

# English Bridge

December 2007

The EBU members' magazine



## Bridge awards

– page 26



**INSIDE: EBU STRATEGY UPDATE & CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**



# Bridge Overseas



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## English Bridge

**Editor: Elena Jeronimidis**  
 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR  
 Tel: 0118 926 2602  
 elena@ebu.co.uk

**Editorial Board**  
 Sally Bugden (Chairman),  
 Jeremy Dhondy and Elena Jeronimidis

**Advertisement Manager**  
 Harpreet Gill at Blue2  
 Charlton House, Old Estate Yard,  
 East Hendred, Oxford, OX12 8LL  
 Tel: 01235 833060 fax: 01235 862589  
 harpreet.gill@blue2design.com  
**Printing:** St Ives (Andover) plc

## English Bridge Union

**General Manager**  
 Barry Capal barry@ebu.co.uk  
 Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

**CONTACTING THE EBU**  
 Tel: 01296 317200  
 Fax: 01296 317220  
 postmaster@ebu.co.uk  
 Web site: www.ebu.co.uk  
 Bridge play online: www.bridgeclublive.com

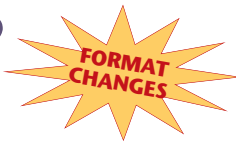
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# READ THIS FIRST!



Elena Jeronimidis

BEFORE you start panicking because this issue does not contain the usual insert with the questions for David Bird's 'Beat today's experts' quiz, please read this!

Having introduced more white space in the magazine in order to make it easier to read, I needed more pages. That's why the format is changing as from this month: the bidding quiz questions are no longer on a loose insert, but can be found on the pull-out at the centre of the issue. This change, together with slightly lighter paper, saved enough money to pay for eight extra pages (at no extra cost) that can be put to all sorts of useful uses.

There will be times (as in this issue, where you will find the EBU Strategy Update in the pull-out, and the Chairman's report on page 27) when the extra pages will be taken up by official communications, but in the main they will enable me to publish more articles, letters and items of news sent in by individual members and clubs.

As regards clubs, there has been an interesting, if unforeseen, development: several readers seem to have decided that, now that *English Bridge* has gone colour-coded, club news is 'yellow', and 'must' be published in yellow boxes. Well, I had not thought of that when I devised the colour-coding scheme for my first issue, but it seems a good idea, so henceforth club news will be yellow news, as it were, and I'll try to dot as many such boxes as possible in the magazine (no guarantee, alas, that all the news sent in can be included – it's all subject to available space).

However, may I make a plea for better-quality photos? Some of those I receive are of the painful variety: grainy and dark if paper prints, out of focus and low resolution if digital pictures. Sharp focus is a 'must' if photos are to look good in print, so please don't send in poor quality pictures (even if you personally look your best in

them) and bear in mind that low-resolution images may look good enough on the web, but will look awful in the magazine. If the quality of the photo is good, but the subject's features could do with some enhancing, drop me a line, and I'll endeavour digitally to whiten teeth and erase wrinkles, as required. You just would not believe what can be done (my husband never ceases to wonder when he looks at my photo on this page).

Having dealt with all that, let me change the subject, and congratulate the England Women's Team for reaching the quarter-finals of the Venice Cup at the Teams World Championships recently held in Shanghai (report on page 9). They must have been disappointed not to progress further, but theirs was still a notable achievement; well done Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith, Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield, Catherine Jagger and Sarah Teshome for flying the flag.

In the Transnational Teams, it is mainly the organisers who are to be congratulated for enabling several local school teams to take part, thus providing the injection of youth the game so badly needs.

England was not represented in the Bermuda Bowl, the competition for Open Teams, as the team had not managed to qualify for it. Even without an English interest, however, the event was wonderfully exciting. The greatest upset was that South Africa, a team that had barely survived the initial round robin, knocked out Italy, the holders and several times finalists in the past, at the quarter-final stage. This sort of thing proves that no-one is unbeatable on the day – and that watching the mighty fall is deeply satisfying!

As this last reflection is not in keeping with the Christmas spirit, I'd better stop and wish you all, on behalf of everyone at the EBU, the compliments of the season. □

### ARTICLES IN ENGLISH BRIDGE ARE COLOUR CODED

Instruction	EBU News	Features	On-line Bridge	Reports
■	■	■	■	■

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*The Two-minute Interview*

**James Mates**



Photo: Shireen Mohandes

**AWARD-winning journalist James Mates is ITV News' Senior Correspondent. He mostly plays at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club in London, and also used to play in Washington when he worked there as ITV correspondent.**

**How did you start playing bridge?**

My girlfriend, now wife, taught me at the kitchen table.

**How often do you play?**

As often as I can, and not nearly often enough. On average, about once a week.

**What does playing bridge mean to you?**

Paradoxically, it's a combination of a real intellectual challenge and great relaxation. I've met so many people I now call friends around a card table, and hope I'll continue to do so.

**If you could change one thing about bridge, what would it be?**

I would keep on moving down the road away from 'alerts' and towards 'announcements' of partnership agreements.

**What are your hobbies outside bridge?**

Riding my mountain bike and playing tennis.

**Name up to six people you would invite to your Dream Dinner Party.**

To make up a bridge four: Zia Mahmood, Omar Sharif and Andrew Robson. To put the world to rights: Lance Armstrong, Nelson Mandela and Arnie Schwarzenegger.

# Play for all the tricks you can make

ONE should never underestimate the difference between pairs and other forms of the game. Say you are in a routine 4♠ – every pair holding your cards at other tables (your real opponents) will be in 4♠.

**Question:** What is your trick target?

**Answer:** You do not have one. The number ten has no significance whatsoever. You are playing in spades (you could all be playing in 1♠, or 7♠, and it would make no difference). *You must simply maximise the number of tricks you can win.*

Take our featured deal:

**Love All. Dealer South.**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> If you like to play that a jump to 4♠ is a pre-emptive 'shut out', then you need a way to describe a raise to 4♠ expecting to make. The best tool is Jacoby 2NT.

You as declarer win West's queen of diamonds lead with the king, draw trumps finishing in your hand, then lead to a heart to the ten. (Note that you play on hearts rather than clubs, as it is the suit that offers



**PAIRS TACTICS**

**Andrew Robson**

you a real chance of two tricks and a discard (for your third diamond); assuming the ace of clubs does not 'beat air', there is only one club trick to be had, and consequently no discard.)

East wins the king of hearts and returns a second diamond. You win the ace and lead a second heart towards the ace-jack, West again playing low. Crunch time. Do you finesse the jack or go up with the ace? Finessing the jack will yield eleven tricks if successful (you can then throw your diamond loser on the ace of hearts), but only nine tricks should the finesse lose to East's queen (the defence will promptly cash their diamond plus the ace of clubs). Going up with the ace will see you settle for a safe ten.

**Andrew's Tip:** When in a normal contract, risk your contract for an overtrick if you think the overtrick is more likely than the undertrick.

You should finesse, because this action is likely to be successful. This is because of the Principle of Restricted Choice, which states that when one opponent has turned up with a critical card in a suit, his partner is about twice as likely to have the adjacent missing card. You will make eleven tricks about two-thirds of the time, and nine about one-third of the time – good odds at pairs when playing in a normal contract (although clearly not at teams and rubber bridge). □

Selected articles can now be found in the *English Bridge* web Library at [www.ebu.co.uk/publications/EB-web\\_library/index.htm](http://www.ebu.co.uk/publications/EB-web_library/index.htm)



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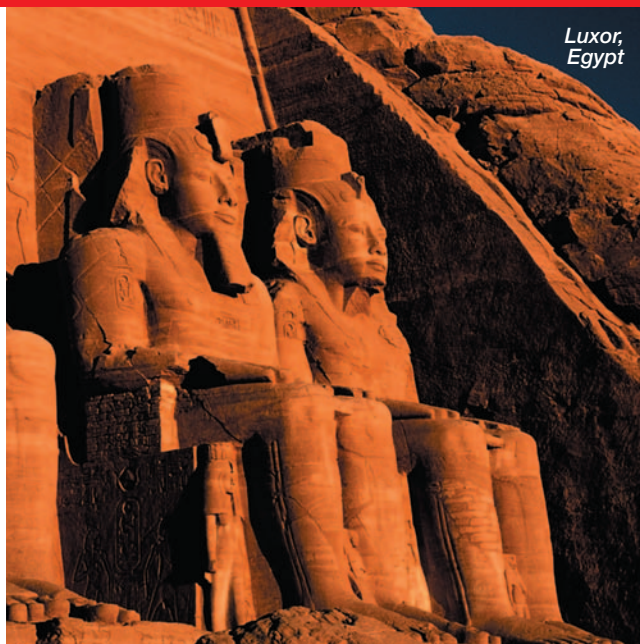
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# Ned Paul's Christmas Quiz

Entries must reach the Editor (23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk) not later than 4th January 2008. The first correct entry out of a hat will win a copy of Peter Hasenson's 'British Bridge Almanack'; EBU vouchers to the value of £15 and £10 respectively to second and third. Solutions and winners' name in the February issue.

- Q1.** Bridge evolved from whist towards the end of the nineteenth century. In which year were the first Laws of Bridge published in England?
- Q2.** The modern version of bridge dates from 1925 when American tycoon Harold Stirling Vanderbilt introduced a new scoring table during a cruise from San Francisco to New York. What was the name of the ship on which Vanderbilt sailed?
- Q3.** The first international bridge match was held in 1930 when an American team captained by Ely Culbertson played an English team at Almacks Club in London. The Americans won by 4835 total points over 200 deals (no trumps declarations were worth 35 points a trick at the time). Who was the English captain?
- Q4.** The Acol system of bidding came to prominence in England in the 1930s. It was named by its founders after a bridge club in the Acol Road, Hampstead, in London. Who were the original four Acol players?
- Q5.** In which English county is the village of Acol?
- Q6.** England hosted the European Bridge Championships in 1933 but had to wait until after World War II to win. In what year did England first win the European Championships?
- Q7.** And when did England first win the Women's European Championships?
- Q8.** The Bermuda Bowl is awarded for the World Team Championship of bridge. In which year was the

Bermuda Bowl first played and which nation was the first winner?

- Q9.** The Venice Cup, the Women's World Team Championship was first played in 1974. How many times and in what years have British teams won?
- Q10.** In the following auction South's double is generally played for take-out, showing support for the unbid suits.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♣	1♠	Dble

This is the 'Negative' or 'Sputnik' Double, so called because it was introduced in the same year that Russia launched the first ever artificial satellite. In which year was Sputnik 1 launched?

- Q11.** The famous Blue Team, undefeated in World and European bridge from 1957 to 1969, represented which country?
- Q12.** The World Seniors Pairs was first played in 1960. Who were the first winners?
- Q13.** How many master points do you need to become an EBU Premier Regional Master?
- Q14.** Charles Anderson-Pelham, second Earl of Yarborough, was famous for offering £1000 to anyone who held a thirteen-card hand with no card higher than a nine – on condition they paid him £1 each time they did not! What are the true odds against holding a 'Yarborough'?
- Q15.** In which EBU competition do 'honours' count?



XMAS QUIZ

- Q16.** How should you play this card combination to ensure three tricks?

A J 8 5			
W	N	E	
K 9 4 2			

- Q17.** What is the score at duplicate for 2♠ doubled plus two overtricks vulnerable?
- Q18.** Which famous British player was the first woman World Bridge Federation Grand Master?
- Q19.** Playing Roman Key-Card Blackwood, what is the correct bid with the following hand?

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	?	

♠	K Q 5 3
♥	J 10 7 6
♦	A 7
♣	J 8 7

- Q20.** The following quote is attributed to which famous woman champion from a different sport?  
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# 2007 Shanghai World Bridge Team Championships

THE 38th World Bridge Teams Championships took place in Shanghai from September 29th to October 13th 2007. Twenty-two national teams competed in each series: Open for the Bermuda Bowl, Ladies for the Venice Cup, and Seniors for the Senior Bowl. In the second week, there was a Transnational Teams tournament, open to all players wishing to participate, and this most enjoyable event attracted 148 teams.

For a country to send a team to compete in one of the three main events, their national team must have finished in the top few positions of their zonal championships. In England's case, this was the European Teams Championships that was held last year in Warsaw, Poland. The English Ladies won a bronze medal and earned their place in the contest for the Venice Cup. We had no representation in the Open and Seniors.

The format of all three competitions was a round robin of twenty-one sixteen-boards matches, with the top eight teams qualifying for the quarter finals. The England Ladies team (Heather Dhondy – Nicola Smith, Michelle Brunner – Rhona Goldenfield, Cath Jagger – Sarah Teshome) did extremely well to reach the last eight, considering that a previous winner – the Netherlands – and other strong teams did not reach the knock-out stages.

In the ninety-six board quarter-final

England faced the very strong Chinese team. The match was very close until the last set of sixteen boards, where China had a tremendous run to win 218-128 IMPs.

Here is a masterpiece of defence produced by England's Michelle Brunner:

**Game All. Dealer West.**

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Wenfei Wang</i>	<i>Brunner</i>	<i>Yi Qian Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

1♣ was strong, 1♦ negative, 2♠ game-forcing with spades, 5NT a grand-slam try,



**Nevena Senior**

which North accepted because of the fifth trump. Rhona Goldenfield led the jack of hearts, dummy played the queen and Michelle . . . smoothly produced the four! Glad she was in dummy, declarer took the club finesse and went off. Had Michelle covered the queen, declarer would have been locked in hand and, with no other options, would have cashed the ace of clubs. Michelle had listened carefully to the bidding: she knew declarer had running spades, so the heart loser would disappear anyway. She also knew that 5NT instead of Blackwood was suggesting a void in a side suit, so her only hope to defeat the contract was a trump winner for the defence.

Playing low on the queen of hearts created a 29-IMPs swing for England, as the North-South pair in the other room had played in 4♠.

China later on lost the semi final to the eventual winners- USA1, but won the play off for the bronze medal against France.

The new Venice Cup holders are Jill Meyers, Jill Levin, Jo Anna Stansby, Debbie Rosenberg, Irina Levitina and Hansa Narasimhan. Germany finished second.

The Bermuda Bowl winners are Norway (Boye Brøgeland, Eric Sælensminde, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Glenn Groetheim and Ulf Tundal). USA1 finished second and the Netherlands third.

There was another gold medal for the USA in the Seniors: Roger Bates, Grant Baze, Bart Bramley, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag and Lew Stansby beat Indonesia in the final.

The Transnational Open Teams was won by a team from Italy, France and Switzerland: Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Franck Multon, Thomas Bessis and Pierre Zimmermann defeated a strong Polish-Russian formation in the final. □

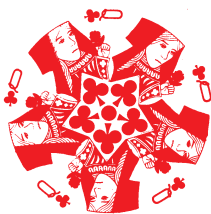


Photo: EBU

*The England Venice Cup Team, from the left: Nicola Smith, Rhona Goldenfield, Martin Jones (npc), Catherine Jagger, Sarah Teshome, Heather Dhondy and Michelle Brunner*

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# Inadvertent blunders, deliberate snubs

JUST as the bridge session was about to start John said in an embarrassed tone, 'There's something I need to ask you but I have inadvertently kept forgetting about it.'

'Ask me afterwards, after all it can't be that important if it keeps slipping your mind,' replied Julie.

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

West	North	East	South
	Julie		John
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup>Weak, 5-9 HCP

Although she had enough points, Julie was uncomfortable with her double of 2♠ as her hearts were so poor, and she feared the worst when John eventually put down his Stop card. He had taken some time to decide as he really didn't want to go past 3NT, but he realised he was too strong just to bid 3♣, and feared that if he tried 3♠ to see if Julie had a stop, it might prompt her to bid 4♥.

Unfortunately, after placing the Stop card on the table, John then pulled out 3♣. As West placed his Pass card on the table, he gave John a sideways glance which prompted John to look down and gasp in horror at what he had done.

**'A defender's card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face must be played to the current trick.'**

The Tournament Director was soon at the table and, much to John's relief, allowed him to change his bid, explaining: 'You may substitute your intended call for an inadvertent call – so long as your partner has not subsequently called – provided you attempt to do so without pause for thought.'

'But he had ages to think about it; he didn't even try until after I had passed,' protested West.

'But the point is that I wasn't thinking!' exclaimed John, as Julie just shook her head in despair. 'It was only when I saw the 3♣ card that I immediately realised what had happened.'

'It is clear to me that John merely made a mechanical error and therefore he can correct his bid without penalty,' said the TD.

After an exchange of cue-bids, Julie decided that she really wasn't strong enough to ask for aces, so she bid 5♣ which John gratefully passed.

West failed to find the killing heart lead, instead opting for his ace of spades. He then decided to lead his ten of diamonds, but found that he had placed his ten of hearts on the table instead, so he immediately called the Tournament Director.

He explained to the TD: 'I have made an inadvertent designation in the play and would like to change my card.'

The Tournament Director replied: 'I am afraid the use of the term "inadvertent" in the play only applies to cards that are named or called for. In this case you have physically played the card and Law 45C1 states: "A defender's card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face must be played to the current trick"'

After the heart switch to the queen and ace, John could see that trumps represented his only sensible way back to hand, so he



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

played a spade to the king, a trump back to hand and a spade, ruffed high, followed by a top diamond before drawing trumps. He wasn't sure whether to take the diamond finesse or not, so he tried the effect of playing out his trumps before deciding, which

resulted in East looking very smug. By now West had thrown all of his spades, so John knew that he could not have the king of hearts (his open-

ing showed 5-9 points and he had already shown seven points in spades); John then exited with his jack of hearts, immediately wiping the smile of East's face as he had to lead a diamond away from his queen to let John make his contract.

John felt really pleased with himself until Julie opened the traveller: 'All that effort for an average; nearly everyone else was in 3NT making nine tricks. Still, you did inadvertently play it very well,' observed Julie in a barbed tone.

As they left the club Julie turned to John and said: 'What is it you keep forgetting to ask me?'

John could feel his neck going red as he nervously enquired: 'Oh yes, well, Christmas will be here soon and I wondered whether you would accept an invitation to join me for a Christmas Bridge Break.'

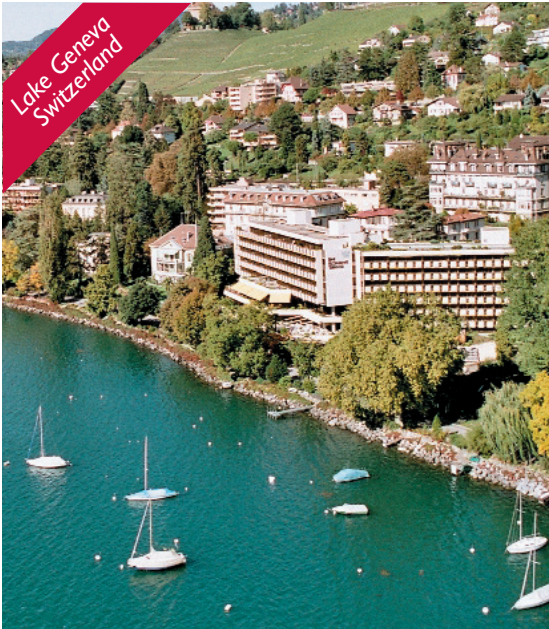
'Christmas and you and bridge – how romantic! I don't think so, John,' replied Julie. 'I shall settle for the Queen's Speech at home instead.'

Crestfallen, John decided to try to suggest something more attractive in the future; he wondered if ten days at the Brighton Congress might be a better bet. □

**'You may substitute your intended call for an inadvertent call – so long as your partner has not subsequently called – provided you attempt to do so without pause for thought.'**

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## Roy Garthwaite reports on the 2007

# Rhodes Congress

THIS year's autumn EBU Congress took place in Rhodes. The island, situated in the South Aegean Sea, has at various times been associated with Rome, the Byzantine Empire, and the Knights Hospitaller later known as the Knights of Rhodes. The Knights were overcome by the Turks in 1522, who in turn were ousted by the Italians in 1912. In 1948 all the Dodecanese islands of which Rhodes is the largest were reunited with Greece.

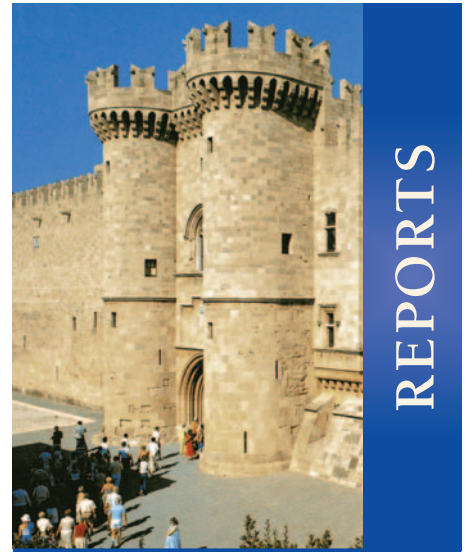
Before looking at the hand below decide the best way to play K-J-x opposite A-9-x-x for three tricks.

Traffic in and around the city of Rhodes is very congested and there are nearly as many scooters as motor cars. While there are white markings on the roads to indicate safe places to cross, it is wisest to regard these as being purely decorative. Fortunately there was an underpass between the hotel and the beach. Interestingly, although most signs are in Greek (often accompanied by the English version), vehicle registration plates look similar to ours bearing Roman letters and numbers.

Those who went on the organised excursions thoroughly enjoyed themselves, there being plenty to see especially the city of Lindos with its fine Acropolis, which can be reached on foot or by donkey. Also visited was the ancient Hellenistic Dorian site of Kameiros, on which had been built a Temple to Athena. The Temple was destroyed by an earthquake in 226 BC. Excavations were started in the middle of the 19th century and continued until the middle of the 20th. Also visited was the Valley of the Butterflies, which involved a long uphill walk to a small church at the summit. Sadly there were no butterflies as they had all left for their winter home.

One of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Colossus of Rhodes, was a 125 feet high bronze statue allegedly situated in the harbour although there is some doubt as to its exact position. A gentleman with a transatlantic accent was overhead to say that he was going to visit it. He would be unlucky as it was destroyed in an earthquake some 2233 years ago. The city has a magnificent harbour that can accommodate large cruise ships. Within the city, surrounded by

stone walls, is the Old Town, now designated as a World Heritage Site. Here one can meander through the narrow streets bordered by shops and restaurants. Unlike Egypt, it was enjoyable to walk through the streets without being hassled.



**Love All. Dealer South.**

♠ A 9 4 2		♠ 8				
♥ A K		♥ Q J 10 9 8 4 2				
♦ K 10 7 5		♦ J 9 6				
♣ A K 10		♣ 7 3				
♠ Q 10 6 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ K J 7
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 7		♥ 6 5 3				
♦ 4 2		♦ A Q 8 3				
♣ J 8 5 4 2		♣ Q 9 6				

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

This was a typical auction, the 4-4 diamond fit being hard to locate by those playing the weak no-trump. The result was dependent on the play of the spades.

Whilst it may seem natural to play the ace first, this can never gain. The best line is to

cash the king and then lead low towards the jack. If this loses, East having followed with a low card, it is a close decision whether to finesse the nine or play for the drop. On the featured hand the finesse is marked.

Mostly the weather was like a perfect English summer day. Since May, Rhodes had had only one hour of rain and none was expected until November. However, on the Saturday evening during dinner we were treated to thunder and lightning followed by a storm which put part of the dining room out of service for a few days.

Our thanks are due to David Jones, Neil Morley, Peter Jordan and their wives for the organisation and smooth running of this most successful Congress.

The Congress finished with a well attended farewell four-course dinner in the semi-open air. The wine flowed freely, one's glass being quickly topped up if there were any danger of it being emptied. The weather was kind enough to allow dancing under the stars until after midnight to music provided by a flautist and a keyboard player. □





David Bird

# Beat today's experts

Bidding problems on page 1 of the pull-out at the centre of the magazine

## 1. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ A K J 3 ♥ A K Q 3 ♦ A Q ♣ Q 9 5		♠ 9 5 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K J 9 6 4 ♣ J 10 7 4	♠ Q 10 8 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ Void ♣ A K 8 6 2
♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ 10 8 7 5 3 2 ♣ 3			
<b>West</b> <i>Travis</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Vaughan</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Bignall</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Smart</i>
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
7NT			

THE deal comes from the final of the 2007 Australian Interstate Teams, with ACT facing South Australia. It is not often that you hold 25 points when partner opens with a one-bid. Quite rightly, Barbara Travis responded at the one-level to hear something worthwhile from partner's rebid. Bob Bignall's 3♦ was a mini-splinter, showing the values to raise hearts to the three level and at most one card in the diamond suit. What should West do now?

On many deals it is right to play in 6NT or 7NT, rather than in a suit. You may then have a chance of making the required tricks even when the suit that you might otherwise have chosen as trumps fails to break. Travis duly leapt to 7NT. This was indeed superior to 7♣, as she proved by making 13

tricks in no-trumps via a simple squeeze in the minor suits. It was not, however, as good as a grand slam in either major suit, which would have been a 95% prospect. Playing in a major, you can overcome a bad club break simply by ruffing the ♦Q.

Hands where you have to judge the best denomination are notoriously difficult. If East had held the ♣J instead of the ♥J, you would rather be in 7NT than seven of a major. Which contract did you choose?

■ **Awards:** 7♠/7♥ – 10, 7NT – 8, 7♣ – 6, small slams – 3, games – 1.

## 2. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ Void ♥ K 9 8 7 6 ♦ K Q 10 7 5 4 ♣ A J		♠ J 5 2 ♥ J 5 4 3 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K 6 5 2	♠ 8 4 ♥ A Q 10 2 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ 10 9 8 4
♠ A K Q 10 9 7 6 3 ♥ Void ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 7 3			
<b>West</b> <i>Sandqvist</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Saelesminde</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Malinowski</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Svendson</i>
4NT	Pass	5♣	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass

Next we see a very difficult board from a friendly match played between England (*de Botton*) and Norway (*Hauge*) at the Brighton Summer Congress.

Nick Sandqvist's 4NT indicates two suits – we can all agree on that. What strength does it show? While such a bid might well be based on a strong hand, it could also be used to initiate a sacrifice (particularly at favourable vulnerability). Not inclined to gamble that West held a strong hand, Artur Malinowski responded just 5♣.

West's correction to 5♦ showed that he held the red suits. What should Malinowski do now? He has stronger support for a red two-suiter and must have considered bidding a slam. The main deterrent against doing so is not the two spade losers. West is

missing ace-queen and ace in his long suits and is unlikely to have two top losers in spades in addition. The worry is that West's 4NT might be based on a weakish hand that was aiming only at a sacrifice.

There is no 'right answer' in these situations. You have to rely on your judgement. Watching on Bridge Base Online, I certainly expected Malinowski to raise to 6♥. At any other vulnerability, he surely would have done (because of the increased likelihood that 4NT was constructive). There is no easy solution to this bidding dilemma. If there was, the England stars would have known about it!

■ **Awards:** 7♥ – 10, 6♥ – 8, 6♦ – 7, games – 3, 4♠ (South) – 1.

