers (one diamond and three clubs). Sure, clubs might split 3-3 but why should you be so lucky?

The way to rid yourself of a club loser is to ruff it in the dummy, in the short trump hand. To that end, take the ♣A and return a club, allowing West to win. Win the return and give up another club. Now you are in a position to ruff your last club in dummy (using the ♥A, just to be flash) before drawing trumps and claiming your contract. Here's the full deal:

♠ AK74
♥ AJ7
♦ A65
♣ 642

[click to play online](#)

♠ J82
♥ 54
♦ Q732
♣ KQJ10



♠ 105
♥ KQ1098
♦ J8
♣ A753

♠ Q963
♥ 632
♦ K1094
♣ 98

Michael Byrne's Quiz from page 36

With neither side vulnerable your left hand opponent opens 4♠ and partner overcalls 4NT showing a two-suited hand. What do you say on each of these hands below?

West	North	East	South
4♠	4NT	Pass	?

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

ANSWERS

Hand 1 – 5♣. It's easy to get enthused and assume you have a big diamond fit but remember that partner's most likely two suits are clubs and hearts (the ones you have fewest cards in).

If you bid 5♦ then partner will convert to 5♥ and you'll have to play in 6♣ rather than 5♣. If you bid 5♣ it's true that partner will pass when they have the minors and you might play a 5-3 fit not a 5-5 fit, but is that so likely when you only hold a singleton heart? Even if that is the case it will mean the opponents have missed their enormous heart fit, so it will be a good board anyway.

Hand 2 – 5♣. Try and look as happy as you can. Partner almost certainly has the minors and you hold the wrong hand for them, but at least you have an ace and an honour in both of the opponent's likely suits. You might need to find partner with 6-5 to have a fighting chance but you're in the game at least. Note that if partner bids 5♦ over your 5♣ your prayers are answered. They have the red suits and you can now bid 5♥ and are happy in the 9-card fit.

Hand 3 – 5♦. Don't even think of passing! You have 14 of the very worst points you can have, but at least it will mean partner has a pure hand hopefully with good playing strength. Here you don't mind partner passing 5♦ if they have those, or correcting to hearts if that is one of their suits.

Hand 4 – 5NT. There is an excellent chance of a slam, and you want to make sure partner bids a suit he actually has. Partner will bid 6♣ if they hold those, otherwise they will bid 6♦. Note that it is not the fact you have 13 points that makes you bid a slam, but the fact you have the *right* 13 points. Compare this hand to Hand 3 and you will see what I mean. Partner rates to hold something like

♠– ♥KQxxx ♦AQJxxx ♣xxx

and 6♦ will be laydown. Alternatively

♠– ♥Kxx ♦AQJxx ♣KQxxx

makes a cold grand slam, but I would be happy to bid and make six with an overtrick after having to start my bidding campaign at the five level! □

BENEFITS OF OPENING 1NT

I agree with those who open 1NT with a 5-card major, and recently discovered another advantage. Playing a weak no trump, when you open 1♠ and pass a 1NT response you show a balanced 15-16, because on any other hand with spades you would either open 1NT or make a rebid. This makes it easy for partner with a maximum 1NT to double if opponents protect.

To find 5-3 major fits I play 1NT-3♣ as 5-card Stayman with some partners. We don't need 3♣ as a natural bid because hands with clubs can be shown via 2♠ playing 4-suit transfers.

Richard Pike

HAVING YOUR CAKE

Ah, the good old 1NT v 1♥/♠ controversy (EB May, Letters). With 5-card majors you can have your cake and eat it by having a wide range 12-17 1NT rebid after the specific sequence 1♥-1♠-1NT (but no others). With 8+ points, responder asks for more information with 2♣; 2♦ is minimum (12-14) with three spades and 2♥ with two spades, 2♠/2NT are midrange and 3♣-3NT are maximum. This finds any 5-2 or 5-3 major fit, often stopping in a safe 2♥/2♠, and is equally good with a weak or strong NT, but sadly there's no equivalent with a 1♠ opening.

Ian Kemp

COUNT YOUR LOSERS

With a 5-card major I open 1NT with eight losers and the 5-card major suit with seven losers.

I have no proof either way if this works; but for me it 'feels right'.