## 3. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ A J 7 3 2 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ A K J ♣ Q J		♠ K Q 8 6 5 ♥ 6 2 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ A 7 5
<b>West</b> <i>Ao</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Wang</i>	
2NT	3♥	
3NT	4♣	
4♠		

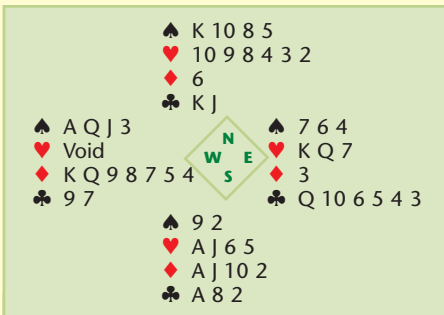
The deal comes from the semi-finals of the 2007 Spingold championship, contested in Nashville.

Wang's 3♥ was a transfer bid and the 3NT rebid, a break of the transfer, showed excellent spade support. If East wanted to sign off now, he would bid 4♥ – a 're-transfer' to 4♠, so that the strong hand could play the contract. No, Wang could sniff a slam and cue-bid 4♣ instead. Many players would now have bid a slam on the West

cards and indeed all three other East-West pairs did reach the poor slam. All credit to Ao, therefore, who took note of the large number of losers in his hand. Realising also that five-card trump support is not particularly valuable when you have no singleton in your hand, he signed off. Well bid, indeed! Justice was done when only one of the minor-suit finesses was successful.

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

### 4. Love All. Dealer West.



West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Chechelash</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Dble

This is another deal from the 2007 Spingold. What should West bid on the second round?

He is too strong for 2♦. He might rebid 3♦ but 2♠ is so much better! Since East has denied four spades with his 1NT response, 2♠ must show a hand that can play in 3♦ (or in 2NT, at least). By bidding his spades, West tells East that a king or queen in spades will be valuable whereas such cards in hearts or clubs may not be.

Since East has no diamond support and values in the unbid suits, he bids 2NT. What should West's 3♦ mean now? It should be an attempted sign-off, showing that the reverse was at least partly based on shape rather than points. As I see it, East had a clear-cut pass at his third turn.

Moss bid 3NT instead and Gitelman's

4♦ should then mean: 'I am not interested in a no-trump game. If you have suitable cards, raise to 5♦.' East must have read 4♦ (and perhaps the previous 3♦) as forcing. He advanced to 5♦, which might have gone for 1100 but escaped for 500.

The auction at the other table was also instructive:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ao</i>	<i>Dawson</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Lynch</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	2NT
5♦	5♥	Dble	

1♠ was a transfer for clubs and 2NT showed a four-card heart raise. North's 5♥ was quite awful, as I see it. His two kings lie outside the long suit and might well be useful in defence. The contract went one down.

■ **Awards:** 2♦ – 10, 3♦ – 8, 4♦/2NT – 5, 3NT – 3, 5♦ – 1.

### 5. E/W Game. Dealer East.



West	East
<i>Babsch</i>	<i>Bieder</i>
2♣	1♠
2♥	2♦
4♦	3♦
4NT	4♥
6♦	6♣

We move next to the 2007 'Staatsmeisterschaft' in Austria. A straightforward fourth-suit-forcing sequence carried the auction to 4♦. It was then perfectly reasonable for East to cue-bid his singleton control in the unbid heart suit.

West now felt that he had enough for Roman Key-card Blackwood. No harm would have been done if East had responded 5♦ (one key-card), which West could then have passed. No, East chose to respond 6♣, which showed one key-card and a void club. You can imagine the reaction of Herr Babsch, on hearing this response. 'Thank you so much, partner!'

The defenders cashed their two aces against 6♦ and the blame must surely go to East. There is nothing wrong with playing six-level responses as showing one key-card and a void, but this should not be a void in partner's main suit! East cannot argue that his partner might be queen-high in that suit and be delighted to hear of the shortage opposite. Such a hand is very unlikely because it could hardly prompt West to use RKCB.

■ **Awards:** 5♦ – 10, 4♠ – 8, 3NT – 7, 6♦ – 3, 4NT – 1.

### 6. N/S Game. Dealer West.



West	East
<i>Cao XL</i>	<i>Xue Yong</i>
1♥	2NT
3♣	3♥
4NT	6♥

We end at the final of the 2007 Sanya Cup in China. Xue Yong responds with a Jacoby 2NT, showing (as they play it) at least a game raise in hearts. The success or otherwise of this method depends entirely on the continuations available to the partnership.

West showed a four-card club suit and East marked time with 3♥, which hopelessly failed to describe his hand. West continued with RKCB, assuming his partner would have some cover in diamonds. As on

deal 5, East then saw fit to jump to the six-level on the strength of one key-card and a void club. The king of diamonds was led and the very poor slam went two down when the trump finesse lost.

East should have described his hand with a splinter bid in clubs, rather than making a vague general statement. There would then have been some chance of West diagnosing the poor fit and staying low.

■ **Awards:** 4♥ – 10, 5♥ – 7, 6♥ – 3.



A total score of 28/60 is unimpressive. Either the world's top players are losing their touch or some mean-minded *English Bridge* writer is deliberately choosing deals that show them to poor advantage. You can decide, while I look for some bidding tips.

### Tips to remember

- In response to RKCB a leap to the six-level shows one key card and a side-suit void. Do not make such a response unless you are fairly confident that (a) the void is likely to be useful (it is not in a suit that partner has bid) and (b) there are not two key cards missing in the other suits.
- When an opponent opens 4♠ and your partner overcalls 4NT, showing a two-suiter, it is difficult to bid with any accuracy if 4NT is used to cover both constructive hands and those seeking a sacrifice. Except at favourable vulnerability, perhaps, it is best to use 4NT constructively.
- When the bidding starts 1♣ (or 1♦) – 1NT, be happy to describe your hand with a rebid of 2♠ or 2♥, even though partner cannot have a 4-4 fit there. □

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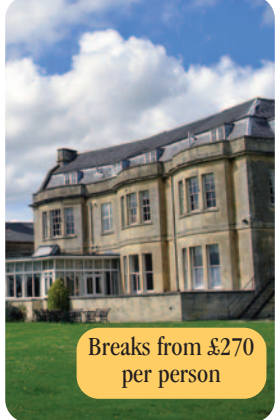
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## Bridge snails are pests

HAVE you ever been stuck behind a slow tractor or a caravan on the way to St. Ives? Does it remind you of anything in bridge? I'm talking about pairs who waltz along: slow slow, slow slow slow.

The slow pair does not have any effect on its own play. It just damages the pair or pairs that follow it or play against it.

I've found that TDs are reluctant to intervene against slow players, choosing instead to chivvy the innocent pairs following them. Maybe they're thinking: 'It's Methuselah, I can't say anything to him!' Not that it's always the fault of the older members. This behaviour has become a form of gamesmanship for those who do it to disturb the concentration of others.

Cricket teams are retrospectively fined for slow play and footballers are dealt with for gamesmanship either on the spot or later. I propose that a fines and penalty points system

be introduced – say up to 3% to be deducted from the pair's final percentage score. Or they can go into their next session with such a fine to be imposed. If they play with someone else, then the potential partner will know what he/she is getting into in partnering this player!

This way, the tortoises will either be forced to change their attitude or they can wallow in each other's company as others will be reluctant to play with them. Either way, bridge will be seen as a fairer game.

**Jim Greer, London**

## Auditions

SUSAN Hampshire is looking for someone to play opposite her (October issue)!

When do the auditions start and where are they taking place?

**Stuart Watson, Hatfield**

## Question . . . and Answer

I UNDERSTAND that England's top players use either a Five-card Major / Strong NT system, or play a Strong Club; very few play Acól.

If so, then surely bridge teachers should be teaching newcomers one of these two, rather than Acól. As Precision is a bit complex, then a five-card major / strong NT system seems indicated as it is no more complicated than Acól. The EBU should also publish this system as a revised Standard English.

**Richard Small, by e-mail**

John Pain replies: *The vast majority of players in this country play Acól with four-*

*card majors and a 12-14 INT, and the main thrust of the Bridge for All teaching scheme is to prepare learners for the world they are most likely to meet. To embark on a change to Five-card Majors / Strong no-trump would be a major undertaking to transform the face of bridge in this country, and I'm not sure the rest of the English playing community is ready for such a change.*

*Sandra Landy adds that, just as at any other sport, the methods of the top players are not always suitable for beginners! Not all of the top players play five-card majors (by a long way) and few now play a strong club.*

## Happy experience

I ATTENDED the recent Junior Teach-in at Loughborough (report on page 41) with my 15-year old son. Apart from three lessons and a short read of a beginner's book, he knew nothing about bridge.

Because of traffic congestion we arrived late, so that he only received the last fifteen minutes of tuition in the first class. The final session of Friday was described as a duplicate event, so I imagined he would be in his own little section. I was therefore surprised to see him sitting at a table close to me as everybody was to take part in it. I was rather concerned this would frighten him off the game and was somewhat sceptical of the organiser's approach. My son had never seen a bidding box before. However, a kindly opponent explained how to use it. After that, play began and I lost sight of him.

During the evening, I found it a delightful experience to play against several young people, some of whom could barely hold all their cards in one hand. It was so nice to see their positive and pleasant approach to the game.

At the end I met up with my son, and was amazed but delighted to hear him say he was ready to join me at our local club. Whether in fact he is or isn't ready is beside the point. The important factor is that this session gave him the confidence to believe he can succeed. The rest of the teach-in, which included another duplicate session for all, served to reinforce this.

I am very pleased we attended, only too happy that my scepticism was unfounded, and would recommend this weekend to any parent or grandparent thinking of introducing their offspring to bridge.

**Brian Lippard,  
Tunbridge Wells**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## BB@B ctd

I FEEL honour-bound to comment on the letter from Gwynn Davis (August issue).

When my better half and I went to lessons at Bristol there were 84 people in the class. Two years later there were ten of us still attending regularly, the rest had been turned away by behaviour in the 'bear pit'.

Things have improved since then, but hospitality is the key to player retention; we should all indulge in more of it – and I don't mean by buying everyone a beer.

**Brian Welch, by e-mail**

Send your letters to Elena Jeronimidis, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, e-mail [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@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.

## Ooops!

With reference to 'What does bridge mean to you' (*English Bridge*, October 2007), Andrew Robson would indeed be puzzled if anyone had made thirteen tricks via a stepping stone squeeze! This rare animal involves the concession of a trick during the process to an opponent – normally to overcome a blockage – and using the unfortunate opponent as a way of crossing to dummy.

Perhaps of course it was combined with a revoke!

**Matt Foster (and also  
John Portwood), by e-mail**

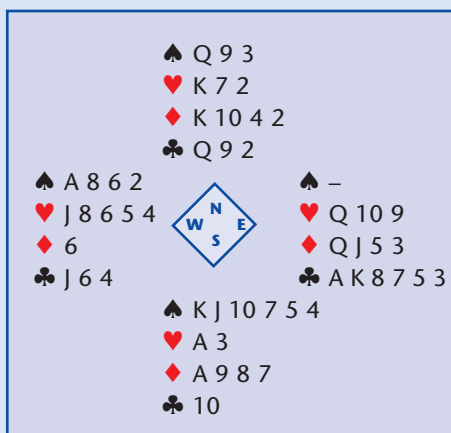
*That's what happens when I write from the heart: bridge technique tends to give way to poetic licence! It's a good thing that I don't ever try to write technical articles. – Ed.*

Votes tally and comments  
on the October Debate: page 34

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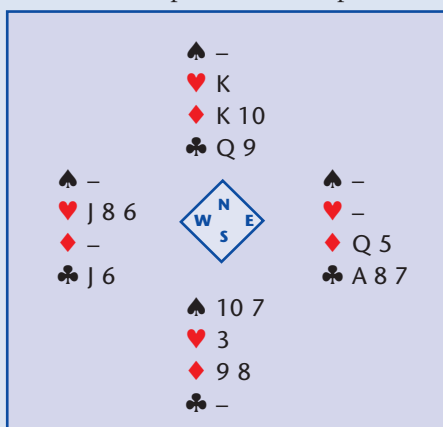
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South played in four spades after East had opened one club. West led the ♦6 to East's ♦J and South's ♦A. South led the ♠4, West won with the ♠A and switched to the ♣4

won by East's ♣K. East returned the ♦3, ruffed by West who exited with the ♥5, won by South's ♥A. South played three rounds of trumps to reach this position:



South led the ♥3 to North's ♥K and then the ♣Q, hoping to pin the ♣J and establish North's ♣9 as the tenth trick. When the ♣J failed to appear, South had to lose a diamond trick and finished one down. Unlucky – or was it ?

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# Jumping in the fourth suit

Send your questions to the Editor, or e-mail  
David Bakhshi directly at [DavidBakhshi@aol.com](mailto:DavidBakhshi@aol.com)

MR M.C. O'Driscoll from Birmingham writes: *When this deal occurred locally, both hearts and clubs broke 5-1, which led to a vast array of results. Playing Benjy, how should these hands have been bid?*

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

Dear Mr O'Driscoll,

The hands that you have enquired about are tricky to bid, and are a typical example of why misfitting hands often lead to disappointing results, since both players have strong distributional holdings whose value is lessened by the lack of a good trump fit.

I tend to avoid opening 2♣ on two-suited hands, so in my view West should start by opening 1♥, and East will respond 2♣, after which West can bid 2♦. While West might be tempted to jump to 3♦, he does better to conserve space, especially given that East's ability to respond at the two level should mean that the auction will not come to rest in 2♦.

East now has a tricky call. If East bids 2♠, West would likely bid 3♦, and East would want to bid 3♠. If so, should West interpret it as a natural bid, or a further probe? Many partnerships would expect a repeat of the fourth suit to be looking for further infor-

mation, because of a doubt about strain or level. So, we need to consider what happens if responder wants to bid the fourth suit naturally. This leads us to the question of the choices open to the responder other than using fourth suit forcing.

Most of the bids that responder can make at his second turn are considered to be 'limit bids'. These include:

1. A return to opener's first suit;
2. A raise of opener's second suit;
3. No-trump bids;
4. A repeat of responder's suit.

Thus, the only other option open to responder is a jump in the fourth suit. There are two typical interpretations of a jump in the fourth suit.

Firstly, jumps to the four level are usually played as Splinter Bids, given that it is unlikely that responder would want to bid beyond 3NT without the knowledge of a fit. (A Splinter is typically a double jump in a new suit, guaranteeing the values for game, a fit, and shortage – singleton or void – in the bid suit.)

Secondly, jumps below 3NT are thus employed as natural bids showing at least five cards in both of responder's suits, thereby allowing for the description of these very awkward hand types. A jump in the fourth suit below the level of 3NT would thus show a hand which is forcing to game with at least five cards in each of responder's suits.

Accordingly, on the hand you have



David Bakhshi

YOUR QUESTIONS

provided, East would bid 3♠ after West's 2♦ rebid. While this jump would typically only promise at least five cards in each suit, West can deduce that here East will actually have at least six clubs, as he can assume that East would have responded 1♠ with two five card suits. West would face another tough call, and would likely stress his extra length in hearts by bidding 4♥, after which East will find it hard to resist the temptation to bid 4♠. Though it may seem unlikely, West can now interpret East's bidding as showing a complete two suiter, with seven clubs and six spades. At this point West will be guessing a little as to the quality of East's high-card holdings in his two suits, but would do well to follow the principle of staying low on a misfit. As Marty Bergen, one of America's leading players and teachers, says: 'No Fit – Time to Quit'.

## SUMMARY

After the partnership have bid three different suits in their first three bids, responder has several options:

- He can make a limit bid in either of opener's suits, no-trumps or his own suit;
- He can bid the fourth suit to elicit more information about opener's hand;
- He can bid the fourth suit with a jump:
  - (i) A jump to the four level is a Splinter bid;
  - (ii) A jump below 3NT is a natural bid, showing at least five cards in each of responder's bid suits. □

## NEW BRIDGE CLUB FOR SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE

A NEW duplicate bridge club has been formed in the South Worcestershire area. The Malvern Hills Bridge Club is based at The Pheasant in the village of Welland, and is conveniently located for players from the Upton upon Severn, Malvern, Ledbury and Tewkesbury areas.

The club is aiming to attract both experienced players and beginners with the emphasis on playing competitive bridge in a friendly atmosphere. The club runs each Thursday at 7pm with a host system and is using computerised scoring with the results accessible via its own website. The Pheasant has adequate parking and provides good facilities for playing bridge.

For further information contact the Chairman, Angela Lane, ☎ 01684 594379, or Secretary Basil Hine, ☎ 01684 310514. The club's website is: [www.grhm.f2s.com/bridge](http://www.grhm.f2s.com/bridge)



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# Where have all the women gone . . . ?

I ALWAYS eagerly look forward to the National Women's Teams event, the premier competition for women in this country. It's a chance to do away with the men, and settle down to two and a half days of competitive bridge at the comfortable Paramount Island Hotel in Hinckley. The competition has an excellent teams format: this year, two round robins followed by 32-board knock-out matches, with a Swiss Teams consolation event.

This year was no exception, but where have all the women gone? The fifty teams that used to turn up only a few years ago were down to seventeen. Come on, ladies – it's never too early to get your entry in for next year!

This deal initially appeared to have limited interest; in our match it was flat in 3NT minus one, North inviting over a weak 1NT opening and South accepting.

**Game All. Dealer West.**

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

N  
W  
E  
S

	♠ K 6 2
	♥ A 4
	♦ K Q J 3 2
	♣ 9 6 5

A spade went to the jack and was ducked. Another spade was returned, which declarer won. She drove out the ace of diamonds, and a third spade was played, setting up the suit. Eventually West gained the lead with the king of hearts and the contract was one down.

Hand records are a wonderful thing; careful perusal revealed that nine tricks were there to be made. The key play is at trick one: if declarer takes the first spade in dummy and immediately drives out the ace of diamonds, then when a spade comes back she can win and put West under some pressure. On the run of the diamond suit West must keep her spades, and thus pitches

a heart and a club. Declarer now cashes the ace of clubs, and exits in spades. West can cash her three spades, but then must lead away from the king of hearts. Even now declarer is not necessarily home, as she must guess to play West for the king rather than the jack of hearts.

This sort of play is known as a 'strip squeeze', as you first squeeze West, then strip her exit cards, and finally throw her in. It is most often used in 3NT when you have eight tricks, but in order to set up a ninth you would need to give up five tricks to the defence. But, as we saw here, technique is not enough and it always



takes some reading of the situation to be successful.

**Whitelaw Cup winners:** Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield, Sarah Teshome, Catherine Jagger. **Swiss Teams winners:** Sandy Davies, Carol Kelly, Pam Pearce, Lindsay Geddes. □

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Please indicate on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, or in the e-mail subject line, the category for which you are entering. Julian Pottage will judge the entries and the first correct answer drawn in each category will win a prize.

## PRIZE PLAY QUIZ

A competition you can all enter

TAKE a look at the play situation below and give your answer. Please include very brief details of your reasoning.

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

	♠ Q 6 4 3
	♥ J 5 4
	♦ A Q 5 4
	♣ 7 4

N  
W  
E  
S

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

West	North	East	South
		1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
<sup>1</sup> 12-14			

West leads the ♣10. East wins with the king and continues with the ace. What is the best line for the contract?

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# Multi and Blackwood problems

E-mail your questions to Jeremy Dhondy at [ebuproblems@btopenworld.com](mailto:ebuproblems@btopenworld.com) or write to the editor, Elena Jeronimidis, at 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR. Please include your name and address.

FRANK Felton by e-mail asks about the Multi 2♦ opening: 'At a time when the EBU is launching its strategy to make membership universal, it might be appropriate to ask whether there is a convincing argument for the continued legality of the 'Multi 2♦' bid. Under the guise of this bid, I am told, it is permissible to open with a hand containing six spades, no more than 1 HCP and no other features than a description which, albeit in line with the laws, is meaningless but does include the suggestion that it could be strong. What other bids are given this latitude?'

When the Multi first became popular and was licensed, it probably was a bit of an anomaly. At the time bids which did not guarantee a suit and could be weak or strong were uncommon. At one point, more than ten years ago, there was some thought to restrict the Multi. The howls of outrage from the membership could be heard from Ursa Major and beyond!

The first point is that *any club, EBU affiliated or not, can decide not to permit a Multi*. Many, however, find it easier to adopt a standard level for play and that often includes a Multi. I know of a few clubs that allow Level 3 but explicitly ban a Multi 2♦. It is not clear what they will do when visitors turn up playing a Multi 2♣ opening!

The Multi will always include some weak options, traditionally a weak two in either major. There may be one or more strong options also. In the weak options there should be a definition of range just as there should be for a natural weak two opening. If you are playing 6-10 and open on a 1 count this might be regarded as a psyche, or a deviation from the agreement published on the convention card. I would be concerned if the partner of the Multi bidder did not explore for game opposite a 6-10 range and then I found it was a 1 count. You don't need to ban the Multi to deal with this sort of thing.

Multi players have an advantage if the method is unfamiliar and this certainly contributed to its early success but as people became more used to it, they developed a defence. It's true that you need to discuss what to do; however, the Multi also has drawbacks. Amongst them is the inability to pre-empt. If my partner opens a weak two and I have a fit I can bid game, and let the opponents guess whether I am serious or pre-empting. If my partner opens a Multi and I only have one major, then I must tread warily because I don't know if I have a fit, and this will allow the opposition into the auction. The second significant problem comes if responder has both majors. Now if he pre-empts because he 'knows' he has a fit, it will not be good news for his side if his partner has a strong two in a minor or a strong balanced hand that he has to start describing at a high level. Multi bidders don't have a good record at bidding the right slam or, indeed, any making slam after a 2♦ opening in my experience. They pre-empt themselves. Thus it's not all one way traffic.

The main worries of opponents are usually

1. *What if I come in and he has a strong hand?* **Answer:** It doesn't happen often and if you have a decent suit you quite often have secured the best lead for your side.
2. *What happens if I bid their suit?* **Answer:** It happens and occasionally you will be booked for a big penalty. On some of the occasions when this is so, your opponent won't believe it and will bid, turning triumph into disaster. If your opponents habitually open on tram tickets they may well be wary of doubling you even when they are due for a big score.

If you study the bidding methods of the top teams you will find that scarcely any play a Multi these days. My advice would be:

- a. Allow it;
- b. Get the club TD to be severe towards those who 'field', i.e. fail to explore game possibilities opposite the published range;



Jeremy Dhondy

EBU PROBLEMS

- c. Get someone who plays against it regularly to write an article for the club newsletter on how to defend against it. Familiarity will breed contempt!

GEOFF Maskell of Cumbria asks by e-mail about questioning a Blackwood response: 'The opposition bid hearts then bid 4NT and after a 5♥ response passed so this was the final contract. The hand that led asked a number of questions including some about the 5♥ response. The questioner had the trump queen. Should he have been asking questions about the 5♥ bid?'

There is nothing wrong with asking about an auction unless you are asking specifically to mislead the opposition, or your questioning is so aggressive and persistent as to be unpleasant. If you believe that either of these has happened, you should call the director. It is perfectly in order to check what the opponents are doing, including the 5♥ response when you hold the queen yourself. You are entitled to know what their agreements are. If you only ask when you do not hold the queen then you put yourself at a bit of a disadvantage.

Another similar position is when, as declarer, you ask about the opening lead. Your opponent has led the queen, you hold the king, and you ask. It may be that the opponents lead the queen both from K-Q and Q-J and you are trying to establish what signal is likely to be given.

Finally, you should remember that if you want a review of the auction and some explanations, then you should be asking for a review of the whole auction, not a part of it. □

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## **WINCHESTER HOTEL, WINCHESTER** 13th-17th March 2008

Located close to the heart of this historic city, this 4-star hotel offers 71 bedrooms, a superb health club and an award-winning brasserie and bar. A perfect mixture of relaxed bridge and stylish accommodation. Five nights half board from **£253.00**. Director **Graham Hedley**.

## **LA QUINTA HOTEL, MENORCA** 25th April-2nd May 2008 (Tuition based)

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## **HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA** 2nd-9th May 2008 (Daily Seminars)

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# 5 STAR BRIDGE TOURS 2008

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## **TENERIFE: Hotel Sheraton La Caleta** (official rating 5 star de luxe)

February 26th - March 11th **£1455.00 pp**

New to our programme, this hotel was voted a new concept in true luxury for its spectacular array of amenities. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! The hotel is set in Costa Adeje, one of the most varied and complete holiday areas ever designed for leisure and relaxation. For the golfer there is a 27 hole championship course close by.



## **ITALY: Grand Hotel Gardone, Lake Garda** (official rating 4 star de luxe)

May 3rd - 17th **£1345.00 pp**

This is to be our fourteenth consecutive visit to this lovely destination – one of our favourite holidays. Every year this hotel receives the highest praise from our guests for its food, its superb lake-side location, and the friendly and efficient attitude of its management and staff. This fantastic destination continues to be incredibly popular and early booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

## **ITALY: Hotel Bristol Buja, Abano Terme** (official rating 5 star de luxe)

June 16th - 27th **£1175.00 pp** (11 nights full board)

Both of our two trips to Abano this year were sold out and we expect the visits in 2008 to be no different. In particular, the holiday in June always fills up quickly as it includes an opportunity to visit the Arena di Verona for a spectacular Opera performance (it will be possible to purchase tickets for *Aida* or *Tosca*).

**Looking ahead...Looking ahead...Looking ahead...Looking ahead...Looking ahead...**

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# London MBA's 2007 Lederer Memorial Trophy

EIGHT invited teams, packed with international stars from England as well as abroad, took part in the 61st contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy, held on 20th-21st October at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, London.

This year's event, organised as ever by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and sponsored by the LMBA's President, Bernard Teltscher, was won by the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes* title holders (Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, Andrew McIntosh, David Price, Neil Rosen, and Martin Jones, – the first four, left to right, in the picture below). Their closest challengers throughout were *Ireland* (Tommy Garvey, David Bakhshi, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon), who finished second.



This board is from the match between the 2007 *Schapiro Spring Foursomes* winning team (sitting East-West) and the winners of the 2006 Gold Cup.

Love All. Dealer North.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Hallberg	Paterson	McIntosh	Short
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Jack Paterson opened an off-centre 14-16 1NT with the North cards and North-South reached the excellent 4♠ contract. 2♥ was a transfer and North's pass over the double showed a doubleton spade.

Gunnar Hallberg led the king and ace of hearts and found that his partner had three cards in the suit. He knew that East had nothing of use for the defence in the way of high cards and so decided to play him for the 9-x of spades. At trick three

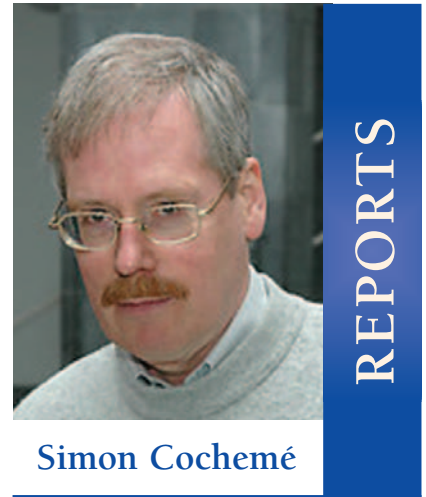
Hallberg led another heart, giving a worthless ruff-and-discard. He was hoping that, when he won the trump finesse and played a fourth heart, his partner, 'Tosh' McIntosh would be able to ruff with the nine of spades and promote the eight of spades into the setting trick.

As it happened, Brian Short chose to rise with dummy's jack of spades at trick three and took

the spade finesse. Hallberg won and played a fourth heart. McIntosh ruffed in with his lowly five of spades and this was enough to promote a trump trick for West.

Gunnar Hallberg and Tosh McIntosh were awarded the prize for the Best Defended Hand.

On this very same board, Jeremy and Heather Dhondy, playing for the *European Mixed Teams Champions*, won the prize for the Best Bid Hand. They were the only other pair to reach 4♠, with the



Simon Cochemé

following sequence:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Jeremy		Heather
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Jeremy's double on the second round (where some would play a support double) showed extra values. Heather made the contract after West cashed two top hearts and switched to his singleton club.

Norman Selway, paying for the *Young Chelsea Champions*, won the prize for the Best Played Hand.

The winners of the Teltscher Cups in the 'Play with the Stars' event, competed for in clubs playing the same first 24 boards as in the Lederer, were both from Wimbledon Bridge Club: North-South (scoring with Jason and Justin Hackett), Maurice and Janet Cahm, and East-West (scoring with Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann), Margaret Owen and Helen Barnes.

More info on, as well as more pictures – and a link to a video of the event – can be found at [www.metrobridge.co.uk/](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk/)

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# 2007 EBU Awards

for services to bridge

## Kay Batting, Sussex



**DIMMIE FLEMING AWARD:** Kay has been on the Sussex management committee for over twenty years, was a long-serving delegate to the EBU and a valued representative of Sussex committee.

Kay also organised many county competitions until this year. She was chairman of the Wilton Bridge Club for nine years as well as serving in other positions on the Wilton committee. She has also run a number of teaching weekends as well as always being ready to help lesser players improve their game. Kay has always found time to support local bridge clubs.

## Paul Hammond, Worcs



**DIMMIE FLEMING AWARD:** Paul has been a member of the Worcs CBA committee for more than twenty years and its chairman on several occasions. He was one of the first to obtain a County Director's certificate and has been the county chief TD since. He was also chief TD at Malvern BC, on its committee, and responsible for writing its constitution.

No committee can function without people prepared to give their time and expertise, and within those there are the talkers and the doers: Paul is one of the doers.

## Gerard Faulkner



**GOLD AWARD:** Gerard has been an EBU Board Member for over 27 years, Chairman for 11 years, Vice-Chairman for over a year. He has also been a member of the Tournament Committee (over 30 years), the Laws and Ethics Committee (since the early 1970s, and chaired it for some years), and the Selection Committee (for 26 years, as chairman for 6 years).

Gerard was on the BBL Council for many years and was its last Vice-President; he served on all its sub-committees, often as Chairman. He has also been a delegate to the EBU Council for over 30 years (Essex to 2000, since then Norfolk).

As NPC of England: unbeaten in more than twenty matches; as NPC for Common Market Open Teams: one Gold and one Bronze.

## Margaret Hatch, Berks & Bucks



**DIMMIE FLEMING AWARD:** Over the past fifteen years or so, Margaret has taken on the majority of the administrative burden of all county events. Her hard work and excellence has ensured many successful competitions. She continues in the role of Events Coordinator even though she has taken on the additional responsibility of County Chairman. Margaret has given an enormous amount of time, effort and enthusiastic support to bridge in the county.

## Peter Thompson, Glos



**DIMMIE FLEMING AWARD:** Peter was Tewkesbury BC's secretary for ten years and is the club's chief TD. He also served on the GCBA Committee for eight years. During that time he focused on the smaller clubs within the county and his innovation of a Clubs League, with a restriction on Master-points Rankings so that the average club player would be assured of a competitive game, has proved to be a great success over the past thirty years.

It is because of Peter's services to grass-roots bridge that his club and county feel he fully deserves this award.

## Colin Tuton, Northants



**DIMMIE FLEMING AWARD:** Colin became a member of Kettering BC twenty years ago and has been an active member ever since. He has never been off the committee since first joining; he was chairman for several years and is now the treasurer. Colin also does voluntary teaching with beginners and improvers, and is always on hand to assist those who need extra help. He is a pillar of strength to the club, makes sure everything runs smoothly, and is known for his approachability. It is Colin's hard work and drive that has ensured the success of Kettering Club.

# – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

## Beat today's experts

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

### December 2007

#### WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game Dealer East (Travis)
 

♠	A K J 3
♥	A K Q 3
♦	A Q
♣	Q 9 5
  
2. N/S Game Dealer East (Sandqvist)
 

\*South bids 4♠\*

♠	Void
♥	K 9 8 7 6
♦	K Q 10 7 5 4
♣	A J
  
3. N/S Game Dealer East (Ao)
 

♠	A J 7 3 2
♥	A 8 4
♦	A K J
♣	Q J
  
4. Love All Dealer West (Gitelman)
 

♠	A Q J 3
♥	Void
♦	K Q 9 8 7 5 4
♣	9 7
  
5. E/W Game Dealer East (Babsch)
 

♠	8
♥	K 5 4
♦	A J 10
♣	A K 5 4 3 2
  
6. N/S Game Dealer West (Cao XL)
 

♠	10
♥	A Q J 10 6
♦	10 6
♣	A K J 10 4

*Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15*

## Beat today's experts

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

### December 2007

#### EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game Dealer East (Bignall)
 

♠	Q 10 8 2
♥	J 10 9 7
♦	Void
♣	A K 8 6 2
  
2. N/S Game Dealer East (Malinowski)
 

\*South bids 4♠\*

♠	8 4
♥	A Q 10 2
♦	A 9 2
♣	10 9 8 4
  
3. N/S Game Dealer East (Wang)
 

♠	K Q 8 6 5
♥	6 2
♦	10 6 4
♣	A 7 5
  
4. Love All Dealer West (Moss)
 

♠	7 6 4
♥	K Q 7
♦	3
♣	Q 10 6 5 4 3
  
5. E/W Game Dealer East (Bieder)
 

♠	K Q 10 9 5 3
♥	2
♦	K Q 9 5 4 2
♣	Void
  
6. N/S Game Dealer West (Xue Yong)
 

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

*Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15*

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

# – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL

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L OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

## Revised Strategy Proposal



A strategy to achieve the objective stated in paragraph 3E of the EBU's Memorandum of Association . . . to elevate and maintain the status and procure the advancement of the game of Bridge in England . . .

THE strategy proposed has the aim of restructuring the organisation in order to provide a sound basis for the realisation of the above.

Since the launch of its strategy proposals discussion document in June 2007, the EBU has undertaken an extensive consultation process which has involved meetings with all 39 counties who, in turn, have consulted their clubs and members. Alongside this consultation over 1000 e-mails, letters, reports and comments, have all been reviewed and answered.

We have listened to all those who have communicated with us and amended our proposals to accommodate the positive and practical suggestions received.

There are two documents available; an executive summary and a detailed discussion document. Both address the questions raised by the membership, clubs and counties and

discuss them in the following sections:

- Pay to Play Scheme and Fee
- Counties
- Clubs
- Individuals
- Rating System
- Education
- Alternative options

There will be a further consultation process with counties and their clubs between October 2007 and January 2008. Individual members can, as before, contact the EBU directly to make their views known.

The results of the club consultation will enable us to formulate our final proposals. These will be distributed to clubs and counties by 1 May 2008 and voted on at an Extraordinary General Meeting which will be held on 4 Jun 2008. Specifically, this will provide a more precise definition of the Pay to Play fee, thereby enabling the definitive

proposals to be discussed.

The initial strategy proposals paper has not been reproduced. For information on the background to the proposals please read the document distributed with the August issue of English Bridge and consult the Frequently Asked Questions section of the website. If you require copies of the original document please contact the EBU as listed below.

These changes and the implementation of Universal Membership can only be successfully realised with the whole-hearted support of shareholders, counties and clubs. If this is forthcoming, the intention would be to implement the proposals by April 2010.

Contact:

**English Bridge Union, Broadfields,  
Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP19 8AZ**

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

**Email: [strategy@ebu.co.uk](mailto:strategy@ebu.co.uk)**

## Revised Strategy Proposals – Executive Summary

### OBJECTIVES

To achieve Universal Membership for all duplicate players at an EBU-affiliated club. Significantly enlarging and strengthening the membership:

- Makes the EBU more compelling in approaches to government, the media, and potential sponsors. In its turn this would allow the investigation of partnerships and funding to develop the game for people of all ages.
- Arrests and reverses the membership decline which has been observed in the past few years. Naturally, this implies that the EBU must make itself relevant to the club player who currently is not an EBU member. It is the Board's intention to do this.
- Reduces the effort of administration by the implementation of electronic processes where possible and the removal of outmoded practices, as the collection of annual subscriptions and the recording of Master Points are costly in monetary terms as well as being particularly labour intensive at certain times of the year. However, this workload reduction at Aylesbury must not result in significant additional work elsewhere, particularly in the clubs.

### CLARIFICATION

#### EBU Income

The strategy proposal was not, nor intended to be, a revenue generating activity. It was devised to be income neutral, based on today's operating costs making allowance only for inflation and a small contingency,

so as to illustrate the cost on a per session basis to the individual for this alternative method of collecting revenue.

#### Pay to Play fee

The Pay to Play fee was calculated on the information available to the EBU based on Master Point returns in the year 2006-2007. During the consultation it became very clear from the information that counties and clubs supplied to us that there are many more playing sessions taking place in our clubs – possibly three times the original number. This will result in a substantial decrease of the amount of the Pay to Play figure which was calculated at 43p i.e. the 30p replacement for the annual membership subscription of both the National Organisation and the County Association plus the 13p replacement for the Master Point income.

The consultation we propose to undertake with our clubs in the coming months will allow us to determine a more accurate Pay to Play fee.

The Pay to Play scheme redistributes the overall cost over more people. Accordingly, some will pay more and some will pay less. Those who are currently not EBU members and play in affiliated clubs are affected most, but it is considered appropriate that these individuals should make a contribution, as in other sports and pastimes, to the National Organisation.

### REVISIONS

#### Pay to Play Scheme and fee

We have recognised that there are different styles of club who provide the types of game that their membership requires.

There are those who want the more competitive style as exemplified by the collection of Master Points, in addition to those who wish to play solely for the enjoyment of the game and the social interaction. These will be referred to as "competitive" and "social" clubs respectively.

#### Eligibility of sessions for the Pay to Play scheme

Christmas parties, celebratory events and charity events will be free of the Pay to Play fee. All other duplicate sessions will qualify for the Pay to Play fee.

Note that ordinary EBU Simultaneous Pairs events will incur the Pay to Play fee, whereas EBU Charity Simultaneous Pairs events will not.

#### Social Clubs

If your club does not award Master Points you will pay a reduced Pay to Play fee. The reduction will be based on the data that we collect from our clubs in the coming months, but it is expected to be in the region of 10p less per session.

#### Individuals who play many times in a week

It is proposed that those who play more than 150 times per year in clubs will be eligible for a rebate of their Pay to Play fee for further sessions played in that year. (A year runs from 1st April to 31st March). This is in recognition of the contribution that these players are making to the revitalisation of the game. This rebate will be paid by cheque on an annual basis, but only for amounts of £5 or more. Note that only playing sessions which have attracted a Pay to Play fee count towards the eligibility for a rebate. *(Continued overleaf)*

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## Further reduction of the Pay to Play fee

It has been suggested that we remove *English Bridge* and the *Diary* from the services we provide to individual members. However, it would still be necessary to communicate with our members and, with the current demographic profile, using the Internet may not provide a satisfactory coverage. The additional costs of print and postage of some paper communication would mitigate any reduction of the reduced Pay to Play fee. Thus we propose we keep *English Bridge* but make it more relevant to our members. We believe that our new Editor, Elena Jeronimidis, can help us achieve this for our membership.

## Juniors and Pay to Play

Juniors, i.e. players under 25 years old, will not have to pay the Pay to Play fee. Individual clubs will address their own table money and club annual subscription for junior members.

## COUNTIES

Existing EBU members will retain their County of prime allegiance. Individuals who currently are not EBU members will, by default, become a member of the County to which their prime club is affiliated. Anyone can choose to become a prime member of any County by request to the EBU, just as they can today.

## Counties Pay to Play fee

The Counties will be able to set their own component of the Pay to Play fee for the “player sessions” which occur in their affiliated clubs. This means that the Pay to Play fee will probably vary from County to County. In setting the Pay to Play fee, a fraction of a penny will be permitted.

No county events, other than the leagues, will be subject to the Pay to Play fee although any heats for county events held in clubs will be subject to the ordinary club session Pay to Play fee.

## CLUBS

We have listened to the worries expressed during the county consultation and have amended our proposals so that the club affiliation fee will be a flat fee of £30 per affiliated club. It will be paid at the beginning of each year preferably by Direct Debit.

Clubs will affiliate to the EBU through their counties. The county element of club affiliation fees will be determined, as now, by each county.

Each club will be asked to sign a simple annual contract of affiliation, setting out terms and conditions which amongst other things will specify the regulations for offering Pay to Play playing sessions.

## Clubs and VAT

The current VAT registration threshold for 2007/2008 is £64,000. If a club finds it is liable for VAT the EBU will assist, where possible, with the practicalities of registration. It may well be advantageous for a club to be registered for VAT even if it is below the threshold, as it will be able to claim the VAT back on the Pay to Play fee and other costs.

## Services to affiliated clubs

We recognise the important contribution that clubs make to the development of the game and we want to encourage them to continue with this important role.

Clubs can benefit from the support, advice and communication services that we are offering to help clubs develop and attract new members. Free scoring software (not CASS) and Website hosting is available to those clubs who wish to benefit from these products but this is not a requirement of affiliation.

Any electronic scoring programs that can upload Master Point results will be effective in the new administration, although they may need some adaptation in order to provide the more extensive information required in the Pay to Play scheme and the National Rating mechanism.

## Pay to Play Fees and County, District and Club Leagues

The following Pay to Play fees will apply to all leagues – County, District and Club and will be paid as part of the entry fee to the National Organisation.

Teams of 4 (allowing up to 6 players) will attract a charge of £5.

Teams of 8 (allowing up to 12 players) will attract a charge of £10.

Note that, as today, players in the lowest division of any league need not be members of the EBU.

## Individual membership

The £5 one off registration fee has been removed. Members of an affiliated club will automatically become members of the EBU. Members will nominate a primary club of allegiance. As long as an individual's affiliated club membership is current that individual will continue to be a member of the EBU.

Anonymity will be available to all members. Those members who opt for anonymity will not receive any mailings from the EBU so they will not receive the magazine or diary. They will not be eligible for Pay to Play rebates.

All membership information held by the EBU is governed by the Data Protection Act and the EBU's Privacy Policy. This information is available on the EBU's website or by request via post from Aylesbury.

## RATING SYSTEM

The rating system will allow each member to have a current rating alongside their lifetime Master Point ranking. The rating system has many applications including the creation of a new competition to find a Club Player of the Year in the various strata of the rating system. Extensive information on the rating system software is available in the detailed discussion document.

## EDUCATION

No supervised playing session will attract the Pay to Play fee. However we ask all teachers who will be running this type of session in our affiliated clubs to register as an associate teacher with EBUTA. This costs just £13.50 per annum and all mem-

bers receive many benefits including insurance cover. Please note all methods of teaching bridge are welcome at EBUTA. If you wish to you can progress through the EBUTA qualified and professional teacher programmes. However, this will not be a requirement. For more information access our website here: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/education/ebuta/benefits.htm> or telephone John Pain on 01296 317200

## Partner Teachers, Learn and Play Clubs and Partner Clubs

The free and discounted services available to Partner Teachers will be provided up to the point of the formation of the Partner Club, when the full affiliation fee will be gathered and the Pay to Play fee charged per player per session.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Board of the EBU through its Membership Development Action Group considered many options for universal membership. They include the following ideas which have been suggested during the consultation since 6 June. They are mentioned briefly here with the key features and effects.

### Universal membership based on an annual subscription

Same price for all members collected annually.

Higher levels of administration at both club and Aylesbury thus keeping the level of the subscription high.

Master Points dealt with in the same way as they are today with the attendant costs and administration.

### Two-tier membership based on annual subscription – higher for tournament players, lower for non-tournament players

Low take-up on higher membership subscription, so the lower subscription is not significantly less.

Master Points dealt with in the same way as they are today with the attendant costs and administration.

Same high administrative levels for Aylesbury and clubs.

Investigated in the last 15 years, piloted and failed.

### Hybrid membership – a mixture of annual subscription and Pay to Play for tournament players and those who wish to collect Master Points, and Pay to Play only for those who do not.

Same basic issues as two-tier membership but effectively needing two separate types of administration for both clubs and Aylesbury.

Pay to Play fee high due to low annual membership fee take-up, and paid by all including those with annual subscription.

## NEXT STEPS

The Board looks forward to further discussions about the proposals. We will continue to listen and accommodate to achieve our aim of strengthening the EBU's membership which will allow the future development of the game in England. □

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# Chairman's annual report 2006-2007

presented at the October 2007 AGM

AFTER I was elected Chairman of the EBU last year, I wrote in *English Bridge* that the need for radical change in the EBU was no longer a choice, it was imperative.

Since then the Board has been looking at every aspect of the organisation to find out how best the EBU can serve its members, how it can most effectively promote and develop the game, and what sort of financial and administrative structure is required to achieve these aims.

Much has already been started: in October 2006 the Board launched the Partner-Teacher programme for Learn and Play Clubs, based upon proven success where EBU retention rate has been 95%; already fifty teachers have signed up. In December, Sally Bugden set up a membership survey online and through *English Bridge*, receiving a massive response from over 5000 of our members; this was the first time in the EBU's history that such research had been done and the results have enabled us to get a very good idea of what our members want, together with very useful playing and demographic information. Barry Capal and his staff at Aylesbury have worked hard to streamline and improve our services: the method of collecting Master Points has been revised; the web-site has been up-rated; the tournament results service has been speeded up; e-mails and letters are answered, under normal circumstances, within a couple of days; the collection of membership subscriptions has been centralised, enabling counties to have up to date information daily. Continuing our policy of asking the membership, a further survey was launched in July to discover what our members thought about the new Alert and Announcing regulations: the results of this is published in this issue of *English Bridge* (see page 29). Last year, the Board introduced its Best Behaviour in Bridge policy and this is being rigorously pursued: one of the findings from our Membership Survey was that bad behaviour at the bridge table is the single most important reason for people's disenchantment with the game.

The most important initiative of the year, however, has been the publication of the Strategy Proposals for the future of the EBU. At its December 2006 meeting, the Board accepted the recommendations of the

Membership Development Action Group (MDAG), a group made up of Shareholders and Board members and set up by the Shareholders in 2005 to examine the fundamental issues confronting not just the EBU but the game itself. These recommendations formed the core of the Strategy Proposals that the Board put to the June Shareholders' Meeting, which were subsequently posted on the web-site and circulated to all the membership in the August *English Bridge*. Because the central concept of Pay to Play in these proposals was so radical, the Board launched the widest possible consultation process with members, clubs and counties: there was an enormous response. Although, naturally, there has been some opposition to the whole idea, the general feeling is that the *status quo* is no longer tenable, that the EBU has to change, and that these proposals have merit but much more work needs to be done. The consultation continues.

Change is always difficult and the period of transition is the most uncomfortable part, but the Board believes that, with these proposals and the wide-ranging consultation with every level of our membership, the EBU has embarked upon a path that will ultimately provide a firm foundation for its future and the best way of developing bridge in England.

On the personnel front, we have made three important appointments in the last year. Matt Betts as a full time Communications Officer: his remit will cover internal and external communications, the former essential if we are going to inform our members, clubs and counties what is going on, the latter very necessary if we are to develop and promote the game of bridge. Krys Kasmierczak as full time Club Liaison Officer: his task will be simply to help our clubs, to ensure that they have access to all the services the EBU can provide and that they are able to share the ideas of other clubs to make them more successful; he has already started an extensive programme of club visits. And Mike Amos as a part-time Youth Officer: his duties will cover the promotion of the game in schools and universities, as well as co-ordinating the activities of our Junior Squads.

Sadly, Brian Smith, our Accounts Manager,



EBU NEWS

Peter Stocken

passed away at the end of last year. He had served the EBU well over the years he worked for us. I would like to thank Gail Nancarrow for so ably taking on Brian's responsibilities in such difficult circumstances.

Brian Cook retired as Editor of *English Bridge* after the June issue and we were very fortunate in being able to persuade Elena Jeronimidis to take on the job: Elena is a very experienced journalist – and no mean bridge player – and well known to most of you as the former editor of *Bridge Plus*.

On the international scene, our main success this year was gaining the Bronze in the European Women's Championship, and we wish our team the best of luck in the Venice Cup that is taking place in Shanghai this October (report on page 9). Also in Shanghai will be our good friends from the Republic of Ireland who have qualified for the Bermuda Bowl for the first time in their history: we wish them good fortune, too, though we are hoping next year to wrest from them the Camrose Trophy, which they have won for the last two years.

We sent three teams to the European Junior Championships in Jesolo, Italy, in June and their satisfactory performance bodes well for the future. We also did very well to come third in the prestigious Bonn Nations Cup. At the European Bridge League's Festival in Antalya, Turkey, England was very well represented and achieved considerable success in all the main events (our players, incidentally, paid their own way for this event).

Taking place at Antalya at the same time were the four-yearly elections to the EBL Executive and our congratulations to David Harris on his re-election.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their hard work over the last year and, in particular, my fellow officers, Sally Bugden and John Neville, as well as Barry Capal, our indefatigable General Manager. □

# EBU News

## EBU MEMBER REPRIMANDED

AN EBU member was recently charged as follows: that during the EBU Summer Meeting at Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, on Saturday 11th August, Sunday 12th August and Friday 17th August 2007 s/he made a sustained verbal attack on members of an EBU Appeals Committee who were carrying out their duties in accordance with Law 93B. The Laws and Ethics Committee judges that the Disciplinary Committee will consider this to be conduct or behaviour falling below the standards required of EBU members, and therefore misconduct amounting to an Offence under paragraph 3.2(v) of the Disciplinary Rules.

The member admitted the charge and offered a written apology. In accordance with the Disciplinary Rules, a sanction has been imposed: this is that the member receive a formal reprimand, which remains on his/her record in perpetuity and acts as a warning as to future conduct. The sanction also required that the facts of the matter be published hereby, as a reminder that a serious view will always be taken of intemperate behaviour.

## A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE L&E COMMITTEE

THE annual revision of the *Orange Book* takes place in the Spring. Applications from members to modify any existing permitted bidding agreements, or to apply to play new ones, should be submitted in writing to John Pain, Secretary of the Laws and Ethics Committee, by 28th February 2008.

Applications can be by post to the Aylesbury office or by e-mail ([john@ebu.co.uk](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk)). Where permission to play a new method is being sought, it is helpful to include a logical defence and to indicate how it will be shown on the convention card. Full details are on pages 38-39 of the 2006 *Orange Book*.

## STRATEGY PROPOSAL UPDATE



by Sally Bugden

A BIG thank you to all those clubs that have already sent their survey responses in to their counties – they should be returned by 7 December. This information is critical for our calculation of an accurate pay-to-play fee, and will allow us to provide detailed financial planning information which will accompany our final proposals.

There are some new documents on our website [www.ebu.co.uk/FAQ/strategy/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/FAQ/strategy/) which cover our ideas for developing the game for different age groups and set out the services that our affiliated clubs can benefit from if the final strategy proposals are accepted.

You will find the revised strategy proposals printed in the centre pages of this issue. Please take the time to read them and send us your comments.

## CLUB FOCUS – NEW IN 2008

AS part of its on-going focus on improving services for clubs and club members, the EBU will begin production of a newsletter called *Club Focus* in early 2008. Distribution is intended to be with the help of the counties by e-mail to our clubs, so that it can be passed on to their members by e-mail with some printed copies as necessary. It will also be available on the EBU website. The aim is for our members to make the newsletter very much their own by suggesting and providing content.

*Club Focus* will be put together by Krys Kazmierczak, EBU Club Liaison Officer and Matt Betts, EBU Communications Officer. Please write to them giving your views and contributions – interesting hands, news about your favourite club, letters, questions, ideas on how to boost membership, amusing anecdotes – and anything else you can think of. Write by e-mail to [clubfocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:clubfocus@ebu.co.uk) or by post to Club Focus, EBU, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ.

## AGM NEWS



AT the EBU's AGM, held last October, retiring Treasurer John Neville (*above*) was warmly thanked for all his work over the last ten years.

Elected in John's place is Michael Hill (*below*), recently retired from a senior management role within BP, and current Chairman of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association.



Peter Stocken, Sally Bugden, Martin Pool, Michael Hill, Alan Nelson, Jeff Morris, John Carter, Graham Jepson, and Philip Mason were re-elected to the Board of Directors, and Malcolm Oliver (a retired demolition engineer and company director) rejoined the Board. Peter Stocken and Sally Bugden were re-elected respectively Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Union.

## YOUNG CHELSEA — 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Young Chelsea Bridge Club will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a wide range of social and bridge events spread over twelve months.

### The 2008 highlights include:

- ◆ **January 20th: University Challenge** for students and alumni of London Universities and Colleges.
- ◆ **May 15th: Play with an International.** Twenty-six Young Chelsea internationals will be raffled off as partners in a special duplicate, raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society.
- ◆ **June 21st-22nd: Inter-National Teams of Four** for foreign players living in London.

If you would like to play in any of these events, please visit

[info@ycbc.co.uk](mailto:info@ycbc.co.uk)



# Alerts and Announcements on-line survey

THE Laws and Ethics Committee met and discussed the findings of the recent alerts and announcements survey. They were pleased to note that the findings gave a vote of confidence to the current position. They think that there are some areas worthy of discussion and, for example, the responses to the question about alerting doubles suggested this is an area that might be clarified. A significant number of helpful e-mailed responses had also been received which need to be considered. The committee was mindful that players dislike frequent change to alerting and announcing procedures and in line with previous policy will make no change until 1 August 2008. A meeting in the near future will be set aside to discuss the survey results and the correspondence arising from it. A note will appear on the web site following this meeting.

We would like to stress to our players the importance of announcing the system that you play when you sit down at the table. This will help all players understand how to defend or compete before play begins and will remove the possibility of passing unauthorised information to partner.

The EBU Alerts and Announcements Online Survey ran online from 6-31 August 2007. Figures displayed show percentage of total responses (gross).

RESPONSES: 744

Our meetings with representatives of a small selection of six clubs around the country have enabled us to formulate questions about the key issues. We did not address all the changes, only those highlighted by the clubs visited.