Mike Bowthorpe

REAL LIFE DATA

Re your commissioned study in *Discovery* magazine, Richard Pavlicek has done much of the work for you, drawn from real, high standard events. Single-

dummy, as in his data, is self-evidently more realistic than double-dummy – the latter of which I am assuming the proposed simulation would use. Look at both 1♥ vs 1NT and 1♠ vs 1NT in the link below, noting the difference between the two:

www.rpbridge.net/9x00.htm

It's one of the reasons we allow our 11-13 HCP 1NT to contain five hearts (if *min* - shown by a 2NT response to Stayman) but not five spades. There is also much more of value on the site.

Ian Casselton

DON'T FORGET YOUR REBID

I was intrigued with all the discussion about opening 1NT with 5-card suits and the quality of the suits.

I think and also teach that all rebid problems occur because somebody forgot to open 1NT in the first place.

If you have a full blooded 14-count with a good quality suit you would give yourself an upgrade any way (we all like to turn left don't we) and treat the hand as if it's 15 and would open one of the major and rebid no trumps next.

Harold Schogger

ONE FOR THE MAJOR

I may be naïve and possibly even old fashioned, but I would never open a weak NT with a 5CM. This is because you either have a good suit or you don't. If you have a good suit you won't have enough points in the other suits to stop the defenders cashing their tricks with you powerless to stop it. If your suit is poor you will not have enough time to set it up before the defenders establish their tricks. Either way I can give you plenty examples of where opening 1NT with a 5CM has not scored well (regardless of whether you and partner have a fit in the major)! I accept, however, that there is some pre-

emptive value in the 1NT opening (and it stops partner getting too excited with their 10 points), and even though you may go down in 1NT you may stop the oppos finding their fit but this is a different – and quite valid – argument.

It's quite different playing a strong NT as you then have more firepower to be able to set up your suit in NT and you are likely to score more matchpoints if you and partner don't have a fit in the major.

Sue Parkins

OPEN ONE MAJOR WITH FIVE

Those players who open 1NT with a 5CM, are clearly not thinking logically. Why do they think so many are now playing a system where an opening major shows five? The reason is that you can often play well in a 5-2, 5-3 fit. I remember some years ago opening 1NT with five spades. Partner's hand was a flat 8-count with four spades. EW took the first six tricks in hearts (we had two each!), and another trick outside: 1NT -1, 2S +1.

The point is, opening 1♠ is either a 5+-card suit, **or** four cards, with 15-19 points. I combine this with playing Intermediate 2♥/2♠ (10-15) and a multi 2♦, which means partner has a clear picture of my hand, without the complexity of the phoney 1♣/1♦ and having to use a 1NT response with 5-12 points.

I have had experience of teaching bridge, and in fact helped run a course at M/c Bridge Club, under Roy Higson, teaching people to become EBU Teachers! I have played many systems over the years, including Neapolitan Club, Roman Club, Precision Club, and at Rubber Bridge 'Strong NT, Stayman & the Ladder' so I do speak from experience.

David Olliver

Teltscher Trophy 2024

continued from p26

E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Selway</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Preddy</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

This was a difficult hand to defend. Consider the play from East's perspective. The lead was a top diamond on which West played the ♦3. East switched to a low club to the queen and ace. Declarer played a trump to the queen and a trump to his king, with West following upwards. East won the ♠A and exited with the ♥J (somewhat dangerous perhaps as a trump is safe) which went small small king. Declarer cashed the ♠J, with West discarding a diamond and declarer played a low club towards dummy. This was the moment of truth.

The danger is that West might have started with the ♣KQ, in which case playing the ♣10 will allow declarer to avoid two club losers. On the other hand, if declarer holds the ♣K, it is essential to rise with the ♣10.

East should reason that, to date, declarer has produced the ♠KJ, ♥K and the ♣A which means he cannot hold both the ♥A and the ♣K. West might have given partner a helpful discard on the third

round of trumps to indicate the heart winner, but failed to do so. Without this helpful steer, East had the chance to guess wrong and played small, allowing declarer to score three club tricks and make the contract.

Might East have guessed better? The key is a count of the tricks since, if declarer has the ♥A he has four trumps, three hearts and a club in which case the contract is cold. So East should play partner for the ♥A, declarer for the ♣K, and therefore rise with the ♣10 on this trick.

You might wonder why West did not offer a helpful discard or why East did not find the only play that could have defeated the contract but, after a long weekend and in the heat of battle the brain can do some strange things.

In the other room Trevor Ward and David Kendrick had a good result making 3♦ on the East/West cards with a resultant 6 IMP swing.