This was an online survey only. Participating members play in:

Club	95.7% (712)
County Events	69.09% (514)
EBU Events	67.74% (504)

## Question 1:

### Announcing the value of an opening 1NT

Announcing all natural 1NT openers other than the 12-14 1NT. 20.97% (156)

All opening natural 1NTs should be announced. 42.34% (315)

No opening 1NT should be announced. 14.65% (109)

Pre-alert all 1NT openings. i.e. at the beginning of the round. 21.64% (161)

## Question 2:

### Announcing Stayman over a 1NT opener

Stayman should be announced. 42.61% (317)

Stayman should be alerted. 20.56% (153)

Stayman should neither be alerted nor announced so any 2♣ response to a 1NT opener that is alerted will be something other than Stayman. 36.56% (272)

## Question 3:

### Announcing a transfer over a 1NT opener

Announce the transfer bid suit, i.e. hearts or spades. 44.35% (330)

Announce the transfer bid as transfer. 25.4% (189)

Alert the transfer bid. 29.57% (220)

## Question 4: Doubles

The only doubles that should be alerted are all take-out doubles below 3NT. 12.23% (91)

The only doubles that should be alerted are all penalty doubles below 3NT. 13.44% (100)

No doubles should be alerted below 3NT. 22.58% (168)

All doubles should be alerted including supportive, take out, penalty, lead directing etc. below 3NT. 6.18% (46)

Alert all non take out doubles below 3NT. 16.53% (123)

All non-penalty doubles of NT bids below 3NT should be alerted; all non-takeout doubles of suit bids below 3NT should be alerted. 28.23% (210)

## Question 5: Alerting over 3NT

Re-introduce alerting over 3NT. 26.48% (197)

Retain no alerting over 3NT. 73.12% (544)

## Question 6: Two-level suit openings

Should all be alerted. 12.63% (94)

Should all be announced. 20.83% (155)

Artificial bids should be alerted and natural bids announced. 36.56% (272)

Artificial bids should be alerted. 29.57% (220)

## Reminders



**\*\*\*CHANGE OF FORMAT\*\*\*:** The proposed Bracketed Teams event is going to revert to its previous format, the **National Swiss Teams Congress**. The date and venue are unchanged: 19-20 January 2008 in Hinckley,

**THE NATIONAL MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PAIRS** will take place in Hinckley on 26-27 January 2008.

**WATCH OUT** for your Membership Renewal Invitation for 2008/09, which will be mailed with the February issue of English Bridge.

**BAKER TILLY LANZAROTE CONGRESS:** There are still some places left for this Overseas Congress (February 1-6 2008, Gran Melia Salinas, Costa Teguisse). Entries: EBU ☎ 01296 317203/5. Travel and accommodation enquiries: **Bridge Overseas**, freephone 0800 0346 246.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 8 - 9 Gold Cup Congress  
**Peebles**
- 21 - 23 (Junior Channel Trophy  
**Netherlands**)
- 27 - 30 Year-End Congress  
**London**
- 28 - 30 Year-End Congress  
**Blackpool**

### JANUARY 2008

- 4 - 6 Midland Counties Congress  
**Bransford**
- 5 - 6 Women's Trials  
(first Weekend)  
**London**
- 5 - 6 Manchester Congress  
**Manchester**
- 7 - 9 BGB Winter Sim Pairs  
**Clubs**
- 11 - 13 Camrose - first weekend  
**Northern Ireland**
- 11 - 14 On-line Players Congress  
**Hinckley**
- 19 - 20 **National Swiss Teams Congress**  
- NOT Bracketed Teams  
**Hinckley**
- 26 - 27 National Women's and Men's Pairs  
**Hinckley**

### FEBRUARY 2008

- 1 - 6 EBU Overseas Congress  
**Lanzarote**
- 2 - 4 Women's Trials  
2nd Weekend  
**Barkston Gardens Hotel, London**
- 9 - 10 Tollemache Cup Final  
**Hinckley**
- 10 G.W. Arnott-Davidson  
Trophy Qualifier  
**London, Sheffield**
- 16 - 17 Junior Camrose Weekend  
**England**
- 22 - 24 Spring Congress  
**Harrogate**
- 23 Golfprint Regional Finals  
**Various**

### MARCH 2008

- 1 - 2 Ranked Masters Pairs  
**Hinckley**
- 6 - 16 (American Spring  
Nationals  
**Detroit**)
- 7 - 9 Camrose - final weekend  
**Republic of Ireland**
- 8 One-day events:  
**Avon / Wiltshire, Leicestershire, London, Manchester**
- 9 One-day events:  
**Avon / Wiltshire, Channel Islands, Leicestershire, London, Merseyside**
- 14 - 16 Cumbria Congress  
**Bowness-on-Windermere**



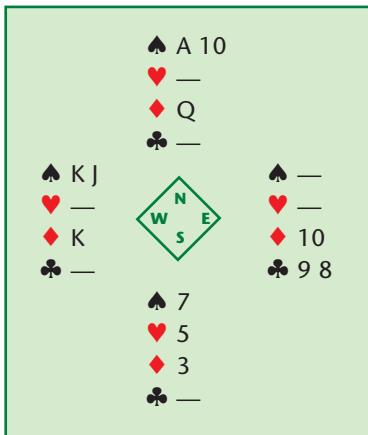
Brian Senior

# Squeeze play (Part I)

FOR many players squeeze play is something dark and mysterious which experts use but which they would never be able to perform themselves. Yet, in truth, while there are some very complex squeezes, which even many experts would struggle to carry out correctly, the more common basic squeezes should be well within the capabilities of any competent declarer.

## The Positional Squeeze

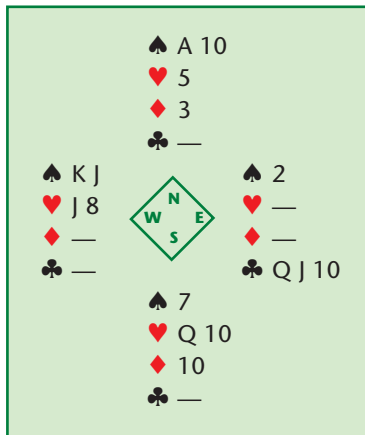
A squeeze occurs when a defender is left with sole control of two or more suits and cannot keep sufficient cards to do the job effectively. The most straightforward is the Positional Squeeze. Look at this ending, in a no-trump contract:



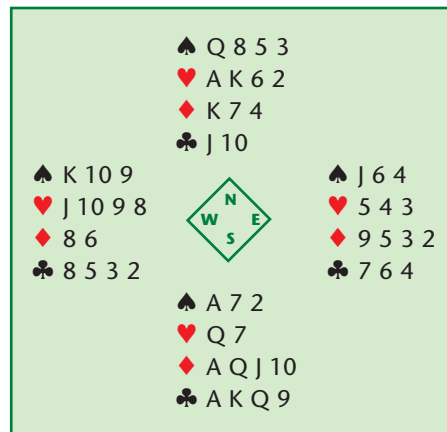
South cashes the five of hearts and what is West to do? If he throws the king of diamonds he establishes dummy's queen so declarer throws the spade ten away and claims the last two tricks; if he pitches a spade, the diamond queen goes from the dummy and the ace and ten of spades make the last two tricks. This squeeze works because the defender had to play

before declarer had to make the critical discard. Switch around the East and West hands and dummy must discard before the defender with the two stoppers, and the defender is under no pressure.

In the last example, North's spade ten and diamond queen were menaces against West, but would have been ineffective as menaces against East, had he held the defensive stoppers, or guards. The reason for the lack of effectiveness if the guards were sitting over the menaces was that both menaces were in the same hand so that declarer had to make the critical decision ahead of the defender. Now look at what happens if declarer has one menace in each hand (again, the contract is in no-trumps):



Declarer cashes the ten of diamonds and either defender guarding both majors will be squeezed into submission.

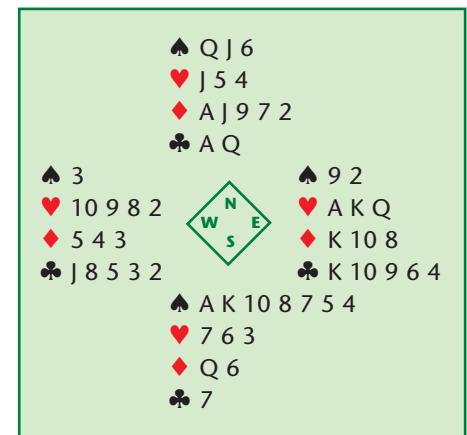


West leads the jack of hearts against the ambitious contract of 7♦. There appears to be only one chance; that the king of spades will fall under the ace. However, only one defender can guard the hearts and if he also holds the spade king he may be in trouble when declarer cashes the minor-suit winners.

Declarer wins the queen of hearts to keep his communications as fluid as possible and cashes four rounds of trumps and the ace of spades followed by four rounds of clubs. The last club sees West obliged to throw a heart to keep the king of spades. Dummy's spade queen can no longer be of any value so away it goes, and the squeeze has seen to it that dummy's hearts are now all good to bring home the contract.

## A squeeze against either defender

Sometimes, declarer is able to convert a positional squeeze into one which will work against either defender.



South plays in 4♠ after East has opened 1NT (15-17). West leads ♥10. East wins the top three hearts and switches to a trump.

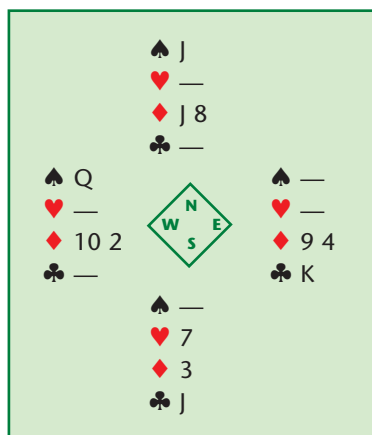
East's opening bid marks the position of both the missing kings so there can be no successful finesse. A squeeze is possible, however. As East is sitting over dummy, one of declarer's *menaces*, or threat cards, must be in his own hand, otherwise East can just wait to see what dummy discards ⇨

and follow suit to keep control.

Declarer wins trick four and cashes the diamond ace, leaving the queen as the threat card. Now he runs all the trumps, keeping the club ace-queen in dummy. If the king of diamonds has not appeared, declarer leads to the ace of clubs at trick twelve, confident that the king will drop. The play of cashing the ace of diamonds is known as a *Vienna Coup*, and was first recognised back in the days before the invention of bridge when Whist ruled the roost.

### The Double Squeeze

Then there is the Double Squeeze.



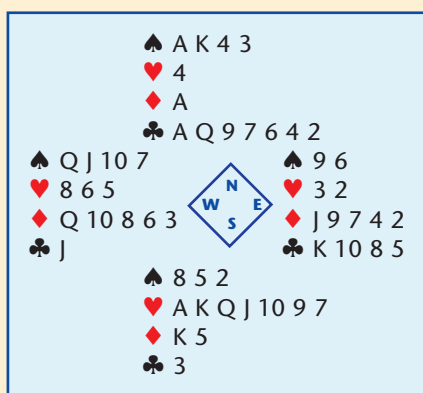
Declarer, in a no-trump contract, cashes the seven of hearts and West is squeezed out of one of his diamonds so as to keep the spade guard. The spade jack has done its work now, so is pitched from the dummy and the spotlight turns to East. He must keep the club king, so is also forced to discard a diamond. Declarer takes the last two tricks with the jack and eight of diamonds. □

# PRIZE PLAY ANSWER

## PIATNIK

Prizes kindly donated by PIATNIK, makers of playing cards since 1824

QUIZ master Julian Pottage gives his view of the best line of play in our October competition and awards prizes in three categories.



YOU play in 7♥ after an uncontested auction.

West leads the ♠Q, you play the ace from dummy and East follows.

You have twelve top tricks. The obvious place for the thirteenth trick is in clubs, with ruffing the suit good far preferable

to taking a finesse. If clubs break 4-1 with the king not singleton, you will need four entries to dummy – three to take ruffs and one to get back to the long card. This means you must time the play carefully.

Cash the ♣A and ruff a club high. If all follow, you can draw trumps and set up the clubs with ease: you need only two more entries to dummy, which you have with the ♦A and ♠K. In practice, West shows out.

You return to dummy with the ♦A and ruff another club high. You then ruff the winning ♦K in dummy. This allows you to take a third club ruff with a high trump. Finally, you draw trumps and cross to the ♠K to cash a long club.

You would be very unlucky to go down with this line.

### Congratulations to the winners:

County: Sylvia Palmer, Shirley, Solihull

Regional: Matthew Kiggins, Sheffield

Open: Malcolm Young, Allestree, Derby

## NEW QUIZ

This month's new **PIATNIK** Play Quiz is featured on page 21.

## Paul Soloway 1941 – 2007

PAUL SOLOWAY of Seattle, USA, who has died aged 66, was one of the world's leading bridge-players. He won the Bermuda Bowl, the World Open Teams' title, on five occasions, and took silver in two Bermuda Bowls and two Olympiads.

Soloway learned bridge at college, and six months after graduating made bridge his full-time career. In 1971 he became a member of the 'Aces', the leading professional team in the USA. World titles in 1976, 1977 and 1979 were followed by a fallow period, but in 1998 he joined the USA's top team, led by Nick Nickell, replacing Bobby Wolff as partner to the world number one, Bob Hamman. This led to further Bermuda Bowl titles in 1999 and 2003.

Soloway was America's leading master-point holder having won more than two dozen national team titles, the most recent being this summer's Spingold. At the time of his death his master-point total of 65,500 was more than 6,000 ahead of the next on the list.

Soloway was due to be in the Nickell team for the World Championships last October in Shanghai but his ill health prevented him competing. Without him the team was eliminated at the end of the qualifying round robin, not reaching the quarter-finals.

Paul Soloway left a widow, Pam.



Photo: Ron Tacchi

(Patrick Jourdain)

REVIEWS



# Dave Huggett

## reviews some new releases

**The Times Bridge Secrets by Andrew Robson, Collins, £12.99**

I ALWAYS enjoy reading a new Andrew Robson book, because he is one of the few top-class players who can communicate with the reader in a totally relaxed and non-patronising manner, as if he was a personal friend almost. This book is happily no exception, based as it is upon his daily column in *The Times*, but deals have been grouped together into themes, so you might be reading a section on doubles – many of which backfired – or laughing at hands where even the best players erred. And I very much liked knowing that each hand was for real and not just the brainchild of a fevered imagination in an effort to illustrate a point of technique.

How would you cope as East on the following deal?

Just look at your hand and dummy – and no cheating!

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	3♦

West leads the ♦J, so what do you do?

What you mustn't do is take your ace! A count of the points gives all the remaining ace, kings and queens to declarer, giving him twelve tricks on top if you take your ace of diamonds, but try the effect of ducking. The slam can still be made on a squeeze but declarer has to follow precise steps for that to happen and in reality will probably fail. (This hand belongs in the chapter called Trick One – a bit of a clue!)

The last chapter consists entirely of new material and is a personal reflection of the author's life at the very top of the game. Some of the plays he finds are scarily good but when the logic is explained they seem, well, obvious.

This book would be useful for any grade of player, barring beginners, and apart from a few proof-reading errors is as good as one comes to expect from this author.

**Teach Yourself Bridge Technique (and have a laugh too) by David Bird**  
**CD-Rom, Arnhem Bridge Products, £21.99**

DAVID Bird is a prolific writer of high-class bridge books, but has now turned his attention to the computer world with this fun CD-Rom. In it he teaches just about everything there is to know about declarer play in ten chapters, each concentrating on a specific subject (trump management, safety plays, avoidance plays, etc.). There are some introductory deals at the beginning of each chapter just to get you into the swing of things before you are set a series of problems. Sometimes you are given the bidding and sometimes you are asked your opinion as to the right bid. If you are too tired – or unable – to solve the problem, the program will lead you through the solution step by step. The deals are just about the right standard for any player keen

to get to the expert stage and are therefore by no means trivial. What about this? (Look only at the South hand and dummy.)

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

You are in 7♠ and West leads the three of spades.

I hope you won the opening lead with the ace of spades, played a diamond to dummy, discarded a diamond on a top heart and ruffed the diamonds good, using both of dummy's spades as entries. (I knew you would!)

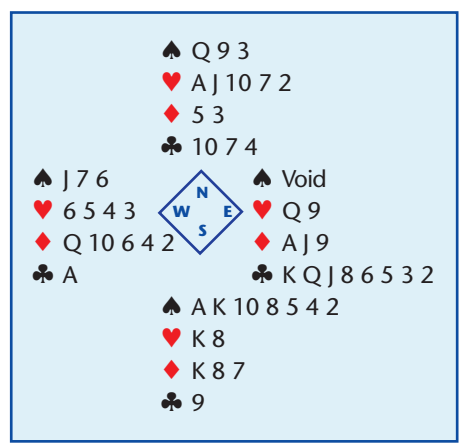
Of course, in real life you do not know what sort of problem you are going to be faced with, so this product has the happy facility of giving you random deals.

There are also a couple of light-hearted chapters featuring Bird's clever monks and nuns. They are surely the best group of players in the world ever – so be warned, if you try those problems, you will get them wrong!

## Championship Bridge with Charles Goren, 4-disk DVD (US\$62.95 inc. p&p from Baron Barclays)

WELL, here's something new! During the late fifties and early sixties a half-hour bridge program was shown on American television, which featured two expert pairs battling it out in a rubber bridge match, with the winners returning the following week to meet some new challengers. It was hosted by the then most famous bridge personality in the world – Charles Goren – with a link man called Alex. Now some 26 episodes have been made into a four-set DVD compilation in crackly black and white and the viewing is . . . compulsive! Not, I have to say, for the standard of the bridge – but I guess that's only to be expected because bridge was still in its infancy, especially as far as sophistication went in the bidding. However, there were howling errors in the play of the cards, too. John Gerber – who has a lot to answer for and who looked uncannily like Ronnie Barker – was commended by Charlie for

misplaying a trump suit of A-K-J-10-x-x opposite x-x. ('Will he take a first round trump finesse?' whispered Alex. 'No Alex,' said Charlie, 'he will lay down the ace first in case there is a singleton queen.' He did and there was.  
How do you like this deal?



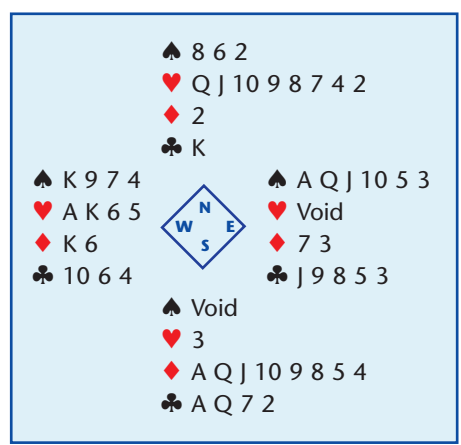
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
Pass	2♥	3♣	3♠
4♦	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ace of clubs and switched to a heart, and the contract made.  
So you wouldn't buy this product in an effort to make the next national team, but it is wonderful, because it gives the viewer the chance to see all those names one has only read about – Gerber, Blackwood, Sobel, Schenken, Fishbein and many, many more.  
The contests take place with old-world charm and courtesy and smoking is mandatory. It belongs to another age but is none the worse for that and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

## To Win at Bridge by Ron Klinger, Weidenfeld and Nicolson / Peter Crawley, £10.99

I AM a little confused by this book. Ron Klinger is a fine teacher and player, as we all know, and a prolific writer too, but I have to admit to certain reservations about his latest work. There are far too many pages spent telling the reader what he undoubtedly already knows; give up smoking, drugs, alcohol and keep fit generally if you want to perform at your best. And no sex either before a major tournament! Don't shout at partner (as if), but make sure you have more than one in case he becomes ill just before a big event. It's all far too patronising, and padding out what is, in fact, a fairly thin volume.  
When we come to the bridge, it starts to get better. There are some interesting and new (to me) treatments on how to proceed after a 1NT rebid by opener and a new look at improving both Multi and Roman Key-Card sequences. More and more people these days are playing the Jacoby 2NT after

a major-suit opening and the section dealing with that is fine too. After all this rather *ad hoc* stuff, the book ends with four chapters testing your bidding, opening leads, defensive play and declarer play.  
See if you can get this one right, but cover up the West and South cards:



You are East and the bidding has gone:  
West North East South  
Dble 1♥ 2♠ 1♦  
End 5♦

You might have bid 4♠, I suppose, but anyway the opponents are in 5♦ and West, your partner, leads the ace of hearts. What do you do?  
It seems likely that partner started with ♥A-K-x-x, so dummy's only real asset is its ruffing value. To counteract that, you need to ruff partner's ace and lead your second trump.  
There is some good stuff in this book but I had the distinct impression that the author had to put it all together in a hurry and there is no real structure to it. And rather less lecturing would have made it a great deal better. □

### WIMBLEDON CHARITY EVENTS

On 18th November, Wimbledon Bridge Club held its annual charity pairs event. This traditionally consists of a duplicate session, with an auction, raffle and stalls, to raise money for various charities. This year they were St Raphael's Hospice, Breast Cancer Hope, the Wimbledon Guild, and Sri Lanka's Village of Hope. One of the star attractions was the auctioning of several major bridge stars to play with club members at a 'Bridge with the Expert' event which is scheduled for Wednesday evening, 6th February 2008. The club would like to take this opportunity for thanking all those experts who agreed to take part, and also Maurice Cahm of Bridgemate pro UK and Eire for his generous sponsorship.

# From the floor: the October Debate

**Thank you all those who voted and sent in their comments. 80% of the votes were in favour of allowing the national bridge teams to be sponsored.**

**THE** EBU has limited resources to fund the national teams. I suggest they concentrate on the Youth and Junior teams to bring through and develop the next generation. I expect part of my subscription to fund national teams – it would be nice to have some successes.

Without professionals we are unlikely to achieve team success in the future. The top professionals, with proper funding by sponsor(s), should have their chance. Sponsors with five top professionals are unlikely to perform worse than open teams have done recently.

Selection committees rarely produce the best team available, unless they are 'Joe Mercer' committees (one is dead, one is abroad, and one makes the decisions).

*Richard Millard, by e-mail*

**FOR** me the argument centres around whether the rank and file membership should be expected to pay more for their bridge so that a few elite members can represent the country at international level. Being a part of that rank and file, knowing full well that I shall never reach such dizzy heights, I am reluctant to pay extra for my games when I am only able to play at my local club.

However, we would all like to see English national teams do well, so it would seem to me that there is no alternative to some form of private sponsorship, if such benevolence can be found. If that means that a private sponsor were to surround himself with expert players and use his/her money to fulfil a personal ambition, then why should we object? What objection can there be if such a scheme was to produce

greater success than we are achieving currently?

No doubt, it would be necessary to impose certain criteria upon such an endeavour that the sponsor would have to adhere to, including entering and performing well at the trials, but that would not be too difficult. So long as the trials are based on team performance rather than individual performance, then there is no problem.

I do believe that if the 'many' are expected to finance the 'few', bridge will continue to decline in this country.

*Paul Whetton, by e-mail*

**STEVE** Eginton and Richard Fleet both gave lucid and well-written accounts of the present 'sponsor problem'. They were mostly in agreement, it seemed to me, so it was hardly a debate between two opposite points of view. I disagreed with Eginton on one point, however. He said that patrons could not be blamed for the perceived de-

cline in the open team's performance ('In fact the open team has rarely contained a patron'). This misses the point. If a patron pays three of the few world-class players that England possesses to accompany him in the trials, one of two things will happen. Usually the team fails to qualify and the eventual England team therefore misses out on these world-class players. Even if the team did qualify, England would then play in the European Championship or Olympiad with a team member well below the required standard. In both cases the prospects of our team would suffer hugely.

*David Bird, Chandlers Ford*

**SPONSORSHIP** yes... ideally from industry/commerce etc. Every other sport or activity makes use of sponsorship, and frankly not to do so is wasting money that could be otherwise spent, or not collected off members! This includes Youth teams. Surely we have members who are involved where money is available.

Private sponsorship: as long as no tags attached, then OK.

*John Davy, by e-mail*

**AS** an EBU member who enjoys playing bridge at local level, with the occasional foray competing in an EBU sponsored event, I have to say that I am not at all bothered about happenings at national level. I am, however, concerned and deplore that money provided by membership subscription is used to cover the expenses of fielding teams at international events.

This does not mean that I support sponsorship, more properly described as patronage. This smacks to me as unfair use of influence, not necessarily producing the best team and, although I can understand players accepting to play under this form of financial support, I am sure that they must feel somewhat demeaned.

Having said all that, if sponsorship/patronage, despite its undesirable attributes, becomes the norm for player selection, then, so long as my money is not used for the purpose, I am content – particularly as I could now expect the EBU to spend more money furthering the interests of the more rank and file members.

*M.J. Connolly, Norwich*

## County Sponsorship – is it a first?

WARWICKSHIRE CBA are pleased to have secured sponsorship from a well-known local company, who have no previous connection with bridge. Bigwood Chartered Surveyors have agreed to sponsor our 2007-2008 season. Their logo and details now appear on the front page of the County Calendar, and we also agreed for it to be shown on our website.

When considering whom to approach, it is clear that the level of exposure which county bridge can offer the national chains is far too small. However, certain types of local professional company will see the bridge world as a source of potential clients. It should be emphasised that access to the membership was not requested, or we would have withdrawn.

From our discussions, we also realised that such companies preferred an on-going relationship, where their name is prominent for the whole year, rather than to sponsor a one-off event.

The amount is not large at £1,200, but represents a significant addition to the limited revenues on which all counties have to operate. The intention, to a large extent, is to ring-fence the additional funds for attracting more players to county events, and for educational purposes. Some will be used for the re-structuring of prizes in certain competitions, with particular focus on medium-ranking players and improvers, who are not usually in contention but need to be encouraged.

If other counties are interested, I hope the above comments will be of assistance. It can be done!

*Colin Lang, WCBA Chairman*

# Leading against suit contracts



Sandra Landy

STANDARD ENGLISH

WHAT is a good lead against a no trump contract may be a very poor lead against a suit contract. For example, you hold:

**Hand A**  
 ♠ 4 3  
 ♥ 9 8 2  
 ♦ A Q 7 6 5  
 ♣ 8 6 4

If your right-hand opponent opens 1NT which is raised to 3NT, you would lead the six of diamonds without hesitation. You may well give declarer a diamond trick, but you

hope to set up four diamond winners in your hand. You hope partner will gain the lead and return a diamond, so you can cash your four diamond winners and beat 3NT.

But if the opening bid is 1♠ and the opponents reach 4♠, the six of diamonds is a very poor lead as it may well give a trick away. Partner will return a diamond when on lead, but you won't be able to cash four diamond tricks as declarer will be able to ruff your winning diamonds.

If someone held a gun to your head and said you must lead a diamond, you would lead the ace to make sure you got at least one diamond trick. But it would be better to choose another suit, a heart or a club, and wait for someone else to play diamonds.

Let's see how a heart lead works.

South wins the ace of hearts and plays the king of spades. Your partner wins the ace of spades and leads the nine of diamonds, South plays the jack and you win with the queen. Now you can cash your ace of diamonds and give your partner a diamond ruff. You would know partner only had a doubleton diamond because the switch to the nine denied a higher card, so declarer must have the king, jack and ten of diamonds. By not leading a diamond you actually made both your ace and queen in the suit, and partner made the setting trick with the two of spades. In suit contracts little cards can win big tricks.

Actually South could and should have made 4♠ even on a heart lead; can you see how? (Answer at the bottom of the page.)

## A different scenario

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

Now suppose you had held Hand B. The diamond king is a very good lead, just as it would be against 3NT. You want to drive out declarer's ace of diamonds and set up diamond winners for your side to cash before declarer can discard his diamond losers on a side suit. Of course, because there is a trump suit you do not expect to take four diamond tricks, but you want to take as many tricks as are available in the diamond suit – maybe just one, perhaps two if both declarer and dummy have three diamonds.

Our main aim when leading to a suit contract is not to give away tricks to declarer. This is why that diamond king, or any three honour card sequence (A-K-Q, K-Q-J, Q-J-10) is always a good lead.

Sometimes no suit is attractive to lead and we have to resort to a fourth highest lead. On Hand C, the

**Hand C**  
 ♠ Q 3 2  
 ♥ Q 8  
 ♦ Q 10 8 5 3  
 ♣ Q 6 4

five of diamonds is probably the best chance, hoping that partner can produce a useful card and help set up a diamond winner.

## What if you don't have a sequence?

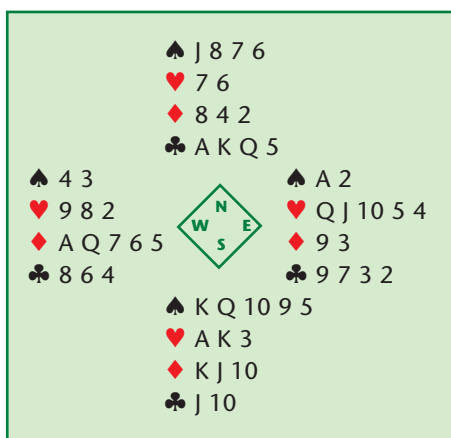
Of course we don't always have nice solid sequences to lead. Nor may you have a long suit with honours. With Hand A, I suggested that you might lead a heart. The actual heart you should choose is the eight. We lead MUD, the middle card from three cards without an honour. If you had decided to lead a club from the eight, six and four, you would have chosen the six. On the next round you would have played the eight of clubs, since MUD stands for Middle Up Down.

Also on the deal above, I said East would switch to the nine of diamonds and play the diamond three on the next round. This shows a doubleton because you have not made a MUD lead.

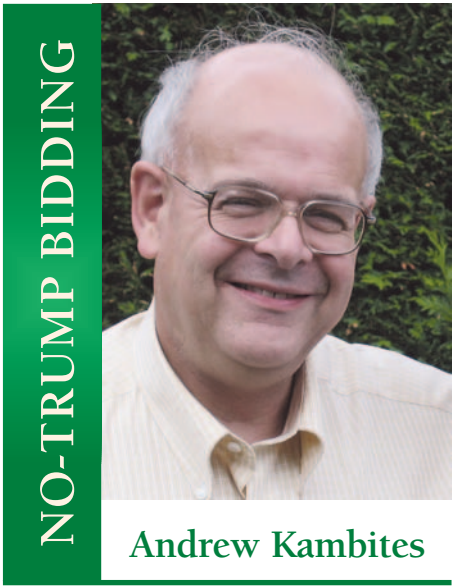
People used to play 'Top of Nothing' – the highest card in a suit with no honour – whether they held two or three or four cards. This made it very hard to defend well, which is why most people now play MUD. □

## Answer

South must play three rounds of clubs throwing a diamond away from hand before touching trumps. Now West can make win the ace and queen of diamonds but South will overruff the third diamond and draw all the trumps. The heart loser can be ruffed in dummy.



West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠



NO-TRUMP BIDDING

**Andrew Kambites**

# The no-trump overcall

## System over no-trump overcalls

In response to a natural 1NT or 2NT overcall, your system should be exactly the same as you would use opposite a 1NT or 2NT opening bid, the only difference being that since the high-card point-count of the no-trump bidder is different, the HCP of responses will be correspondingly altered.

## Protective no-trump bidding

### Hand E

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

The whole idea of protective bidding is that you are looking for reasons to bid rather than reasons not to bid. You are aware that partner, sitting immediately

over the opening bidder, might have passed with quite substantial values and you just don't want the opponents to get away with their choice of one-level contract.

A 1NT protective overcall is normally played as showing 11-14 HCP. Such is the desire to get into the bidding that the protective 1NT becomes the only no-trump bid that dispenses with the need for a stopper in your opponents' suit. If your left-hand opponent's 1♠ is passed round to you, bid 1NT with Hand E. It isn't as dangerous as it looks: partner is certain to have a few points because of your right-hand opponent's action in passing it out in 1♠ and it is not unreasonable to hope that he has a spade stopper.

How about stronger hands in the protective position? Even if you play 2NT as an Unusual No-trump in *Auction 1*, it should show a strong, balanced hand in *Auction 2*, 20-22 HCP. The Unusual No-trump is usually a pre-emptive bid. Pre-emptive bids in the protective position are not very useful, and you have a far greater need here: to show the huge range of balanced hands that could need describing that are too strong for a protective 1NT overcall.

A DIRECT 1NT overcall is usually played as showing a good 15-18 HCP. The emphasis is on having a stopper in your opponents' suit: the other suits can look after themselves. It is perfectly sensible to overcall an opening 1♥ with 1NT if you hold either Hand A or Hand B.

### Hand A

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

### Hand B

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

Balanced hands that are too strong for an overcall start with a double, intending to bid no-trumps next time.

### Hand C

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

### Hand D

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

With Hand C you must double a 1♥ opening bid and then bid no-trumps at the lowest level. If the response is 1♠, your rebid is 1NT (19-21 HCP). If the response is 2♣ or 2♦ your rebid is 2NT (again 19-21 HCP). The 2NT rebid is somewhat uncomfortable because if partner has nothing you are going down by quite a few tricks, but you really have no choice.

With Hand D, double 1♥. If partner responds 1♠, you jump to 3♠ (remember, he might have no points at all). If partner responds 2♣ or 2♦, again you must rebid 2NT.

### Auction 1

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	2NT		

### Auction 2

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	Pass	Pass	2NT

Now comes the difficult bit. What do you do in the protective position with balanced hands of 15-19 HCP? I have never seen anything written about this! Asking good players about their methods often brings an embarrassed silence. I don't think you can be too dogmatic. It is pointless saying that as soon as you go over the range for a 1NT protective bid then you double and later bid no-trumps. Consider Hands F and G after *Auction 3*:

### Hand F

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

### Hand G

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

### Auction 3

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

The 2♦ response could be up to 10 HCP because a protective double could be up to a king weaker than an immediate double. However, if I hold Hand F game is pretty remote and I certainly don't fancy bidding 2NT. If I do bid no-trumps at the lowest level with Hand F, what am I supposed to do with Hand G which is 4 points stronger? All my instincts tell me to make a protective 1NT overcall with Hand F and if I feel like this, I should make the protective 1NT overcall 11-16 HCP rather than 11-14. Then a double followed by a no-trump bid shows 17-19 HCP.

Playing such a wide-ranging 1NT bid has its drawbacks. Partner will feel he has to investigate game on the assumption that you might have 16 HCP; inevitably you ⇨



will end up too high if you have only 11 HCP. If you decide to play the protective 1NT as 11-16, you need a Stayman 2♣ which includes a checkback as to range. After Auction 4:

**Auction 4**

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

- 2♦ = 11-12 HCP; no 4-card major
- 2♥ = 11-12 HCP; 4 hearts, maybe 4 spades
- 2♠ = 11-12 HCP; 4 spades, not 4 hearts.
- 2NT = 13-14 HCP; then 3♣ is a further Stayman enquiry re 4-card majors.
- 3♦ = 15-16 HCP; no 4-card major.
- 3♥ = 15-16 HCP; 4 hearts, maybe 4 spades
- 3♠ = 15-16 HCP; 4 spades, not 4 hearts.

**Overcalling weak-two bids with no-trumps**

In second position, 2NT shows a good 15-

19 HCP. Once again the emphasis is on a stopper in the opponent's suit rather than the other suits. You will have to agree with your partner what values a protective 2NT shows. My feeling is that the range should be unchanged.

Double followed by a no-trump bid at the minimum level should show 20-22 HCP, while a jump to 3NT over the weak-two bid shows 23+ HCP.

**3NT overcalls of pre-empts**

This shows 16-25 HCP, or it could be a long solid minor with a stopper in the opponent's suit. I would overcall a pre-emptive 3♠ opener with 3NT with either Hand H or Hand I.

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

This makes it very hard for partner to know what to do, but if he is contemplating a slam he should remember the following:

1. Balanced 16 HCP hands are far more common than balanced 25 HCP hands
2. You don't have much room to investigate a slam. Even if there is a good slam, you might end up in the wrong one.
3. Even if you do reach an excellent slam, the pre-empt has increased the chances of it failing on bad breaks.

A simple method of bidding opposite a 3NT overcall involves Stayman and red-suit transfers, but do you really want to transfer into hearts if partner could have Hand I? If your partner has overcalled a pre-empt with 3NT, if in doubt you should pass. We are back to Hamman's Law again: *'If you have a choice of reasonable bids, and one of them is 3NT, then bid it.'* In this case the application is to pass 3NT. □



IN October we welcomed members from 22 countries to Croatia for our annual International Reunion. Participants from eight countries took home trophies. (A certain B. Capal was assisted to first place in the teams by his wife Hazel, and a scratch partnership comprising a Mad Dog (J. Probst) playing with a USA member of Bridge Club Live!)

The diversity of participants reflected quite accurately the nature of our internet club. We had top players who are in, or on the edges of, various National teams. We had club players of wide-ranging ability. There were a few beginners and improvers, and of course a few who play only at home or in BCL with friends!



*Setting off from Stansted and already causing trouble in the Priority queue! You may recognise some faces . . .*

The atmosphere was amazing. New arrivals in the hotel lobby were greeted and welcomed loudly. At the tables too, the noise was steady, punctuated by the occasional call for a waiter.

Just as on-line, the results were far from one-sided. Some of the players who least expected to do well found themselves 'loitering with intent' on the outskirts of the top few places. (And the opposite was also true – due partly to a



formal handicapping system based on the one used on-line in the 'Daily Matchpoint Pairs'.)

In the main, it was only lack of stamina that stopped them reaching the top. Late nights and Croatian beer probably contributed also!

Our next off-line, face-to-face gathering is Hinckley, 11-14 January. This is a traditional feature of the club calendar, organised by the experienced team of Barrie Partridge and our BCL Membership department.

For more information contact Barrie [reunion2008@bridgeclublive.com](mailto:reunion2008@bridgeclublive.com) – or click the link on the club web page.

Life at Bridge Club Live is never dull. We travel the internet world on a daily basis to meet friends and play bridge. Whenever possible, we travel the real world to cement these friendships.



Michelle Brunner

# Open 1♣ with 5-5 in the black suits

Two World Champions debate a hot bridge topic. Tell us whose argument has won you over by e-mailing the Editor at [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)

WHAT is so special about opening a hand which is 5-5 in clubs and spades? Holding any other 5-5 combination it is customary to begin with the higher-ranking suit with a view to bidding one's second suit twice, if space permits. Aye, there's the rub! Every bridge player knows how difficult it can be to describe fully one's assets and while, occasionally, one has to suffer the consequences with some 5-5 combinations when one is weak and forced to conceal the lower-ranking suit, the age-old rule of opening 1♣ with the black suits serves to avoid this fate. Many moons ago, when bridge became part of my national curriculum, this issue was never contentious and, indeed, has become a tradition which has stood the test of time – until now, I hear Heather saying! These days, some modern theorists advise differently and while I agree that on the odd occasion the pre-emptive quality of opening one spade with both black suits will be a successful gambit I aim to explain convincingly why I'm still a creature of habit.

If bridge can be described as an exciting game, then there is definitely a thrill to picking up the spade suit! In owning a suit with which you can outbid your opponents (and partner!) at every level, one has to respect this magical quality. Hence, while nominating the club suit at my first turn allows my opponents plenty of room to overcall, no-one can stop me bidding my spade suit later – and I'll take my chances if the level is a trifle high when I do so! Am I being totally reckless? I think not, but to prove it I need to go back to basics and illustrate my theory with some examples.

You pick up: ♠4 ♥AQ654 ♦43 ♣KQJ76 and sensibly open 1♥. So long as partner responds 1♠ or 1NT, you will be able to

introduce your club suit economically on the next round. Of course, this only indicates a 5-4 distribution and unless partner has a good hand you may not get a chance to confirm your actual shape. Ideally, the auction will progress something like 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ (fourth suit forcing) – 3♣ – 3NT. Imagine, now, an initial response of 2♦ and this time you are forced to rebid 2♥ (as you need 16 HCP to effect a reverse) and your beautiful club suit is temporarily, if not forever, buried. Such is bridge life: you will be frequently unable to complete the precise picture of such hands unless either you have 16 or more HCP, or partner is blessed with invitational (or better) values. Notwithstanding, remember too that when you do have the luxury of expressing your 5-5 pattern, you will be doing so at the three level.

Turning our attention back to the black-suited debate and, again, with no opposition bidding, how does one describe: ♠AQ654 ♥4 ♦43 ♣KQJ76, if you start by opening 1♠? Should partner respond in either red suit, your rebid has to be 2♠ which, mercifully, in this example, is a suit of reasonable quality. Try opening 1♣ and you are prepared for anything and everything! Admittedly opponents are not always obliging but given a free run your auction will often allow you to show your five-card spade suit at the two level: 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – and if partner rebids 1NT, 2♣, 2♦ (fourth suit forcing) or 2♥, you can bid your spades again at an economically sound level without promising extra values!

Strengthen the previous examples to house 16 or more HCP, and whereas you may now be able to show your second suit by way of a high-level reverse, you are, as yet, unable to confirm any more than a 5-4

distribution. See what happens when you start by opening 1♣ with the following hand: ♠AQ654 ♥4 ♦A3 ♣KQJ76. The auction proceeds: 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – anything – 3♠, and whilst still below the level of 3NT you have bared all!

I mentioned earlier the possible pre-emptive benefit of selecting an original spade opening, but qualified that with suggesting a refusal to be intimidated and kept out of the auction if I were to stick to my antediluvian methods and open 1♣. Well, now it's my turn to advocate modern trends and ask you to consider the notion of re-entering a competitive auction either via a 'double' or by bidding the spades later. First of all, it's time to wake up the opposition and get some competitive action! Again, you hold ♠AQ654 ♥4 ♦A3 ♣KQJ76 and I know that if I were to make the 'mistake' of opening 1♠ with this collection I would feel very uncomfortable about the prospect of defending against a red-suit contract (either red-suit, doubled or undoubled) if I had concealed my rather useful second suit during the bidding. Surely the beauty of this hand lies in discovering a fit and I have potentially end-played partner in the auction if it remains unmentioned.

Call me old-fashioned and, even, daredevil but if I elect to open 1♣, I do not propose to remain silent even if someone steals my bidding box! 1♣ – (1♥) – 2♦ – (2♥) – ? Do you have any agreement with your partner about the meaning of double or bidding 2♠ in this position? Fortunately I do, and that means I can safely describe the illustrated example hand with a rebid of 2♠, reserving a take-out double for doing battle with just a four-card spade suit.

Perfect! I rest my case. □

# Open 1♠ with 5-5 in the black suits

Or vote by post (Editor, English Bridge, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR).  
Comments for publication (not more than 200 words, please) are welcome.

SPADES is the best suit you can hold. It out-ranks all the other suits, therefore when the auction becomes competitive and your side holds the spade fit, you can out-compete your opponents at the same level in your suit. The importance of finding a spade fit as early as possible in a competitive situation cannot be over-estimated. If the auction allows you to describe the exact length of only one of your two suits, which would you choose? Spades, of course.

Suppose you have a light opening bid, let's say ♠Q8652 ♥4 ♦J6 ♣AQ854, and you foolishly open 1♣. Your next opponent overcalls 4♥ and this is passed back to you. Is it really sound to venture back into this auction with 4♠? I don't think so. For all we know, partner may have a small doubleton in both your suits, and the penalty could be really huge. Opening 1♠ could lose you your club fit, but which would you trade? Obviously you would prefer to lose a club fit than a spade fit.

It doesn't necessarily take a high-level intervention to cause you difficulties in finding your fit. Suppose the auction goes 1♣ – (1♥) – 2♦ – (2♥); does a 2♠ rebid promise five spades? Michelle may argue that you can show a 5-4 hand by reopening with a double, therefore allowing for a 2♠ bid to show five, but I don't buy that. Double is certainly not for penalties when the opponents have bid and raised a suit at the two level; however, it shows a hand that is too strong to pass but has no other convenient call to make. Life would be wonderful if we never picked up awkward hands and we could guarantee four spades with this double, but I must wake up and consider what I am supposed to bid when faced with ♠KJ2 ♥J53 ♦K84 ♣AKQ9? I can't bid 2NT with no stopper, especially

as I know partner will be short in the opponents' suit, so they are almost certain to be able to run five tricks in hearts. I am far too strong to consider passing, so my call is double. There is no other call I can make. This means that if your choice is to open 1♣ with 5-5 in the black suits, a 2♠ rebid in this auction would have to cover the 5-5 distributions, and with a 5-4 shape you have to decide whether your partnership style is going to be to call 2♠, or to double. Either way there is ambiguity.

Even if the opponents do not intervene, you may still lose your spade fit by opening 1♣. Let's take the same weak hand again, but this time the opponents are silent and partner responds 1NT to your 1♣ opening. What can you possibly do now? You are completely stuck. Partner figures to have a club fit, so you could repeat your club suit, but playing a 2♣ contract with a 5-3 spade fit available is hardly likely to score you many match-points at pairs. Playing a four-card major system, bidding and rebidding your spade suit will tell partner you have five. Even rebidding in clubs will tell partner that you hold five spades, therefore the 5-3 fit will always be found (if it exists) on the second round of the auction.

We should also consider the pre-empt-



Heather Dhondy

THE DEBATE

ive effect of opening 1♠. Your left-hand opponent may have a hand worth a one-level overcall of one of the red suits, but not worth a two-level overcall. A 1♠ opening bid will silence them, whereas a 1♣ opening will allow them in, and it is possible that they could out-compete you if they locate a fit.

Let's move on to developing a constructive auction to the right game or slam with partner. You may think that opening 1♣ will allow you more room, but does it improve your chances of describing your shape accurately? Suppose your auction, against silent opponents, goes: 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 1NT – 2♠. If you would always open 1♠ with 5-5 in the black suits, this auction guarantees six clubs and five spades. Whenever you show five spades in an auction that has started with 1♣, partner will know that you have shown at least six clubs. If you open 1♣ with 5-5 in the black suits, this auction could show 5-5 or 6-5 – therefore less definition.

To summarise, holding five spades, your number-one priority has to be to share the good news with partner as early as possible. This is especially true when the opponents are active in the auction, but also applies to uninterrupted auctions. □

## JOHN SADLER

JOHN SADLER died on 30 October at the age of 74, after a long battle with cancer.

John was a very successful player in the '70s and '80s, in partnership with Doug Smerdon first and later Tony Waterlow. His achievements during that period include reaching the final of the Gold Cup and winning Crockfords. More recently, he reached the semi-finals of the 2000 Gold Cup, and thereafter made a habit of picking up local trophies both in London and Torquay, where he had a second home.

John will be remembered as a very courteous and formidable opponent, and as a most constructive partner and team-mate.

**FINE-TUNING**



**Freddie North**

# Finessing against partner may well be right

IN the last issue, we focused on bidding issues. Now let's have a change of scenery and consider some fine-tuning in defence, this time involving card play.

One of the early rules we learn is, 'Don't finesse against partner.' Suppose West leads the jack of diamonds against South's contract of 3NT (1NT – 3NT) and this is what you see:

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

Without doubt you would rise with your king and if it turned out that South held the ace and queen of diamonds nothing would have been lost, because your king was a dead duck anyway. If, however, it turns out that your partner's hand is:

♠ 10 2
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ A J 10 5 3
♣ 9 6

then you are just about to defeat the contract by taking the first five tricks. So no fine-tuning wanted there – just a need to follow the basic guidelines and avoid finessing against partner. But suppose this is the situation.

### A different scenario

South opens 2NT (20-22) and is raised to 3NT. West leads the four of spades. How should East defend?

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

Most good rules have to be bent a little sometimes and this is surely a case where a spot of fine-tuning is required. East is in possession of some very special knowledge which tells him that the usual guideline –

'Don't finesse against partner' – needs some adjustment Opener has shown at least 20 points, dummy has 6 and East 12. That leaves at most 2 points for West, so there is no room for him to hold the king of spades, though he may well have the queen. Indeed, as West has chosen to lead a low card, he should hold an honour in the suit, and that honour can only be the queen. East's task, therefore, is to try and persuade declarer to win the first trick with the king and he does this by contributing the jack. The full deal:

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

As long as East has done his thinking in advance he will be able to follow suit at normal tempo leaving declarer with little chance of reading the situation correctly. From declarer's point of view, the lead could be from a four-card suit headed by the ace, so if he doesn't take his king at once he may never make it at all. If this is the case, going light in a lay-down contract would, perhaps, take some explaining.

Suppose East goes up with the spade ace initially; declarer will now hold up his king until the third round and simply hope that East also holds the ace of diamonds.

### Summary

While it is usually wrong to finesse against partner, this does not apply when it is essential to tempt declarer to win the trick. □

## BROUGHT TOGETHER BY BRIDGE

SUSAN Levene who, with Philip Dunn, runs 'Holidays with Bridge', received an enquiry for a bridge weekend that was to change her life forever.

In July 2006 a non-bridge playing gentleman was surfing the net for a bridge weekend as a gift for his cousin. He came across a list of bridge holiday companies and whilst looking through it he saw Susan's name and telephone number that he recognised as being in Brighton. This was quite a shock as, 40 years before, he had lived in Brighton and they had been engaged to be married. With some trepidation, as he had not been in contact with Susan for 37 years, he phoned her.

The rest, as they say, is history. Susan and Peter were married in September.



# Junior Teach-in 2007

EVERY year the EBU puts on an event for all the juniors and young players in the country aged up to 21, the annual Junior Teach-in Weekend, designed not only as a teaching endeavour but also as a fun weekend filled with activities, quizzes, sport and general mayhem.

Over one hundred youngsters and fifty adults made the weekend a huge success, with everyone mixing together like a big bridge playing family.

The format of the teaching was to split it into manageable sessions of ninety minutes each. The first one started at 5.45pm, and I'd love to report that it was a complete success. Alas, I can't – not because it wasn't but because in true organised fashion I turned up nearly two hours late and so missed the whole session. Fortunately there are two tutors to every group, and Alan Shillitoe had the matter well under control, a nicely run play-and-discuss session coming to an end as I waltzed in. The rest of the teachers at the Teach-in (all volunteers, I hasten to add, none of them being paid despite the vast wealth of talent and experience) had cleverly seen the advantages to arriving on time and thus the first night went without a hitch.

The Friday night evening play competition was a butler pairs event, a popular format that combines teams scoring with the efficiency of a pairs movement. Every pair plays in a duplicate but the event is scored as teams, each pair scoring up with the average of the rest of the room. It is always enjoyable, but sadly is only seen in this country for trials and club events; there aren't any national competitions that use it.

Many of the teachers played and did well, but the leading junior pairs were top guns

(and England Under-20 hopefuls) James Paul and Graeme Robertson. The leading N/S junior pair was Rhys Horlock and Simon Hollett, who played despite only learning bridge a few days before. They had some help from Rhys's grandmother, Marie, who as an experienced tournament player offered a few tips when needed.

The Saturday saw two more sessions of teaching followed by the sports break that took all afternoon.

Another teaching session was held after the sport, then the evening saw no fewer than two bridge events: the main pairs, then even later the speedball event where three minutes a board was considered slow play . . .



*Marie and grandson Rhys Horlock battling against James Paul and Graeme Robertson*

The main pairs was won convincingly by Rob Myers and Daniel McIntosh, who chalked up 69% with apparent ease. Had they scored 1% less they would have finished 4th, several other pairs finding 68% an easily achievable target!

The Speedball was more of a runaway success, James Paul and Graeme Robertson (again) winning by a clear 8% with a scorecard containing 26 out of 30 plus scores including a 1520 for 7NT (well bid by them), a 3400 for 3NT redoubled off seven (badly bid by the opposition!), an 1100, an 880 . . . well, you get the idea – 72% didn't



**Michael Byrne**

REPORTS

leave anything to the imagination.

The Sunday was a relaxed affair, everyone quite tired from the Speedball except for the few sensible people who had gone to bed. The event finished with two more teaching sessions (the legendary bidding

challenge was taken on by the top guns) and the end-of-Teach-in Quiz, that asked interesting questions on various bridge (and non-bridge related) topics. Amy Stout from the top guns took first prize (despite taking my advice on a few questions – I was so sure that Patrick Jourdain was born in England!) and everyone went home after a fantastic prize-giving ceremony in which so many of the young participants received great

bridge books to keep them occupied for some time to come.

The weekend was tremendously enjoyable, and showed that junior bridge in this country is alive and well. Under John Pain's sterling leadership, players from age 7 to 79 competed and enjoyed the game we know and love. Let's hope that next year we will have some more raw rookies willing to give the game a go and keep it alive for the future.

Note that next year's Teach-in will take place on August 29th-31st; book your place now! □

# COUNTY NEWS

## Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

**Mrs P Barton of North East  
Mr A D Cooke of  
Bedfordshire  
Mr V Gaskell of Herts  
Mr I J Pendlebury  
of Staffs & Shropshire**

## Master Point promotions

### Avon

#### Premier Life Master

Mr D Hamper

#### Life Master

Mr RJ Dunn

#### National Master

Mr M Davies

Mrs C M Rankin

#### 2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs A Whitaker

#### 2 Star Premier Master

Mrs S Stevens

#### 1 Star Premier Master

Mr P Keightley

#### 3 Star Master

Mrs F Stinchcombe

#### Advanced Master

Ms A Kelly

#### County Master

Miss S Bird

Mr L Blanning

Mr S F Croucher

Mr R Cutts

#### District Master

Dr J Holyer

Mr M Ingham

Miss J E Richardson

#### Club Master

Mrs J Hoy

Mrs L Irving

Ms L Priess

Mr P Schmidt

### Bedfordshire

#### Grand Master

Mr A D Cooke

#### 8 Star Premier Master

Mr DG Pritchard

#### Premier Master

Mr G D Robertson

Mrs P M Smith

#### 4 Star Master

Mr E Cohen

Mr ND Welch

#### 3 Star Master

Mrs JE Malpass

#### Advanced Master

Mr EJ Hewitt

#### District Master

Mrs E S Brett

Mr M Francis

Prof A G Parkinson

#### Club Master

Mr P L Shah

### Berks & Bucks

#### Life Master

Mrs J Murphy

#### National Master

Mrs M Bradshaw

Mr S Lee

#### 4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr K M Goswell

### 5 Star Regional Master

Mrs MJ Davies

Mr IF Macartney

Mrs A Teversham

### Regional Master

Mrs E Crossley

### 13 Star Premier Master

Mrs CE Moir

### 11 Star Premier Master

Mr N J Nicolson

### 8 Star Premier Master

Mrs MD Wernette

### 6 Star Premier Master

Mr JN Bamberg

### 5 Star Premier Master

Mrs B Regan

### 3 Star Premier Master

Mr A Collins

### 2 Star Premier Master

Mr C Shambrook

### 1 Star Premier Master

Mr S Bedford

Mr P R Feilding

Mrs L Hayton

Mrs U Henzell

### Tournament Master

Mr D Benjamin

### 4 Star Master

Mrs AG Batten

Miss PME Day

### 3 Star Master

Mr R W S Lark

### 2 Star Master

Mr A Hughes

### 1 Star Master

Mr J R Crook

Mr M Fraser

Mr I C Kemp

Mrs M L Savill

### Advanced Master

Mr V C Crump

Mr P Matthews

Mr A L Ross

Mr P A Shuttleworth

### Master

Mr R Bedwell

### County Master

Mrs M Andersen

Mr P M Clarke

Mr J Downie

Mrs I Stanbury

Mr D Tilquin

Mrs E M Wilsey

### District Master

Mrs R Johnstone

Mr R Kozlowski

Mrs R Lenney

Mr K Sheppard

Mr R Stepney

## Avon

[www.avoncba.org.uk](http://www.avoncba.org.uk)

IT is with great sadness that we report the death of Cyril Samuels. Cyril was the doyen of bridge in Bristol for many years. He was originally from London but an employment move took him to Cardiff in the early 1960s where he established himself as a Welsh international in partnership with David Hamilton and also Mike Hirst. He moved to Bristol in the 1970s and was Secretary of Bristol Bridge Club for 15 years, when the club was regarded as one of the finest in the country and benefited from Cyril's superb organisational skills. He continued to play bridge up to the age of 90 and taught some of the residents where he lived well after that. He will be much missed by all his bridge friends.