It was an exciting finish which saw England just clinch the trophy. □

	Team	VP total
1	ENGLAND	65.31
2	SCOTLAND	64.81
3	WALES	58.87
4	SBU	40.70
5	IRELAND	39.03
6	N IRELAND	31.28

England won this match 20-0, taking a 3 IMP lead into the final day, with two matches remaining. A narrow loss to Scotland saw the Scots resume their place at the top of the table, with eight points separating England in second place. It looked like a two-horse race. How wrong could we be? Not only did Ireland come storming back in the final match against Scotland, but Wales also came into contention with a huge win over CBAI. Everything suddenly was very tight at the top with any of four teams able to win going into the last few boards. Then came this deal:

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

A little surprisingly, Sally & Venetia Anoyrkatis were the only pair to reach 4♥. They were the only pair to find the heart fit and the only pair to get above the one level. Sally opened 1♥ with the South hand in fourth seat, which was doubled by West. Venetia raised pre-emptively to 3♥, but Sally went on to 4♥ anyway with her extra values. West began with the obvious ♣K lead, which Sally ducked, and won the club continuation. Now she ruffed a club and led a heart to the jack, discovering the bad break. She led a heart to the ten, which East won and switched to the 9♠. Sally didn't need this finesse, which was almost certain to be wrong, and wisely took the ace. Now she was able to overtake the ♦K with the ace and take the marked heart finesse, draw trumps, and concede the spade to make the contract.

In the end England pulled away to win by four over Ireland in second place, and Wales were third.

Congratulations go to my team, Sally & Venetia Anoyrkatis, Anne Rosen & Nevena Senior, and Sally Brock & Maggie Knottenbelt, but also to the Irish, Welsh and Scottish who ran us so close. Also well done and thanks to the superb organisers of the event which was a great success. □

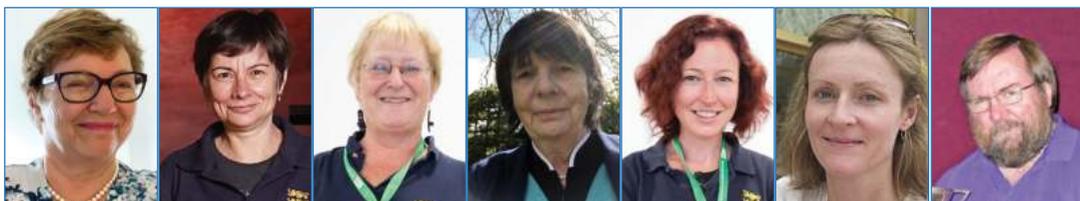


Lady Milne Team: Anne Rosen & Nevena Senior, Sally Anoyrkatis, & Venetia Anoyrkatis, Heather Dhondy (NPC), Sally Brock & Maggie Knottenbelt

EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 ~ Herning, Denmark



England's Open Team: Claire Robinson (coach), Stefano Tommasini & Ben Norton, Andrew Robson & David Gold, Tom Townsend & Ben Handley-Pritchard, Paul Barden (NPC)



England's Womens Team:
Nicola Smith & Nevena Senior, Sally Brock & Diana Nettleton, Fiona Brown & Helen Erichsen, David Burn (NPC)



England's Seniors Team:
David Mossop & Gunnar Hallberg, Alan Mould & John Holland, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields, Paul Hackett (NPC)



England's Mixed Team:
Mike Bell, Heather Dhondy, Sarah Bell, Kieran Dyke, Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Derek Patterson (NPC)

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 ~ Wroclaw, Poland



U26 Team: Harry Madden, Joseph Clark, Liam Fegarty, Michael Byrne (NPC), Daniel Winter, Oscar Selby, Liam Sanderson



U26W Team: Dido Coley, Lily Kearney, Claire Robinson (NPC), Harriet Cork, Liz Gahan, Imogen La Chapelle

Continued overleaf

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 ~ Wroclaw, Poland



SILVER

U21 Team: Henry Rose, Charlotte Bedford, Jamie Fegarty, Lucy Norman, Tom Furness, Thomas Gardner, Ewa Wieczorek (NPC)



BRONZE

U16 Team: Paul Barden (NPC), Holden Clark, Sophie Morris, Thomas Bradkin, Maks Blicharz, Cecilia Birdsall

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 ~ Wrocław, Poland



U31 Team: Aaron Hutton, Jonathan Clark, Oliver Powell, Kripa Panchagnula

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

ASSUMPTIONS

South has 15+ HCP, 6+ diamonds including two of the top four, at most three clubs, at most four of a major.

North has 7+ HCP, 6+ clubs, at most two diamonds.