Congratulations to John Atthey for his fine win in the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs* in partnership with Clive Owen and also for his recent participation in the *Lederer Memorial Trophy* as part of the Tollemache winning Gloucestershire team which finished 5th out of eight.

The first event of the new season was the *Championship Teams*, won by Chris King, Bill Maddox, Steve Tomlinson and Steve Turner. At the *Somerset Congress*, the best results by Avon players were: *Swiss Pairs*: 10= Andrew and Cathy Smith; *Swiss Teams*: 3. Tony Letts with three Glos players.

In the *Bristol BC Premier Pairs* competition the winners in August were Pat Chanter and Peter Tilley, in September Margaret Harris and Mike Short, and in October Ian Duncan and Steve Lawrence.

The *West of England Bridge Club Pairs Championship* was won by Gill Davies and David Griffiths.

## Bedfordshire

[www.bedsbridge.co.uk](http://www.bedsbridge.co.uk)



THE BBA County season kicked off well with the *Opening Pairs*, won by County Vice-Chairman Val Lawson and Ian Wilson. This was followed by the 37th joint *Beds/Northants Congress*, which was held for the second year at the attractive new venue, Towcester Racecourse. Ross Harper and Paul Hackett won the *Pairs* on the Saturday, while Marianna Kultalahti, Alan Shillitoe, Iain Roberts and Dave Dickson won the *Swiss Teams* on the Sunday.

Alan Cooke has recently attained the rank of Grand Master and joins the small Bedfordshire elite band – congratulations, Alan. Bedfordshire players have also done well 'offshore' at the *Guernsey Congress*,

Alan Cooke and Maris Sheppard coming 2nd while Maureen and Brian Stairs came 3rd in the *Mixed Pairs* event. Closer to home, Bharat Sanghrajka and Richard Chester (Wardown Club) did well in the *Autumn Sim Pairs* coming 6th nationally.

The *Men's and Ladies' Pairs* took place during the afternoon of 27th September. John Andrews and Tim Sharrock won the Men's event, while Rita Keable and Monica Lucy won the Ladies' Pairs.

In the *Eastern Counties League*, Bedfordshire played Essex in September and Hertfordshire in October. While the 'A' team won on both occasions, the 'B' and 'C' teams were well beaten.

The 48-board *Swiss Pairs* event took place at Wilstead on 21st October and was won in style by Jon Williams and Ron Davis. The BBA league and KO matches will be starting soon, so watch this space for future results.

## Berks and Bucks

[www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk](http://www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk)



THE season started with a win for Richard Palmer, Dick Davey, Carole Mueller and David Perkins in the *Mixed Teams*. John Greenhalgh and James Bond won the *Swiss Pairs*. The *County Teams Qualifier* was won by Chris Burley, Ed Scerri, Kevin Elstow and Phil Thornton with eight teams going forward to the knock-out rounds.

We have re-organised the club pages on the website to make them more user-friendly; do check that your club details are up-to-date. We are now working on a list of clubs who run a host system to encourage visitors, so please let us know.

We are also running a survey to find out at what time competitors would like our Sunday events to start. The choice is: unchanged at 2.30pm, 2pm or 1pm. If you haven't voted yet, send your vote to Margaret at [merg@btinternet.com](mailto:merg@btinternet.com).

Congratulations to Ascot A, Barry Read, Alan F. Brown, Jennie Corfield and Bruce Franklin who are in the Final of the *NICKO Plate*.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 16, Mixed Swiss Teams. The New Year starts with the County Pairs Qualifier on Jan 6 and the Friendly Swiss Pairs on Jan 13. You can enter these events through the web site.

## Camps and Hunts

[www.campsbridge.org.uk](http://www.campsbridge.org.uk)

CATH Jagger won the National Women's Teams, and Sue Oakford and Nadia Stelmashenko reached the semi-finals. Cath Jagger's team were =1st in the *Brighton Bowl*, Chris Jagger's team

were 6th and Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis's team were 21st. In the *Pairs*, Chris Jagger and Ian Pagan finished 10th, Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis 39th, and Rod and Sue Oakford 41st.

Trevor King won the *Men's Pairs* at the *West of England Congress*, playing with Ian Clarke. Mike Seaver and Peter Morgan finished 3rd in the *B final* of the *Championship Pairs* at the *Summer Seniors Congress*. Rod and Sue Oakford, Nadia Stelmashenko and Victor Milman ended 2nd in the *Suffolk One-day Swiss Teams* and 3rd in the *Herts One-day Swiss Teams*.

The county C team finished =2nd in the *National County League Finals*. The team was David Carmichael, Gladys Gittins, Dominic Clark, Wendy Pollard, Brian Last, Jenny Jacobsberg, Nick Bull and Cynthia Bull. Cambridge A were knocked out in the semi-finals of the 2006/7 *NICKO*.

Congratulations to Andrew Wilkinson for qualifying as County Tournament Director with distinction.

**Diary Dates:** Jan 20, County Individual Final; Feb 17, County Pairs Final; Mar 15, Novice Pairs; Apr 27, Swiss Pairs.

## Channel Islands

[www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/](http://www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/)



THE main event in the Channel Islands for this report has been the *Guernsey Congress*, organised with great efficiency and friendliness as always by Malcolm and Barbara Carey. On the first weekend Guernsey's Norwegian Rune Hague playing with Reider Laland were the outright winners of the *Swiss Pairs*, with Marion Miles of Jersey playing with Andrew Thompson in fourth spot. The top all C.I. Pair were the Jersey/Guernsey combination of Ros Bavin and Robert Plumley, jointly with Lynda Mildon and Colin Tostevin in 7th place. In the mid-week events, Robert Plumley and Susie Farnon were the top C.I pair in the *Mixed Pairs*, finishing 6h. In the *Multiple Teams*, Robert and Susie, in partnership with Richard and Christine Ray, were outright winners and in the *Senior Teams* the Jersey combination of Sue Rankin, Brian Youd, Rosemary Pallot and Norman Le Cocq won the event. Which brings us to the final event, the *Swiss Teams*, where again the Norwegians, captained by Rune Hague, swept the board, the top C.I. team being Susie Farnon, Robert Plumley, Lynda Mildon and Colin Tostevin in 6th position. The prize for the top Channel Islands pair for the two week-end events went to Colin and Lynda.

In purely domestic competitions the first three in the *County Individual* were

## THE RACE IS ON!

AS a result of the changes to the Master Point year announced earlier, the current competition for the highest Master-points awards in each category, which started on July 1st 2006, will end on December 31st 2007. Those players who wish all their awards to be included in the ranking lists published when the event is finalised, should ensure that their claims are at the EBU by Monday 21st January 2008 at the latest. It would be helpful if such claims did NOT include any certificates dated from 1st January 2008 onwards.

Clubs and County Associations that use direct credit facilities should ensure that all finalised events up to the end of December are submitted to the EBU by the same date, if they wish their member's awards to be included in the competition.

## Master Point promotions

Dr J H Towle Mr A Zenios	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs R D Harbisher
<b>Club Master</b> Mr T Brass Mrs J Chisnall Mrs W Harper Mrs W Reed Mr T A M Wayland	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr J E Ridding Mr W F P Thomson Mr P A Walker Mrs A Wickings
<b>Cambs &amp; Hants</b>	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mr D A Barber
<b>National Master</b> Miss P Leslie	<b>Master</b> Mr R G S Draycott
<b>1 Star Premier</b>	<b>County Master</b> Mrs L Chidell Mrs I Parkin
<b>Regional Master</b> Mr R Midgley	<b>Club Master</b> Mr D J Wiltshire
<b>2 Star Regional</b>	<b>Cumbria</b>
<b>Master</b> Mr PJ Somerfield	<b>Life Master</b> Mr K Anderson
<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs S Rainbow	<b>4 Star Premier</b>
<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr A Patel	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr J Farmer
<b>District Master</b> Mr P Cowley Mr M J Johnson Mrs A Lloyd Mr P A Watson	<b>1 Star Premier</b>
<b>Club Master</b> Mr P Day Mr J Lawrence	<b>Master</b> Mrs M P Mitchell
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs A Vince Miss F J Wallace
<b>Life Master</b> Mr B Youd	<b>County Master</b> Mrs D Rushforth
<b>Premier National</b>	<b>Derbyshire</b>
<b>Master</b> Mr J Seymour	<b>3 Star Premier</b>
<b>National Master</b> Mr R Hauge	<b>Master</b> Mr K Hawkin
<b>2 Star Premier</b>	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr R Wood
<b>Regional Master</b> Mr J E Panter	<b>District Master</b> Mr G MacArthur
<b>3 Star Regional</b>	<b>Club Master</b> Mr S Cave Miss G Heath Mr G A C Orton
<b>Master</b> Mr P Pitcher	<b>Devon</b>
<b>1 Star Regional</b>	<b>Premier National</b>
<b>Master</b> Mrs VE Babbe	<b>Master</b> Mrs S E Gregory Mrs AM Husk Mrs G Lankshear Mr KG Nelson Mrs G Rogers
<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs S E Shaw	<b>National Master</b> Mrs R M Morgan
<b>Premier Master</b> Mr C Hill Mr D P Trestain	<b>5 Star Premier</b>
<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs JR Thomas	<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs JM Brock
<b>Master</b> Mr J Palasmith Mrs P A Self Mrs S Smith	<b>2 Star Premier</b>
<b>District Master</b> Mrs V L Rose	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr R Giles
<b>Club Master</b> Mrs M Murphy	<b>1 Star Premier</b>
<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr JD Murray Brown
<b>Premier National</b>	<b>6 Star Regional</b>
<b>Master</b> Mrs G Pain	<b>Master</b> Mr B Cook
<b>19 Star Premier</b>	<b>3 Star Regional</b>
<b>Master</b> Miss H M Upton	<b>Master</b> Mr E E G Boucher
<b>17 Star Premier</b>	<b>2 Star Regional</b>
<b>Master</b> Mr BH Edwards	<b>Master</b> Mrs MK Kelsey
<b>6 Star Premier</b>	<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs S Bennett
<b>Master</b> Mr I R Macfarlane	<b>11 Star Premier</b>
	<b>Master</b> Mrs B A Carr

all Jersey players: 1. Carl Harrison, 2. John Honey, 3. Howard Walden. In the *Jersey District Mixed Pairs*, David Hole and Marion Miles won for the fourth year in succession. In the *Inter-Island Sim Pairs*, the winners were John Seymour and Lynne Williamson of Guernsey, with Jersey's Cathy Hepburn and Marion Miles runners-up.

## Cornwall

[www.jkeast.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.jkeast.freeserve.co.uk)  
PRIDE of place this month goes to Andy Tooley and Val Manicom's splendid victory in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *EBU's Green-Pointed Congress in Rhodes*. Val and Andy won by 1 VP, coming from behind in the final round.

Two senior players, Cornwall vice-chairman Geoff Warren and Newquay's Bill Collings, have suffered heart attacks, but are now doing very well. Geoff walks four miles a day and has played some bridge at Truro. Bill was back at Newquay a week and a half after his attack, and came top. It's amazing what you can achieve when you are only 98.

County competitions are in full swing. The *Norman Woodhouse Individual*, held after the AGM, was won by Geoff Warren. Wendy Brown was 2nd, and Pat Jones 3rd. The *Wadebridge Green-Pointed Swiss Teams* was won by a Plymouth team, Mike Hamon, John Beard, T Hirst and E Ewens, with Colin Pote, Mike Booth, Val Manicom and Andy Tooley second. The *Falmouth Swiss Pairs* were won by Jan and Ken Keast with Dommie Boxall and Allan Myles 2nd.

Chris and Sandra Bickerdike were easy winners of *Clarke Winnmill Mixed Pairs*, a third consecutive win for them; Ken and Jan Keast were 2nd. Jill and David Newton were convincing winners of the *Marie Gregson-Brown Pairs*, with Celia Bishop and Viv Mably 2nd.

The *County Swiss Teams* was won by the Liskeard team of Colin Pote, Mike Booth, Pat Meade and Ruth Harvey; Lynda and David Chidell, Chris and Sandra Bickerdike were 2nd.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Newcomers' Pairs, Truro; Dec 9, Men's and Women's teams, Ladock; Jan 12, Falmouth Salver, Falmouth BC; Jan 20, Star Masters and Tredova Cup, Ladock; Jan 27, Men's and Ladies' Pairs.

## Cumbria

[www.ccdba.co.uk](http://www.ccdba.co.uk)  
OUR new season opened with our *Pro-Am* competition on September 23: 1. Jenny Carruthers, Rosemary Jackson, Isabel Moritz and Marjorie Swann, +29; 2. Maureen Mitchell, Joan Mossop, Sylvia Rogerson and Geoff Thomson, +19. We fielded three teams in the new round of the *NBL*. Our A team won two of their four matches, the B team won two of five, and our C team won three finishing second.

Our *IMP Pairs* competition was on October 14: 1. Janet and David Sheppard; 2. Dave Mullaney and Colin Woods; 3. Anne Breakey and Peter Rook.

In the *CCBA Simultaneous Pairs* David Sheppard was first again, with Alan Britten this time, and a very high score of 78.73%; 2. David Strawbridge and Mary

Andrews with 68.84%; 3. Peter Boardman and Glenda Lloyd with 62.48%.

**Diary Dates:** Nov 4, Championship Teams Qualifier (final on Dec 2).

## Derbyshire

[www.dcba.org.uk](http://www.dcba.org.uk)  
WINNERS of the *Mixed Pairs* for the *EMBA Cup* were Mo Logan and Malcolm Young followed in second place by the winners of the *Midlands Flicht Trophy*, Joan and David Burgess.

Ron McEwan, Richard Edwards, John Armstrong and Howard Melbourne won the *Brigden Cup* for Derbyshire's *GP Team Competition*.

The Andy Wells' team (Richard Edwards, Bob Ross, Peter and Sheila Kelly) won the *British Rail Trophy* for the *Summer Swiss* convincingly with Ron McEwan's team (Stephen Lally, John Armstrong, Howard Melbourne) 2nd.

Brian Elliott, John Sowter, Ian Hall and Jim Tomlinson won the *India Cup* for Derbyshire's single session team event. Jennifer and Roger Floutier, Don Smedley and John Griffin won the *Vic Morris Plate*.

John Armstrong was part of the team that won the *4 stars B final* in Brighton.

John Armstrong and Ron McEwan came first, and Don Smedley and John Griffin second, in the *Derbyshire GP Pairs*. Don and John, playing with John Squibb and Hayden Dando, also came 2nd in the *GP Swiss Teams*.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 12, DCBA Christmas Party; Jan 23, National Pairs Qualifying Round. Jan 26-27th, County Pairs Championship.

## Devon

[www.devonbridge.co.uk](http://www.devonbridge.co.uk)  
CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Edmondson and Brigid McElroy on reaching the semi-finals of the *National Women's Teams* with Pat Dowdeswell and Lynne Hayes. Devon players also did well at the *West of England Congress*. Stefan Lindfors, Jim Grant and Rob Lawy, together with Andrew Thompson, won the *Swiss Teams*. John Beard and Mike Hamon came 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs*, with Ernest Boucher and Jenny Algar 3rd.


*Cornwall One Day Green Point Swiss Teams*: 1. John Beard, Mike Hamon, Terry Hirst and Roger Evens; 2. Colin Pote, Pat Meade, Val Manicom and Andy Tooley; 3. John and Gloria Lankshear, Ivor Moore and Colin Stares.

The *Devon Pairs* day was held in September. The *Jack & Jill (Mixed Pairs)* was won by Geoff and Nethie White. The *Men's Pairs* was won by Amos Bridgman and John Lankshear, and the *Women's Pairs* by Susan Gregory and Ann Husk.

24 teams took part in the *Abbotskerswell Charity Swiss Teams*; this was won by Rob and Margaret Mardlin, Ann Slee and Steve Gore.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 9, Torquay Bridge Club Swiss Pairs; Jan 12-13, John Woolcott weekend; Jan 2, Devon Teams of 8 (Garden Cities qualifier).

## Dorset

[www.dorsetbridge.org.uk](http://www.dorsetbridge.org.uk)  
 NOTABLE results from recent National competitions – congratulations to all! *Brighton Summer Congress Swiss Pairs*: 16. Miles Cowling and David Jones. *Guernsey Congress Swiss Pairs*: 2. Helen Ackroyd and Ann Sharples; 3. Ron and Lynne Heath; Paul Caton and Peter Craven won the non-expert prize. *Guildford Swiss Teams*: 8. Miles Cowling, John Dakin, Chris Kinloch and Richard Harris. *Great Northern Congress Swiss Pairs*: 10. Chris Stevens and Hilary Brain. *West of England Congress Swiss Teams*: 7. Andy Kitteridge, Ron Heath, Hugh Kevill-Davies and Lynne Heath.

County Winners: *Flemmich Cup*: Roy Riley, Doris Hutchinson, Harold Wayne and David Berwitz. *Simeon Cup*: Rohan Bagshaw and Julian Gregory. *Hardwick Cup*: Mike Pownall, Mark Hooper, Miles Cowling and Daphne Philips.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 16, Mixed Pairs for the Chope Salver, Westbourne; Jan 13, Swiss Teams for the Frost Rose Bowl, Westbourne; Dec 3, Knight Cup Qualifier at Allendale Bridge Club (*please note change of date*); Feb 3, Knight Cup Final and Consolation Pairs (open to everyone not playing in the Final), Wimborne.

CONGRATULATIONS to Val Mollison and Nicole Cook on achieving their County Tournament Director's qualification. This is a tough test to pass, so very well done to both of them.

## Essex

[www.essexbridge.co.uk](http://www.essexbridge.co.uk)  
 CONGRATULATIONS to Val Mollison and Nicole Cook on achieving their County Tournament Director's qualification. This is a tough test to pass, so very well done to both of them.

A meeting was held with club representatives to discuss the new EBU proposals. The evening was well attended, resulting in a lively discussion and exchange of views.

Recent events: *Autumn Seniors*: 1. Allan Greenstein and Yvonne Dias; 2. Alan Green and Frank Morrison; 3. Peter Oake and Ray Cornell.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Essex Mixed Pairs; Dec 16, Tony Kelvin Swiss Teams; Jan 6, Essex Swiss Pairs; Jan 11, National Pairs heat.

## Gloucestershire

[www.gcba.org.uk](http://www.gcba.org.uk)  
THE team of Keith Stanley, Richard Butland, Richard Chamberlain, Paul Denning, Derek Rue and Patrick Shields are through to play in the final of the *NICKO* – good luck to them. Many congratulations also to Paul Denning and Patrick Shields who, having won the *Welsh Trials*, have been selected to play in the Welsh Camrose Team for the first weekend of that competition.

Congratulations to John Atthey who, together with Clive Owen, won the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs*.

A Gloucestershire team played in the *Lederer Trophy* for the first time (as Tolle-mache holders) and finished 5th out of eight.

An all-Gloucestershire team of Tony Hill, Tony Letts, Allan Sanis and Alan Wearmouth won all their matches in the

## Master Point promotions

<b>4 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs K B Richardson Mr N J Richardson	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr T Card	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr R Lewis Mrs J Lewis	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr M Moxley
<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs PAM Barber	<b>1 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs J Nicholl	<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mr S J Burnett	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr E Bourne Mrs J Porter Mrs S Prout
<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs VA Frost	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr L Thacker	<b>1 Star Regional Master</b> Mr C A Hockley	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs SD Dowle
<b>1 Star Master</b> Mrs EH North Mrs R Thomas	<b>28 Star Premier Master</b> Mr AW Fifield	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr E Ahern	<b>Master</b> Dr G R Jones
<b>Advanced Master</b> Mr I J Dalrymple Mrs JM Edwards Mrs J Lucas	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr R Webb	<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs C Mobbs	<b>District Master</b> Mr HM Watson
<b>Master</b> Mr J Child Mr R McLaughlin	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr DB Hicks	<b>17 Star Premier Master</b> Mr EC Paterson Mrs ME Paterson	<b>Club Master</b> Mr D Johnson Mrs J Johnson Mr R Johnstone Mrs E A Lloyd-Nash Ms J Mabe Mr F Stott Mrs EM Walker
<b>County Master</b> Mrs T Ratcliffe Mrs M L Wade	<b>Tournament Master</b> Mr MS Stribling	<b>11 Star Premier Master</b> Mr GE Vincent Mr NW Whiteman	<b>Hertfordshire Grand Master</b> Mr V Gaskell
<b>District Master</b> Mrs J R Clutterbuck	<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs L Butler	<b>6 Star Premier Master</b> Mr PEB Vaile	<b>4 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mr JW Mathews
<b>Club Master</b> Mr APN Cordrey Mr G Langley	<b>4 Star Master</b> Mrs CM Love Mr ME Wood	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr E Clucas Mr A Fry	<b>1 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mr R A Slater
<b>Direct</b>	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr R Waller	<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs M Smith	<b>Premier Regional Master</b> Mr M V Rodney
<b>2 Star Tournament Master</b> Mr M Rowley	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr M Harris Mr DM Tuff	<b>Premier Master</b> Mrs D Syms	<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs P F Lyons
<b>Club Master</b> Ms M Kultalahti	<b>Advanced Master</b> Ms W Logan Mrs J Wallace	<b>2 Star Tournament Master</b> Mr GD Walker	<b>Regional Master</b> Mr J Peers
<b>Dorset</b>	<b>Master</b> Mrs J E Pamplin Mrs B Parker Mrs DA Stones	<b>1 Star Tournament Master</b> Mr B C Barnard Mrs I Gaches	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr G Butt Mrs P Henry
<b>National Master</b> Mr H Kevill-Davies	<b>County Master</b> Mr J Alhadeff Mrs A S Eggesden Mr FL Hall Mr K J Hardaway	<b>Master</b> Mr PI Clemow Mrs AE Tranter	<b>7 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs R I Emanuel
<b>1 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs J Irvine	<b>Tournament Master</b> Mrs J Brown Mr R England	<b>4 Star Master</b> Mrs CM Muir	<b>6 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs K Howland
<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs IM Thomas	<b>District Master</b> Mr J Sullivan	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mr D Chambers Mrs B Matthews Mrs J Richardson	<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mr P M Lewy Miss N M Shachar
<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs LA Wilson	<b>Club Master</b> Mr J Gill	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs M Major Mrs SB Wyne	<b>1 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs L Irvine
<b>1 Star Master</b> Mrs S Cairns Mr T D Macfarlane	<b>Gloucestershire Premier Regional Master</b> Mr J Watson	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs GLT Hunt Mrs M E Lewis	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr R Ashdown Mrs VA Barton
<b>Advanced Master</b> Mr DJ Gill	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr A H Fatemian	<b>Master</b> Mrs A V Dearden Mr I Ralph	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr J Hopkins
<b>Master</b> Mr PS Tripp	<b>5 Star Master</b> Mr F Cawley	<b>County Master</b> Mrs A V Dymond Mrs A M Smart	<b>Master</b> Mrs J I Latham Mrs DE Wilson
<b>County Master</b> Mr J Petran	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mr IA Wilson	<b>District Master</b> Mr V E Webb	<b>County Master</b> Mrs D J Chapman Mr M Rudd Mr J S White
<b>District Master</b> Mr R Chapman Ms S Fazakerley	<b>Master</b> Mrs A M Cartmell	<b>Club Master</b> Mrs M Fleetwood Dr J Williams	<b>District Master</b> Dr CM Edwards Mr C S Fleckney Mr D C Haste Mrs J R Hunter Mr S R Hunter Mrs E H P Pemberton
<b>Club Master</b> Mr A Bishop Mr K Deighton	<b>Hants &amp; I.O.W. Life Master</b> Mr RR Ray	<b>Herefordshire Regional Master</b> Mr B R Paske	<b>Club Master</b> Mrs J Evans Ms R Giovannini
<b>Essex</b>	<b>Premier National Master</b> Mr R Perryman	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr W M Kinsey Dr S Zakrzewski	
<b>National Master</b> Mr R Clarke Mr E Marks	<b>8 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mr B West	<b>National Master</b> Ms J Bellinger Mrs E M Ewins Dr R A Ewins	
<b>6 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs A West	<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Dr J C Williams	<b>Premier Regional Master</b> Mr K S Benjamin	
<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Dr J C Williams	<b>8 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs C McChlery	<b>11 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs CJ Carter	

West of England Teams at Weston, including one against the eventual winners, but came only third after a tight final match.

Recent winners of County events include Mary Jones and Cynthia Moore in the Ladies', and Andrew Kambites and Dan McIntosh in the Men's Pairs; the British Energy Team in the Bredon Vale Cup (Elizabeth and Glen Bourne, George Bisseker, David Simpson); Judy and Allan Sanis, Lesley Harrison, Roger Schofield in the Leslie Everett Trophy. Well done all.

## Hants and IOW

[hantsbridge.org](http://hantsbridge.org)



IT was encouraging to have 5 tables at the first Newcomers competition of the season. I hope they enjoyed the afternoon and will return on Feb 24.

National Results: West of England Congress, Swiss Pairs: 1. Pauline Serby and John Moore. Chris and Richard Ray had a successful Guernsey Congress winning the Multiple Teams, with their Guernsey team-mates, and coming 2nd in the Pivot Teams and Seniors Teams. Chris also came 2nd in the Ladies' Pairs and Richard 3rd in the Men's Pairs, both playing with out of county partners.

County Results: Simmons Flitch: 1. Claire and Martin Bevan; 2. Claire and Ian Fearon; 3. Elaine and Ron Ewins. Simmons Plate: 1. Karen Dewar and Stephen Hurst; 2. Madeline Lawson and Mahmood Nurmohamed; 3. Trish Brook and Clive Ashton. Newcomers Pairs: 1. John and Jean Pettit. Ladies' Pairs: 1. Pauline Serby and Eleanor Rice; 2. Lillian Craigen and Sally Wyne; 3. Sheila Stubbings and Sheila Clifford. Men's Pairs: 1. Mahmood Nurmohamed and John Jones; 2. Jim Sherman and Peter Aubeck; 3. Stephen Cross and Paul Barnes. Roll of Honour Pairs: 1. John Jones and Mahmood Nurmohamed; 2. Sonia Blandy and Sue Hands; 3. Daniel Miller and Colin Jones. Harrop Mixed Teams: 1. Kathy Vaile, John Moore, Pauline Serby, Andrew Bennett; 2. Chris and Richard Ray, Gary Reynolds, Jeremy Baker. 3. Madeline Lawson, Stuart Strachan, John Jones, Mahmood Nurmohamed.

Diary Dates: Dec 2, Bloxham Trophy Open Swiss Teams; Dec 16, Yuletide Mini-Swiss Teams; Jan 6, Lincoln Mixed Pairs. Jan 13, Midwinter Mini-Swiss Teams; Jan 27, Candlestick Open Swiss Pairs (1pm.); Feb. 10, Valentine Mini-Swiss Teams. All the above will be played at Romsey, starting at 2pm, unless otherwise listed. Entries: [Events2@Hantsbridge.org](mailto:Events2@Hantsbridge.org) or Lillian Craigen ☎ 023 8025 4276.

## Herefordshire

[www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk)

THE Avocet Pools Cup, a teams event normally played in Swiss format, attracted ten entries this year; this was an improvement on the previous year but it was not enough to avoid repeat matches, so two had to be repeated. The winners were Sue and Derrick Munday, Sarah Mathews, John Griffiths; 2. Diana and Ken Vowles, Jutta Shadforth and John Crowe; 3. Madeleine and Geoff Harrington, Tony Shadforth and Peter Aston.

The Next Step Pairs for the Woolhope Cup was contested by twenty pairs – again an improvement on last year. Entries

are confined to players with a Master-point ranking of 1\* Master and below: 1. Richard Brown and Andrew Morris; 2. David Furnival and Tess Whittal; 3. Janice Brent and Elizabeth Dinnen.

Following his successful appearances with brother Tom in several England Under-20 teams, Ben Paske has progressed to the England Under-25 squad. Playing with Ed Young in the Junior Camrose Trials, they came 2nd out of 13 pairs and must have a good chance of making the team for this event involving the home countries. Tom Paske, playing with Adam Hickman in the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, was awarded a Junior Prize for finishing 30th out of the 98 entrants.

In the EBU Autumn Sim Pairs, Jutta Shadforth and Nick Duberley, playing at Ross-on-Wye, achieved 4th place out of 1,946 pairs nationally.

Diary Dates: Jan 11, National Pairs Qualifying Heat, Bartestree; Jan 18, Inter-Club Teams League, Round 3, Ledbury; Feb 1, No Fear Teams (only one member of the team may be Advanced Master or above), Bartestree; Feb 10, Swiss Pairs for the Bulmer Rose Bowl, Tarrington; Feb 22, Mixed Pairs, Bartestree.

## Hertfordshire

[www.hertsbridge.co.uk](http://www.hertsbridge.co.uk)

HERTFORDSHIRE players have been doing well in congresses around the country. In the Bedford Congress, held at the delightful Towcester racecourse, in the Pairs Bill Thurl and Tara Harding were the top-placed Hertfordshire pair in 4th place; in the Teams, Dave Dickson, with Beds team-mates, was first, and Francis Eddleston, Tugrul Kaban, Peter Clark with Steve Abley of Beds were 2nd.

In the Hertfordshire One-day Event, Tugrul Kaban and Andrew Lee, together with Suffolk team-mates, were 2nd.

In the Rhodes Congress, Sonia Griffiths and Tim Dean with Middlesex partners won the Swiss Teams; Bobbie and Martin Rodney, with Steve and Julie Abley, were 2nd. Sonia and Tim also came 7th in the Swiss Pairs. Paul and Fiona Littlewood, together with Stan and Tara Harding, were 2nd in the Mixed Pivot Teams, and Stan and Tara 4th in the Mixed Pairs.

Congratulations also to Derek and Celia Oram, with Dee and Peter Linton, who knocked the holders (de Botton) out of the Hubert Phillips in the 3rd round.

Local results: Swiss Pairs: 1. Jeff Green and Bill Thurl; 2. Andrew Doye and Rob Cookson; 3. Mike Aslett and Helen Robinson. Mixed Pairs: Martin and Bobbie Rodney; Flitch: Barbara and Derrick Kime.

Diary Dates: Jan 6, Humble Cup (1st Qualifier); Jan 13, Championship Pairs Semi-final; Jan 25, Cadet Pairs Final (all events held at the Bridge Centre).

## Kent

[www.kcba.org.uk](http://www.kcba.org.uk)



THE Kent Congress took place at the end of October and there were double the entries compared with last year. The friendly atmosphere was complemented by Eddie and Kathy Williams' excellent direction. Championship Pairs (Invicta Cup): 1. Vida Bingham and



Master Point promotions

- Isle Of Man**
- 2 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mr A Elliott
- 3 Star Regional Master**  
Mrs M Murdock
- 1 Star Master**  
Mrs B F Laidlaw
- Kent**
- Premier Life Master**  
Dr N T Charles
- Life Master**  
Mrs C Ingham  
Dr D Ingham
- Premier National Master**  
Mr K A Ashcroft
- 9 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mrs MM Rumbelow
- 1 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mr D Mortlock
- 4 Star Regional Master**  
Mr J Davy
- 2 Star Regional Master**  
Mr P L Morgan
- 1 Star Regional Master**  
Mrs MI Poole
- Regional Master**  
Mrs K Morgan
- 19 Star Premier Master**  
Mr G Lawrence
- 13 Star Premier Master**  
Mr CC Parker
- 7 Star Premier Master**  
Mr B A Richards
- 6 Star Premier Master**  
Mr R H Bird
- 5 Star Premier Master**  
Mr JC Maloney
- 3 Star Premier Master**  
Mr J P Burdett  
Dr E Klopprogge
- 4 Star Tournament Master**  
Mrs C S Shaw  
Mr S Shaw
- 1 Star Tournament Master**  
Mr KW Gravestock  
Mr N M Smith
- 5 Star Master**  
Mr DW Gibson  
Mrs B Marshall
- 4 Star Master**  
Mrs J M Hargraves  
Mrs G D Lowndes  
Mr RJ Maddison-Brown  
Mrs AA Treen
- 3 Star Master**  
Mrs D F Baxter  
Mr D G Lowndes
- 2 Star Master**  
Mrs P A Barker  
Mr J G Cox  
Mrs BJ Evans  
Mrs J Woods
- 1 Star Master**  
Mrs RM Blundy  
Miss J M Kingston  
Mr CP Nielsen  
Mr B T Smith
- Advanced Master**  
Mr M Dubock  
Mrs M Hepburn  
Mr D T Mann  
Mrs EA Rhodes
- County Master**  
Mr D W Fairbairn  
Mr J Goacher  
Mrs AM Mace
- District Master**  
Mrs J Benson  
Mr D Grilli  
Mr O Kinsey  
Ms M T Spence  
Mr T G Weedman
- Club Master**  
Mr H A D Cairns  
Mr M S Collins  
Ms D A Genet  
Mrs B Goodfellow  
Mr P Paranjape  
Mrs JE Robards
- Lancashire**
- Premier Life Master**  
Mr A Woodcock
- 6 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mrs M Taft
- 5 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mr KC Renno
- Premier Regional Master**  
Mr A Dickinson  
Mr A W Wilkinson  
Mr A D B Wilkinson
- 2 Star Premier Master**  
Mrs C Croasdale
- 5 Star Master**  
Mr C Wade
- 1 Star Master**  
Mr A H Haworth
- Advanced Master**  
Mrs T Watson
- District Master**  
Mrs J Clough  
Mr J Elwood  
Mr A P Golland  
Mrs M Henderson  
Mrs SM Monks  
Mr M Tomlinson
- Club Master**  
Mr I Clough  
Mrs L Hitchen  
Mr P L Roberts
- Leicestershire**
- National Master**  
Mr E Jones
- 1 Star Premier Regional Master**  
Mr I Bruce

Nigel Osmer; 2= John Griffiths and Graham Pollack, John Amor and Neil Benn. *Swiss Teams (Lukey Cup)*: 1. Jill Skinner, Jeremy Willans, Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior; 2. S. Burton, A.M.G Thompson, A. Clark, M. Fletcher, Phil Williams. *Ray White Trophy (for Bridge Students)*: 1. Elizabeth Hornsey and Avril Strong; 2. Sara Brophy and Christine Bull.

*Mixed Pairs Championship*: 1. Harry and Mary Tuff; Mark and Barbara Howarth won the *Hunter Cup* (highest-placed married couple).

Colin Wilson and Diana Avis won the *Mixed Pairs* at the *Guernsey Congress*.

Jean Paxton and Diana Avis were in a team that qualified for the semi-finals of the *National Women's Teams* before losing to a team of Scottish Internationals.

We are pleased to announce that the team to represent Kent in the *Tollemache Cup* will be: Gerald Tredinnick (Capt), Stuart Tredinnick, Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Derek Patterson, Pat Collins, Dennis O'Donovan and Peter Law. The pairs selected to represent Kent in the *Sussex Invitation Pairs* for the *Chairman's Cup* on Sunday 11th November will be Denis O'Donovan and Peter Law, Brian Crack and Dean Mortlock.

**Diary Dates:** Jan 6, Men's Pairs (Hunter Homines) and Ladies' Pairs (Fleming Femina), TW; Jan 20, Golf-print Kent Heat TBA; Feb 17, Seniors Pairs (George Griffiths Cup), TW.

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



IN the third round of matches in the *Northern Bridge League*, Lancashire A finished 5th out of five counties, Lancashire B 6th out of six and Lancashire C 5th out of seven. In the fourth round, Lancs A came 3rd out of four counties, Lancs B 3rd out of six and Lancs C 3rd out of seven. In the overall tables, Lancashire A ended 4th out of six counties, Lancashire B 5th out of seven and Lancashire C 2nd out of seven.

*Bolton Congress winners: Men's Pairs:* Andrew and Nick Woodcock; *Ladies' Pairs:* Catherine Draper and Sue Woodcock; *Main Pairs:* Nick and Sue Woodcock; *Main Teams:* Paul and Hilda Williams, Mike Nicholson, Steve Haley. *Pendle Witch Pairs: Experts:* Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield; *Middle Experts:* Robin Atkinson and Pauline Holden; *Non-experts:* George Thornton and David Caygill. *LCBA Mixed Pairs:* Andrew Woodcock and Catherine Draper.

*Blackburn Foundation Cup:* 1. Hettie Sutton, Glenn Oliver, Julia Newall and Ewart Evans.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Lytham Rose Bowl Final, Lytham; Dec 7-9, Gold Cup Congress, Peebles; Dec 16, Santa Claus Pairs, Manchester; Dec 28-30, Year End Congress, Blackpool; Jan 5-6, Manchester Congress, Manchester; Jan 12, LCBA Butler Pairs, Brierfield BC; Jan 27, Lancashire Evening Post Pairs, Preston.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk

FIRST, well done Nick Steven's *Gold Cup* team (Nick, Paul Bowyer, Jim Mason, Ben Green, Duncan Happer and Dick Pathan)

who have reached the quarter-finals for the second time in three years.

In the *Midland Counties League*, our teams recorded 3-17, 0-20 and 6-14 and then 16-4, 10-10 and 18-2 against Gloucester and Worcester respectively, leaving first and third teams well placed in their divisions.

Leics clubs fared badly in the upper divisions of the annual *Three Counties* competition, but County B and Westcotes took the first two places in the third.

Fourth-placed Loughborough club based Geoff Shaw, Jon Worters, Antony Edwards with an out-county guest were the leading local team in the *Green Point Swiss Teams* at Spondon; Katie Bruce and Win Stocker the leading pair.

Within the county, Christina Brewster and Chris Heames won the *Otto and Edith Bowl* for mixed pairs; newly-wed Katie and Ian Bruce, 2nd, and Kathy and Hongji Yang, 5th, qualified to represent the county in the 2008 *Midland Fitch*.

Grantham A1 (Jim Steele, Graham Smith, Charu and Sobhag Shah) defeated Clarendon 1 in the final of the *Summer Knock-out Cup*; County E (Ian Walkerdine, Cynthia James, David Betterley and Tony Wood) beat County B in the *Plate*.

*Stanley Trophy* results: *Heat 1:* 1. Alan Lord and John Thompson, 2. Kathy and Hongji Yang; *Heat 2:* N/S Ian Bruce and Mick Mahoney, E/W= Mary and George Brown, Hugh Cairns and Steve Francis.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 9, Midland League County Match v Oxfordshire, LGS; Dec 12, Josephs Bowl round three, County BC; Jan 13, Midland League County Match v Derbyshire, Spondon; Jan 16, Stanley Trophy Heat 4, LGS; Jan 30, Josephs Bowl Quarter-finals, tba; Feb 4, LCBA National Pairs heat, LGS.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



THE AGM held on 2nd September saw Michael Grant re-elected as Chairman for his third and final year. Vice-chairman:

Glynn Elwick; Competition secretary: Stuart Knox; new treasurer: Mike Llewellyn; new secretary: Drene Brown.

Top scorers: *AGM pairs:* Vic and Mike Llewellyn. *Closed trials:* Andy King and Ron Wall. *Mixed/Married pairs:* 1. Mike and Christine Grant, 2. Dennis Mellor and Carole Rushford; *Dean Trophy (Married Pairs):* Drene and Alan Brown. *Restricted/Nat Pairs qualifier: Restricted Pairs* saw a disappointing entry of only three and a half tables, the winners were Phillip Harland and James Rowe. Four pairs qualified for the *National Pairs semi-final*; the winners were Sue York and David Stoddard.

Well done to Christine and Mike Grant finished third at the *Derbyshire Green-pointed Swiss Pairs* on October 6.

Would members please note that the Green-pointed Swiss Teams advertised at Spalding in June 2008 has been cancelled.

**Diary Dates,** all at Dunholme: Jan 6, Bainton semi-final; Jan 27, Bainton Final; Feb 10, Random Seeded Teams - pre-entry is essential. Pairs one way are drawn to play with an experienced pair; Mar 2, Garden Cities heat.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Tom Townsend, David Gold and Gunnar Hallberg for finishing second after the first two week-ends of the *English trials* and to Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski for finishing fourth. Both teams will go forward to the final knock-out stages to select the English team for the 2008 European Championships.

Well done to Anne Catchpole who won the *Mixed Pivot Teams* in Brighton (with apologies for the omission last time), and, from the *Guernsey Congress*, to Jan Svendsen who won the *Swiss Teams*, and Mike Fletcher who won the *Pivot Teams*. In the *Surrey September One-day Event*, Geoffrey Lederman was 2nd equal in the *Swiss Pairs*.

This year's *Lederer Memorial Trophy* was a big success (see page 25) and was won by the Schapiro Spring Foursomes Winners (Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, David Price, Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, Andrew McIntosh) who edged ahead of Ireland (Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Tommy Garvey, David Bakshshi) in the last match where they met head to head.

County results: *Mixed Pairs Championship:* 1. Simon Cochemé and Susanna Gross; 2. Anne Catchpole and Colin Hepworth. *Champions Cup:* 1. London League (Ian Swanson, Ken Ford, Ivor Miller, Catherine Seale); 2. Middlesex League (Harvey Bengen, Kevin Elstow, Richard Palmer, Richard Davey).

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Daily Telegraph Cup, invitational inter-County Teams of four, YCBC - contact Chris Duckworth at [chris.duckworth@lineone.net](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net) or ☎ 020 7385 3534; Jan 13, Ian Gardiner Trophy, London Teams of Four Championship, YCBC - contact Sati McKenzie ☎ 020 7627 0977 or at [s.mckenzie@gre.ac.uk](mailto:s.mckenzie@gre.ac.uk); Feb 3, London Championship Pairs, YCBC - contact Nigel Freake ☎ 020 8801 2884; Feb 24, Palmer Bayer Trophy, simple system pairs, YCBC - contact Chris Duckworth as above.

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



WELL done Barbara Hackett who won a silver medal playing for the German Ladies in the *World Championships* recently held in Shanghai. The German team lost in the final to a very strong USA team. Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield provided Manchester's main interest in the *Shanghai Championships* (report: page 9): representing England, they qualified last year by winning bronze in the European Women's event. This was their 17th joint appearance representing England or Great Britain.

Jeff Morris and Alan Nelson were re-elected to the EBU Board at the AGM in October.

Alex Morris and Mike Bell were convincing winners of the Under-25 *Trials* over the weekend of 13-14 October when they finished 30 IMPs clear of the field. They have been selected for the *Channel Trophy* team

# Master Point promotions

- |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>15 Star Premier Master</b><br>Mrs J Grant<br>Mrs K Lindley                                                                               | <b>Manchester 4 Star Premier Regional Master</b><br>Mr S Bielecki  |
| <b>8 Star Premier Master</b><br>Mr M R Deakin                                                                                               | <b>Premier Regional Master</b><br>Mr M Taylor                      |
| <b>Premier Master</b><br>Mr A Edwards<br>Mr S G Pope                                                                                        | <b>2 Star Regional Master</b><br>Mrs G McMullan                    |
| <b>4 Star Master</b><br>Mrs RM Ronan                                                                                                        | <b>1 Star Premier Master</b><br>Mr J Fitzgerald<br>Mrs J M Roberts |
| <b>3 Star Master</b><br>Mr L W Danvers                                                                                                      | <b>Premier Master</b><br>Mr K B Hassell                            |
| <b>Master</b><br>Dr P Dunham                                                                                                                | <b>4 Star Master</b><br>Mr AM Stoll                                |
| <b>County Master</b><br>Mr D C Betterley                                                                                                    | <b>1 Star Master</b><br>Mr D J Fitzpatrick<br>Mrs B Haworth        |
| <b>Club Master</b><br>Ms E Alliston<br>Mr P Anning<br>Mr G Poole                                                                            | <b>Advanced Master</b><br>Mr AJ Coley<br>Mrs L Hobbs               |
| <b>Lincolnshire 8 Star Regional Master</b><br>Mr A Andrews                                                                                  | <b>Master</b><br>Mr R Booth                                        |
| <b>3 Star Tournament Master</b><br>Mr AJ Davies                                                                                             | <b>County Master</b><br>Mrs B M Montrose                           |
| <b>2 Star Master</b><br>Mr ADC<br>Underwood                                                                                                 | <b>District Master</b><br>Mr C Porteus<br>Mrs T Porteus            |
| <b>1 Star Master</b><br>Mr P D Ison                                                                                                         | <b>Merseyside/Cheshire 1 Star Regional Master</b><br>Ms M Howe     |
| <b>District Master</b><br>Mr D E Glozier                                                                                                    | <b>2 Star Premier Master</b><br>Mr R Roberts                       |
| <b>Club Master</b><br>Mr B Atkin<br>Mr E McGeough<br>Miss M Williams                                                                        | <b>1 Star Premier Master</b><br>Mrs B P Richards                   |
| <b>London Life Master</b><br>Mr B McGuire<br>Dr AE Scheps                                                                                   | <b>3 Star Master</b><br>Mr J S Kellett                             |
| <b>Premier National Master</b><br>Mr D A Gold                                                                                               | <b>2 Star Master</b><br>Mr E F O'Keeffe                            |
| <b>National Master</b><br>Mr K Barnett<br>Mr A Hydes                                                                                        | <b>1 Star Master</b><br>Dr P M Wright                              |
| <b>Premier Master</b><br>Ms B C Gilbert<br>Mr G Hart<br>Mr D J Herman                                                                       | <b>Advanced Master</b><br>Mr MS Brotherton<br>Mr S Corcoran        |
| <b>1 Star Master</b><br>Mr P Bohan                                                                                                          | <b>Master</b><br>Mrs D Smith                                       |
| <b>Advanced Master</b><br>Ms C Howard                                                                                                       | <b>County Master</b><br>Mrs JA Chapman<br>Dr C Simpson             |
| <b>Master</b><br>Mr D Bennett                                                                                                               | <b>District Master</b><br>Mr J Fay                                 |
| <b>County Master</b><br>Mrs E Bristow<br>Mr M L Gold<br>Mr JRJ Golding                                                                      | <b>Club Master</b><br>Mr R Halford<br>Mrs G M Knight               |
| <b>District Master</b><br>Mr T Chapman<br>Mr N Irens                                                                                        | <b>Middlesex Life Master</b><br>Mr N Harcus<br>Mr D O Jones        |
| <b>Club Master</b><br>Dr K Barclay<br>Mr C Bonser<br>Mr P G Chapman<br>Mr W Coley<br>Mr J Frost<br>Mrs C Sidney-<br>Woollett<br>Mr P Willis | <b>Premier National Master</b><br>Mr H Wayne                       |
|                                                                                                                                             | <b>6 Star Premier Regional Master</b><br>Mrs E G Jones             |
|                                                                                                                                             | <b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b><br>Mr IM Isaacs              |

representing England at Under-25 level. Also selected are Jennie Marvin and Elizabeth Roberts who will play in the Under-25 Girls team. Adam Hickman and new partner Tom Paske are selected for the Under 20 team. Michael Byrne is non-playing captain.

In the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs*, Manchester had a good showing: Michael Byrne and Andrew Woodcock were 2nd, Mike Bell and Dave Collier 3rd, out of 100 pairs.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Ben Franks Trophy; Dec 16, Santa Claus Pairs; Jan 5-6, Manchester Congress; Jan 24, National Pairs; Jan 31, Golfprint Qualifier. Note that the Junior Camrose Trophy will be held in Manchester at Chancellors Conference Centre, Manchester University on 15-17 Feb 2008.

## Merseyside/Cheshire

**www.mcba.org.uk**  
DAVE Keen, Jean Keen, Matt Foster and Tim Prior defeated Patrick Jourdain's team of experienced international players by 27 IMPs to win the *Crockfords Plate*. Four players from Deva BC finished first in the *North Wales Green-pointed Swiss Pairs*: John Hampson and Paul Roberts, and Peter and Jean Hand, finished on exactly the same number of VPs after managing to avoid playing each other during the event. Well done all.

Members of Deva Bridge Club were shocked by the sudden death of Frank Dean. Frank had been a stalwart of the club and one of its founding members. In his younger days he had been a keen sportsman and represented Cheshire at tennis. During his bridge career he had won all of the club's major events and represented the County on many occasions. He was a real gentleman at the table and will be greatly missed.

The opening event of the *Merseyside League* season was the two-session *Swiss Teams*, which was won by Dusty Millers.

**NOTE: the Eric Howarth Trophy has been moved to March 9.** This is an Open Swiss teams event at a pleasant venue plus green points and only £40.00 per team! The number of entries is limited, so contact ASAP the event organiser Nigel Worthington - [nigel@tilstonefernall.com](mailto:nigel@tilstonefernall.com) - to avoid disappointment.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Waterworth Cup (County Open Pairs); Dec 9, Merseyside Cup (Open Swiss teams); Jan 4, Executive & Council meeting; Jan 7-9, BGB Sim Pairs - clubs; Jan 19-20, Chester Congress; Feb 3, County Trials; Feb 17, Jean Keen Trophy (County Women's Teams); Feb 24, Merseyside & Deeside Cup (County Pivot Teams); Mar 9, Eric Howarth Trophy, Mar 13, Charity Challenge.

## Middlesex

**www.middlesexbridge.co.uk**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Glyn Liggins, Neil Rosen and Martin Jones for winning the first stage of the *Open Trials*. They have earned the right to represent England in the upcoming Home International series. Well done also to Rosen and Jones and Andrew McIntosh for winning the *Lederer Memorial Trophy*.

Congratulations to Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith for winning the *National Women's Teams* and their performance in the *Venice Cup* in Shanghai. The team was knocked in the quarter-finals by China. After the Venice Cup ended, the Women's NPC, Martin Jones, reached the quarter-finals of the *Transnational Teams*.

In Surrey, Ian Pagan and Geoffrey Lederman finished second in the *Swiss Pairs* and Richard Johnson finished third in the *Swiss Teams*.

At the *Rhodes Congress*, Elizabeth Barnard and Pauline Cohen finished third in the *Ladies Pairs*. Heather and Jeremy Dhondy placed second in the *Bedford Swiss Teams*, and Ian Pagan and Catherine Seale were third in the *Championship Pairs*.

In County events, Brenda and Geoff Foley won the *Seniors Pairs*; Kirti Wadhwa and Kiran Patel won the *Newcomers Pairs*.

Many thanks to Jeremy Dhondy for our new county website. There are a few areas still under construction. However, you will find a more informative and attractive website. The new address is [www.middlesexbridge.co.uk/](http://www.middlesexbridge.co.uk/).

**Diary Dates:** Jan 20, Ranked Master Pairs, Oshwal Bridge Club. There are a multitude of qualifying heats scheduled for the National Pairs, the Middlesex Mixed Pairs, and the Middlesex Championship Pairs. An extensive competitions calendar may be found on the new County website.

Do report points of interest for this column to [hsbakhshi@aol.com](mailto:hsbakhshi@aol.com).

## Norfolk

**www.norfolkbridge.co.uk**



THE County Summer programme was well supported in contrast to the fall in attendance at most clubs - a regular seasonal happening. The county season closed with the *YMCA Trophy*; congratulations to the winners, father and son Gabriel and Giles Ip.

The autumn programme is now in full swing. Trophy winners to date are: *Robertson Cup (Handicap Pairs)*, Suzanne Gill and Graham Grist. *Houston Cup (Swiss Teams)*, Suzanne Gill, Graham Grist, David Taylor and Tom Melvin. *Allwood-Wharton Trophy (Inter-club teams of eight)*, Kings Head Bridge Club: Mark Hill, Mike Dignen, Mike Walsh, Steve Dannell, Paul Darby, Eaman Bloomfield, Mervyn Scutter and Harry Fox. The KHBC qualify for the regional finals of the *Garden Cities Trophy*.

**Diary Dates:** Nov 11, Buxton Trophy (restricted pairs), Bawburgh; Nov 18, Orb Paquet pairs at Roundwood; Dec 2, Barclay's Bank Trophy final at Roundwood. And it's time you were thinking about your team for the Beccles Swiss Teams event on Jan 20, 2008.

## North East

**www.neba.co.uk**



IAN Rankin and Peter Prince won the *Swiss Pairs* held at the splendid St George's bridge centre in Darlington on 24th September. (If you are

visiting the North East, you will always be welcome at St George's, or indeed at any of our friendly clubs throughout the region!) The following week saw the action moving to Newcastle for their *Swiss Teams* event, which was won by the ladies' team of Jocelyn Gordon, Pam Niven, Kathleen Adair and Sheila Houghton. Castle Morpeth hosted the well-attended *Newcomers' Teams of Four* in early October when Sheena and Ian Hudson teamed up with Peter Marshall and Trevor Stone to emerge triumphant.

Further afield, Clive Owen, playing with John Atthey (Glos) won the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs* the week before. John partnered Chris Owen in the *Junior Camrose Trials*, coming 5th. Congratulations to all our winners.

Malcolm Oliver was elected to the EBU board at the AGM in early October, and Clive Owen was appointed to the chair of the EBU Youth Committee, and became the Northeast's first Premier Grand Master the same month. We wish them both well in their posts at this critical time for the future of the EBU.

Do visit our revamped website at [www.neba.co.uk](http://www.neba.co.uk), where webmaster Neil Aiston has been very busy updating the information.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 16, Deane Salver, Whitley Bay; Dec 30, St Georges Congress, Darlington; Jan 6, King Cup, St Georges, Darlington; Jan 20, Gazette Cup & Shield, Stannington; Feb 2, Chronicle Cup final, Stannington.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FLORENCE!