East has no 4-card major and 7+ points, nor five of a major and 5+ points.

Best lead in each suit:

♥7/4 **30.1%, 3.56 tricks ***

♠5/3/2 28.8%, 3.57 tricks

♦A 17.9%, 3.12 tricks

♣6/5/3 16.7%, 3.15 tricks

Other leads:

♠A **27.6%, 3.71 tricks ***

♥9 29.6%, 3.55 tricks

♠8 26.7%, 3.53 tricks

♥K 22.7%, 3.25 tricks

Comments:

I don't know why Alan chose this one. Obviously the computer will lead from its 5-card major not its 4-card major ... or not ...

OK, back to first principles. Why does it (usually!) prefer 5-card suits to 4-card suits? Because we expect to lose one trick in the suit we lead, then win one trick in declarer's suits to get back in before cashing our length winners. If we set up a 4-card suit that only adds up to four tricks – so we still need an extra trick from somewhere. By contrast if we set up a 5-card suit we are done without needing anything else to go right.

Why doesn't that apply on this hand? Because we have two aces outside our 4-card suit. They are not only two tricks (meaning that we only need three extra tricks) but they are also control – preventing declarer from cashing nine tricks before we have set up our winners, and entries – in case partner only has three hearts.

So the potential extra length winner in spades isn't a factor on this hand. The question is really just: are we more likely to set up three heart tricks or three extra (not counting the ace) spade tricks? Given that we hold the ♥K we need less from partner in hearts than in spades. Indeed ♥Q10x over dummy's ♥J might do on a good day.

To prove the point we can change the hand round to ♠K8532 ♥A974 ♦A ♣653 giving the following results:

Best lead in each suit:

♠3 36.7%, 3.80 tricks *

♥A 24.1%, 3.63 tricks

♥7 22.7%, 3.41 tricks

♦A 18.0%, 3.13 tricks

♣5 16.9%, 3.16 tricks

That's all teams logic though. At pairs leading away from either major honour is not a great idea when partner is likely to be pretty weak. The computer thinks the best pairs lead by a thousand miles is the ♠A because that gives us our best shot at doing something sensible at T2 to prevent any overtricks. Humans don't always do the right thing at T2, but that really is a colossal margin for the ♠A suggesting that you can go wrong a good proportion of the time and still have it work out best in the long run.

Continued overleaf

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.

ASSUMPTIONS

South 12-14 or 17-19 HCP, balanced with no 5-card major and not 4-2 in the minors, or else 11-19 unbalanced with longest suit clubs or 4·4·4·1 with four clubs.

North has 12-18 HCP, five plus diamonds and at most three hearts.

East has fewer than three spades and 9+ points or four spades and 3+ points. Hearts are worse than ♥AKxxxx. No 8-card suit.

Best lead in each suit:

♠4/2 17.6%, 2.46 tricks *

♥6/2 13.4%, 2.64 tricks

♣6/4 8.5%, 2.44 tricks

♦9/8 8.3%, 2.43 tricks

Other leads:

♠A 15.6%, 2.68 tricks *

♠9 15.1%, 2.40 tricks

♠Q 11.7%, 2.20 tricks

♥Q 11.7%, 2.53 tricks

♦5 8.2%, 2.43 tricks

Comments:

The computer thinks that the prospects of beating this aren't great, and there is no better hope than our good 5-card suit. Despite what happened on Hand 2, the computer likes leading from good 5-carders against 3NT so that's not a huge surprise.

The minor suit leads are comfortably worst, so the computer doesn't want to go completely passive for fear that the opponents can set up lots of overtricks.

The interesting thing is that a low heart is miles ahead of a low spade at pairs. The auction gives partner likely length in hearts (ave=4.46) so leading them might set up tricks for partner. It's also safer generally to lead away from queens then from aces – all the more so if we think partner has length opposite our queen. So if we have to lead low the risk/reward balance at pairs heavily favours hearts.

But can we have our cake and eat it? Can we run the spades whenever partner has Kxx as well as attack hearts in time when partner has a decent holding and a trick in one of their suits? Yes! At pairs the ♠A lead achieves this. We don't do it at teams because it shanks the suit if partner has Kx or xx (or xxx with declarer holding Kxx), but at pairs we can afford to lose those chances in order to gain the potential tricks from a heart switch at trick two. To be fair the computer also brings in the spades when partner has xxx and declarer Kx (4.48%). A human partner will discourage with that and we'll switch – but the switch might still be good enough so we don't always lose in this case. □