STILL playing bridge at 100, Mrs Florence Hawkins celebrated her 100th birthday at a special afternoon of bridge at Newbury Bridge Club, of which she has been a member for many years. Florence was joined by fifty-one other members for a rubber bridge competition during which everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of a special celebration cake. Florence very proudly showed everyone her birthday card from the Queen.

The combined age of four people playing that day was 377 - also quite an achievement.  
*Ann McMahon (Chair of Newbury Bridge Club)*



Photo: David Maddocks

## Master Point promotions

<b>1 Star Premier Regional Master</b>	<b>Advanced Master</b>
Mr J Febland	Mrs M Johns
Mrs F Liew	Mrs J Mayhew
<b>5 Star Premier Master</b>	<b>Master</b>
Mrs V Clarke	Mr D Appleby
Ms M Page	Mrs PJ Cottam
Mr AS Perelman	Mr I Harvey
<b>Premier Master</b>	<b>County Master</b>
Ms E E Barnard	Mr P Bowman
Mr D Mail	Mr G Ip
<b>9 Star Tournament Master</b>	<b>District Master</b>
Mrs S J Barnes	Mr R J Cox
<b>Tournament Master</b>	Mr G Grist
Mr PJ Hiron	<b>Club Master</b>
<b>4 Star Master</b>	Mr J Tilbrook
Mr PJ Harwood	<b>North East Grand Master</b>
<b>2 Star Master</b>	Mrs P Barton
Mr M Gentry	<b>National Master</b>
Ms E Kalina	Mrs SE Davies
Mrs D Natrass	Mrs J North
<b>Advanced Master</b>	Mr B Swalwell
Mrs B A Marks	<b>8 Star Premier Regional Master</b>
Mr D V Mithani	Mrs K Armstrong
<b>Master</b>	<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b>
Mr T Ridgwell	Miss S Caygill
Mrs V Sand	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b>
Mrs M Shah	Mrs J Springett
<b>County Master</b>	Mrs E I Twamley
Mr G Audunsson	<b>19 Star Premier Master</b>
Mrs S E Holman	Mr B Shepherd
Mr L Kendall	<b>10 Star Premier Master</b>
<b>District Master</b>	Mr S Khadaroo
Mrs A R Haria	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b>
Mr R Haria	Mrs J Finney
Mrs R Lister	<b>6 Star Premier Master</b>
Mr S L. Mehta	Mrs D Chapman
Mr B Shah	Mr P M Hands
Mr DU Shah	<b>2 Star Premier Master</b>
Mrs M Shah	Mr R K Nayar
Mr R Shah	<b>5 Star Master</b>
Mrs R Shah	Mr D Barker
<b>Club Master</b>	<b>2 Star Master</b>
Mrs KN Harries	Mrs M Whiting
Mr S Parekh	<b>1 Star Master</b>
Mr N Shah	Mrs B A Godfrey
Mr A Sheth	Mr P G Marshall
Mrs G Sheth	Mr C R Ramachandra
Dr S R Vora	Mrs P Robinson
Mrs U Vora	Mrs J Rumney
V Wadhar	<b>Advanced Master</b>
<b>Norfolk</b>	Mr B Lumsden
<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b>	<b>Master</b>
Mrs B M Hacker	Mrs GE Howells
<b>8 Star Regional Master</b>	Mrs A Wake
Mrs C Buchanan	<b>County Master</b>
<b>4 Star Regional Master</b>	Mr J De Martino
Mr J M Massey	Mrs P De Martino
<b>5 Star Premier Master</b>	Mrs M Lockett
Mrs S Birchall	Mr R Zigmund
<b>4 Star Premier Master</b>	<b>District Master</b>
Ms J Anderson	Mr L Marsden
<b>5 Star Master</b>	<b>Club Master</b>
Mrs B Starkings	Miss C Dutton
Mr P Sutton	Ms G A Keating
<b>4 Star Master</b>	Ms M Pugh
Mr P Gaskin	Mr C Smith
<b>3 Star Master</b>	Mr M Symons
Mr M Pooley	<b>Northants National Master</b>
Mrs M Redding	Mr I M Clarke

## Northamptonshire

[www.northantsbridge.info/](http://www.northantsbridge.info/)

AFTER two of the six evenings of the winter league, Peter Fountain's team is leading the north-eastern half of the competition, and Maggie Jones's team heads the south-western half.

*Interclub Leagues: Div. 1:* 1. Northampton A, 2. Stamford A; *Div. 2:* 1. Kettering C, 2. Orton; *Div. 3:* 1. Northampton C, 2. Towcester B.

In the *Broke Cup*, last year's champions were beaten in the first round by Bill Chadwick's team. Peter Fountain's and Mark Tilley's team have also progressed to the second round.

In the county match against Suffolk, the A team won 14-6, the B team lost 13-7 and the C team won 14-6. In the county match against Cambridge University, the A team won 12-8, the B team won 20-0 and the C team won 20-0. After four county matches, the A team have 46 VPs out of a possible 80, the B team 62 and the C team 53.

*West of England Congress:* well done to Christine White and Ian Clarke who won the *Main Pairs*, and Ian Clarke and Trevor King who won the *Men's Pairs*.

*Results: September Winter League N/E:* 1. Berry and Graham Hedley, Ben and Joan Gibson; 2. Peter Fountain, Jo Skilern, Liz and Ian Coltman. *September Winter League S/W:* 1. Maggie Jones, Brian Davies, Shirley Dutton, James Dutton; 2. Andy Robinson, Rob Bates, John Larkin, Jim Bainbridges. *October Winter League N/E:* 1. Peter Fountain, Jo Skilern, Liz and Ian Coltman; 2. Marcus Witt, Trevor Thrower, Mike Gore Browne, Bill Chadwick. *October Winter League S/W:* 1. Mike Wiggins, Len Shulman, Ross Stacey, John Josephs; 2. Kevin Fogarty, Margaret Bryant, Richard Gibson, Ian James.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Porch Trophy, Kettering; Dec 8, Winter League N/E 2, Kettering; Dec 12, Winter League S/W 2, Northampton; Jan 12, Winter League N/E 3, Kettering; Jan 16, Winter League S/W 3, Northampton.

## Nottinghamshire

[www.nottsbridge.org.uk](http://www.nottsbridge.org.uk)

IN the county match vs Staffordshire, the 1st team won 18-2, but the 2nd and 3rd teams lost 0-20 and 3-17. Vs Lincolnshire, the 1st team won 13-7, while the 2nd and 3rd teams lost 1-19 and 4-16. In the *Midlands Mixed Championship*, David & Joan Burgess won the Fitch Trophy.

Summer results: *Black Cup (Mixed Pairs):* 1. Pat Mantle and William Crook; 2. John and Irene Auld. *Farr Cup (Similar Pairs):* 1. John Auld and Clive Kaye; 2. Lloyd Eagling and Keith Rodgers. *NCBA Swiss Pairs Championship:* 1. Gordon Fullerton and Robert Northage; 2. Lloyd Eagling and Keith Rodgers. *NCBA Anniversary Teams:* 1. Irene and John Auld, Tony Marshall, Brian Chamberlain; 2. Geoff Caldwell, Margaret Fox, Lee Sargent, Wendy Walker.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, NCBA Swiss Teams Championship; Jan 9, NCBA Mixed Pairs Championship; Jan 27, NCBA KO Teams Heat. Enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 923 2186.

On Wednesdays the President's Cup

continues on December 5th, alternating with Butler Pairs events, but with the schedule interrupted by the Christmas Party on December 12th, the Individual Championship on January 2nd, the BGB Simultaneous Pairs on January 9th and the National Pairs Heat on January 23rd. Events are normally scored by Bridgemate; the results appear on the website.

## Oxfordshire

[www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk)



ANDREW Robson returns to Oxford! It's true: the Oxfordshire Bridge Association is hosting this event on Thursday evening 24 April 2008 at Oxford BC,

147 Banbury Road, Oxford. As last year, Andrew's seminar will be targeting less experienced through to average club players. As places are limited, please contact Brenda Harris (☎ 01865 511136) ASAP to ensure your booking.

Oxfordshire is delighted to announce that Stuart McPhee has attained the distinguished rank of Grand Master.

Congratulations to Nick Smith, Alan Wilson, Richard Lonsdale and Stuart McPhee, winners of the *President's Cup*, and to Kathy Talbot, Denis Talbot, Rob Procter, Nick Smith and Chris Cooper, winners of the *Chester Cup*.

Our *Green-pointed Swiss Teams* drew a large entry and was won by a local team comprising David Flower, Tim Dickinson, Nick Perceval-Price and Michael Goldsmith.

Oxfordshire players (Stuart McPhee, Tim Pike and Alan Wilson partnering Jim Gobert) also stole the honours at *Hertfordshire*, winning their *Green-pointed Swiss Teams* event.

Oxford University A team (Greg Moss, Ian Angus, James Rogers, Alice Kaye, Alex Webb) won the *Portland Bowl* and then represented Great Britain at the European Universities Bridge Championship.

In addition to being displayed on its website, Oxfordshire's recently introduced county newsletter will be dispatched to all its members. Please send your news and views to the editor: Malcolm Simpson, 7 Kennet Court, Wokingham, RG41 3DB ([Malcolm648@btinternet.com](mailto:Malcolm648@btinternet.com) - ☎ 01189 772191).

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Swiss Pairs, Oxford BC; Dec 9, Dawes league v Leicestershire (away); Jan 6, Haddenham Swiss Teams; Jan 13, Dawes league v Warwickshire (away); Jan 20, Harwell Cup (also qualifier for Beck Cup) Oxford BC; Jan 27, Golfprint Oxon heat Oxford BC; Jan 29, Pro-Am Oxford BC.

## Somerset

[www.somersetbridge.org.uk](http://www.somersetbridge.org.uk)



ONCE again we are most grateful to all our supporters from across the country who ensured that our annual Congress proved to be another great success.

Saturday's *Green Pointed Swiss Teams* attracted over 70 tables and *Sunday's Swiss Teams* was once again a 'sell-out' with 81 teams taking part. The winners were: *Ladies' Pairs:* Marjorie Dilworth and Janet Jones; *Men's Pairs:* Trevor King and Ian Clarke; *Championship Pairs:*

Christine White and Ian Clarke. *Restricted Pairs:* Lesley Irving and Marion Loudoun; *Swiss Pairs:* Pauline Servy from Newbury with John Moore from Dibden Purlieu. The team of Andrew Thompson with Rob Lawy, Stefan Lindfors and Jim Grant from Norfolk, Somerset and Devon, retained the trophy for winning the *Swiss Teams* for the second year running.

Our 2008 Congress will again be staged at Weston-super-Mare from 3-5 October and we very much look forward to seeing everyone then.

After a difficult start to the *Weston League* against East Wales where we lost all three matches, the match against Hereford became very important. Well done to the A and C Teams who won 19-1 and 15-5. The B Team came up against a very consistent team and lost 16-4.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 9, Ladies and Men's Pairs, West Camel; Jan 5, Swiss Pairs, Nailsea; Jan 26, Club Teams of Eight, Cotford St Luke.

## Staffs and Shrops

[www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs/](http://www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs/)

BARBARA Hackett won the silver medal in the Venice Cup, the ladies' world teams championship, in Shanghai. She represented Germany and her tally of medals is one gold, two silver and two bronze, a fantastic achievement.

Wolverhampton BC celebrated their first anniversary in their new premises at Shaw Road with the *Anniversary Pairs:* 1. Annette Lucas and Mike Cornes, 2. David Moir and Roger Keane.

In the *English Trials* Jason and Justin Hackett in the de Botton team and Paul Hackett in the Armstrong team qualified for the knock-out stages. Paul won the *Bedford Pairs* and the *Pebbles October Pairs*. In the transnationals in Shanghai Paul and Justin were beaten by the Zimmerman team, the eventual winners.

*Inter-club Sim Pairs:* 1. Barry Goldsmith and Bill Clouchough, 2. Janet and David Drinkwater, 3. Ray Stubbs and Marion Jordan.

We wish Jason and Justin luck in the *Champions Cup* where they will be representing England in Warsaw.

## Suffolk

[www.suffolkbridge.co.uk](http://www.suffolkbridge.co.uk)



THE new two-day *Felixstowe Congress* was well received, attracting some new faces but several regulars, including a number of Suffolk members, were missing this year. The weekend was enjoyed by all those who participated.

*Championship Pairs:* 1. Nicolle Cooke and Ian Draper; 2. Ralph Parish and Tony Shearman; 3. David Cooper and Neil Bresler. The *Markwell Trophy* went to Mike Malin and Eric Newman, and the *Coastal County Shield* to Barry Davies and Din Gudka. *Swiss Teams:* 1. Andrew and Jane Moore with partners David and Jenny Price; 2. Paula Leslie, Ed Lockhart, Gareth Birdsall and Sonia Zakrzewski; 3. Robert Green, Colin Bamberger, Jeff Orton and Graham Beeton. *Ipswich & Kesgrave Swiss Pairs:* 1. Peters Gemmell and Sutcliffe.

The *Suffolk Ladies' Pairs* was won by

## Master Point promotions

<b>5 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs M Jones	<b>County Master</b> Mrs A Adams Mrs A Potter	<b>Club Master</b> Ms M S Derbyshire Mr G Kershaw	Mr G Gardiner
<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs C White	Mr P Sherry Mrs K J Taylor	Mrs J Kershaw Mr P Laughlin Mrs C H Lees	<b>4 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs J Brick Mrs MF Gayner
<b>4 Star Regional Master</b> Mr M Keogh	<b>District Master</b> Mrs B Barnes Mr J G Davis Mr M Stevens	Mr P Lees Mr J Pugh	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr R A Collins
<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs C M Luck Mr E Luck	<b>Club Master</b> Mrs CR Gamet Mrs C M Gray Mr J L G May N Whiting	<b>Suffolk Premier National Master</b> Mr J R Green	<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs J Kennedy
<b>5 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs R Stewart	<b>Somerset Premier Life Master</b> Ms A D Patrick	<b>9 Star Regional Master</b> Mr L N Less	<b>21 Star Premier Master</b> Mr AR Grove Mr RW Guille
<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mr E Don	<b>Premier National Master</b> Mr SJ Upton	<b>5 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs A Wilmer	<b>19 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs BM Bueno
<b>Premier Master</b> Mr K M Tilley	<b>National Master</b> Mr R W Day Mr R J Walder	<b>13 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs E C Bryant	<b>17 Star Premier Master</b> Mr SR Deshmukh
<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs A Wise	<b>11 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs V Dunn	<b>12 Star Premier Master</b> Mr M L Spencer	<b>10 Star Premier Master</b> Mr J Neal Mr E D Nock
<b>Club Master</b> Mr R Griffiths Mr A Manners	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr J M Perry Mrs S Stuttard	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr M J Del-Bo Mr ME Stredwick	<b>7 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs S M Simpson
<b>Notts</b>	<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mr C J Simcox	<b>7 Star Premier Master</b> Mr T D Shearman	<b>6 Star Premier Master</b> Mr JF Flower
<b>4 Star Master</b> Mrs M E Fox	<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs L McEwen Mr P McEwen	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs DB Radley	<b>4 Star Premier Master</b> Mr D J Dick Mrs C A Morgan Mr D J Pym
<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs B Hatfield	<b>9 Star Premier Master</b> Mr F E Coltman	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mrs A B Parker	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Miss J E Spence Ms I Walsh
<b>Master</b> Mr N Clarke	<b>5 Star Premier Master</b> Miss J E Pooley	<b>District Master</b> Mrs B Ditchburn	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Miss M A Frame
<b>County Master</b> Mr DJ Wilkins	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr R E Feetenby	<b>Club Master</b> Mr R Barton Mrs S Barton Mr A Gray Miss S Gray Mrs J Price Mr B Talaga	<b>1 Star Premier Master</b> Mr R C P Smith
<b>Club Master</b> Mrs E Joyner Mr R Joyner	<b>4 Star Master</b> Mr M V Smith	<b>Surrey Life Master</b> Ms A Bahal Mr R K Fellows Dr H Keith Lady M H Moir	<b>1 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs I M Tate
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr RHB Beach	<b>Premier National Master</b> Mrs J Brough Mrs J Cook Mrs WEH McCormick	<b>Tournament Master</b> Mrs KG Chapman Mr J Riley
<b>Premier Life Master</b> Mr CN Smith	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs R Z Dascombe	<b>National Master</b> Mr M Lunn Mrs J Outred Dr W L Price Mr P Whitehurst	<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs IP Jordan Mrs BF Mullins
<b>National Master</b> Mr C J Wilson	<b>Master</b> Mr S Burgoyne	<b>District Master</b> Mrs T Hopkins	<b>4 Star Master</b> Mr D Page
<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs A Nicolson	<b>County Master</b> Mr B Crosby Mr N V Wisbach	<b>Club Master</b> Mrs J Begg	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs K Colton Mrs G Gilliam Mrs A K Hughes Mr KE King Mr A Rainbow Mrs W Schlaeppli
<b>1 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs I Merriman	<b>Staffs &amp; Shropshire Grand Master</b> Mr I J Pendlebury	<b>11 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs J K Retter	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr M Griffin Mr IR Lucas Mrs W McKinney Mr J Xuereb
<b>Regional Master</b> Prof N Stephens	<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr J R Hartley	<b>4 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs E Currie	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mrs I Greene Mr S Pratt Mrs V R Price
<b>15 Star Premier Master</b> Mr J Clifford	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs P Everard	<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs P J Gowers	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs J M Bateman Mrs J M Davies Mr P L Hainsworth Mrs GS Learoyd Mr A Moon Mrs J R Robson
<b>7 Star Premier Master</b> Mr W McCarthy	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs E M Crump Mrs I Woods	<b>2 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mr M Lee	<b>Master</b> Mrs R Brough
<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs M Henry	<b>Master</b> Mrs L Morton Mr B Murtagh Mr R Sills Mr R Watts	<b>6 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs GF Fernall	

Barbara Barker and Glynne Whitehead; Alan Green and Roger Tattersfield won the Men's Pairs.

The *Suffolk Club Teams of Eight* for the *Abbeygate Trophy* was won by Ipswich & Kesgrave, with Felixstowe in 2nd place, closely followed by Colchester. Ipswich & Kesgrave will be eligible to represent Suffolk in the Regional Final of the *Garden Cities Trophy*.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Suffolk Teams Championship, Stoke by Nayland; Jan 20, Mid-Anglia Pairs, Stoke by Nayland; Jan 24, National Pairs Qualifying Heat, Ipswich & Kesgrave club – this heat was cancelled last year due to lack of support so please put it in your diaries.

More information on Suffolk competitions from the Competitions Secretary Rick Waters (e-mail [rickwtrs@talktalk.net](mailto:rickwtrs@talktalk.net) or ☎ 01379 870291).

### Surrey

[www.surreycountybridge.org.uk](http://www.surreycountybridge.org.uk)

THE County season has not yet got under way, but congratulations are due to the Surrey team of Bill Hodgkiss, John Short, Ian Swanson and Charles Chisnall who won the *Guildford Swiss Teams A Flight* in September. Also, Denny Wade and Angela McCready won the *Ladies' Pairs* at the *Rhodes Congress*.

Selsdon Bridge Club celebrated its 75th anniversary in October with a celebratory pairs evening (in the picture, Beryl Absalom cutting the cake).



The 2008 Surrey Schools Bridge event will be held once again at Cranmore School in West Horsley on Friday, 29th February (start 3.45pm). It will include MiniBridge Pairs and Teams-of-Four Bridge competitions. Details from CYO Bomi Kavarana ([b.kavarana@virgin.net](mailto:b.kavarana@virgin.net)).

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Affiliated Teams of 8, Richmond; Dec 9, Ladies'/Men's Pairs, Cobham; Jan 6, 30K Pairs, Oxshott; Jan 13, County Pairs & Plate, Cobham; Jan 27, 30K Teams, New Haw.

### Sussex

[www.sccba.co.uk](http://www.sccba.co.uk)



The *Autumn Congress* (Sept 21-13) was held at Stenning. Results: *Ladies Pairs*: 1. Joan Hootman – Andrea Galpin; 2. Fran Thornton – Tilly Hennings. *Men's Pairs*: 1. Mick Carrington – Dave Franklin; 2. Neil Watts – John Taylor.

*Basic Bridge Pairs*: 1. Sue Baker – Roland Heathfield; 2. Frank Howard and Avril Strong. *Pivot Teams*: 1. Karen Pryor, John Griffiths, Keith Ashcroft, Phil Jones; 2. Liz

and Matthew Hoskins, Andrew Southwell, Richard Fedrick. *Swiss Pairs Final*: 1. Harold and Cecily Lindfield; 2. Philip Hunt – Yves Lebec. *Secondary Final*: 1. Marie Gritt – Matthew Kime; 2. Gerry Stanford – Dave Franklin. *Consolation Final*: 1. Mike Dancy – Amanda Bolton; 2. Sally and Jim Bugden. *Swiss Teams*: 1. Mike Keeping, Richard Burnett, Richard Newton, Matt Read; 2. Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Jill Skinner, Jean Paxton.

We congratulate Andy Morris and Duncan Curtis with Malcolm and Karen Pryor, who were second out of 93 teams in the 'A' flight at the *Guildford Greenpoint* event. In the 'B' flight, Sue Ebsworth and Bob Best with Denise Ebsworth and Felicia Armes were also second.

The *Sussex Ladies Pairs Championship* was won by a new pairing playing together for the first time, so congratulations to Kathy Williams and Barbara Pinto; 2nd were Chris Jepson and Liz Lancaster.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Basic Bridge Pairs at Chichester. 2008: Jan 13, New Year Swiss Teams at Henfield; Jan 20, Basic Bridge Pairs at East Grinstead. There are heats at several clubs for the Sussex Mixed Pairs, National Pairs, Individual, Sussex Pairs, Elizabeth North Trophy and the David Pavey Trophy; please see the County calendar for events.

### Warwickshire

[www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk)



HEARTY congratulations to Martin Jones who as a member of the Schapiro Spring Foursomes team won the *Lederer Memorial Trophy*. Back home, in the

*Midlands Inter-county League*, the county suffered setbacks against Lincs with 1-19, 15-5 and 5-15 in the *Dawes, Porter and Markham* competitions respectively. Good luck to this year's *Tollemache* squad, comprising David Jones, Gary Watson, Steve Green, Graham Link, Peter Heatherington, Glyn Preece, Roger Bryant, Rob Helle, Susan Stockdale, Dave Cropper, Mike Leese and Steve Wood. *Midland Circle Teams* at Sutton: 1. Tony Poole, John Robbins, Paul Cotterill, Tony Cundy; 2. Peter Oldbury, Brent Wormald, Adrian Knight, Leslie Reece. *Derbys Green Points Swiss Teams*: 1. Margaret Armstrong, David Hulston, Dodo Georgevic and Sue Goldman.

In the clubs, the popular *Coventry Pairs* are led in Div. 1 by Roger Bryant and Susan Stockdale; in Div. 2 by Brian Osmond and Mike Sallis, jointly with Bill Hood and David Kenward; in Div. 3 by Sue Goldman and Julian Wernick; in Div. 4 by Jon Downing and Liam Johnstone; and in Div. 5 by Christine Mahler and Mary Taylor.

*Moseley Bowl*: 1. Dodo Georgevic, Robin Ogg, Sue and Geoff Morrison. *Ann Ormond Pairs*: 1. Denis Gough and Norman Sutton. At West Midlands BC, Margaret Wort and Darren Evetts took the *Doyle Plate* home, Carolyn and Mike Fisher walked off with *909 Cup*, and Barry Holloway and John Wright took the honours in the *Millennium Cup*.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Qualifier for the *Garden Cities* national inter-club championship, Sutton BC. Jan 4-6, reserve your places for the *Midlands Counties Congress*,

## Master Point promotions

Mr P L Hodson Mrs AF Holmes Mrs C F Kurk	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mr M P Wotton	Mr J Kimberley Mrs SA New Mrs M Sclater	<b>6 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs L Bennett
<b>County Master</b> Mrs SM Brown	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mrs J A King	<b>Club Master</b> Mr J Adams Mrs J Atkin	<b>5 Star Premier Master</b> Mr S Mapstone
<b>District Master</b> Mrs S A Chandler Mrs J M Dawkins Mr R Johnston Ms C Owens Mr D E Pearmain Mrs I K C Phillips Mr I Schofield Mr J F Sheppard Mrs V E Turner	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mr P H Ball Mrs P Bray Mrs VM Howell Mr A H McCulloch Mr B Spears	<b>Westmorland</b> <b>Advanced Master</b> Mr MJ Notley	<b>4 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs G Mapstone
<b>Club Master</b> Mr M Alexander Mr A C Boulding Mrs A Rogers Mrs S Sinclair Mr P M Tilbrook Mr D D Tregear Mrs P West	<b>Master</b> Mrs P Bushill Mr JD Lane Ms A P Viola	<b>District Master</b> Mrs J Jeffreys	<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mr S T Barrett
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>County Master</b> Ms J Alderman Mr A Eames Mrs J M Tourell	<b>Club Master</b> Mrs P Porritt	<b>Premier Master</b> Miss F Brown
<b>Life Master</b> Mr P Pennant	<b>District Master</b> Mr J Boughey Mr R Cutler Mr F Howard Mrs A Strong	<b>Wiltshire</b> <b>Life Master</b> Mrs J Gray	<b>7 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs HY Mansfield
<b>Premier National Master</b> Mrs J Cowell	<b>Club Master</b> Mr R Calderwood Mrs P Gibert Mr W H Jewell Mr A Miley Mr J Patient Mr B Salmon Mr R Shepherd Mrs R G Taylor	<b>Premier National Master</b> Mr C Webb	<b>6 Star Tournament Master</b> Mr GA Whitfield
<b>National Master</b> Mrs FE Thornton	<b>Warwickshire</b> <b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs L Stocks	<b>Premier Regional Master</b> Mr C Jones	<b>3 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs MC Podmore Mr WG Podmore
<b>4 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs E A Goss Mr BL Loasby	<b>Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs W Wort	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr B Lloyd	<b>2 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs AR Scriven
<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs J Clinton Mrs J Mayall	<b>22 Star Premier Master</b> Mr T Jones	<b>Advanced Master</b> Dr D Twiner	<b>Tournament Master</b> Mr A N Peel
<b>8 Star Regional Master</b> Mr B N Gould	<b>8 Star Premier Master</b> Mr A Imam	<b>Master</b> Mr B Cross	<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs F Carr Mr T Hird
<b>6 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs SP Bodle Mrs C Notenboom	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr J H Hind Mrs J M Macleod	<b>Worcester</b> <b>Premier Life Master</b> Mr J A Cattanach	<b>4 Star Master</b> Mrs L Atkinson
<b>4 Star Regional Master</b> Mr L G Chiswell	<b>2 Star Premier Master</b> Mr A Manders Mrs D Manders	<b>National Master</b> Mrs M Wilcox	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mr F H S Bedi Mr JR Jackson Mr R Kirby
<b>3 Star Regional Master</b> Mr B J Woolf Mrs V Woolf	<b>1 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs D M Thorne	<b>15 Star Premier Master</b> Mrs P R Moore	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs MA Allen Mrs MN Hey Mrs J Pearson
<b>2 Star Regional Master</b> Mrs L J Southward	<b>Tournament Master</b> Mr NH Lawrenson	<b>5 Star Premier Master</b> Mr I Argyle	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr A Fileman Mrs J Gleeson Mrs J M Pember Mr D L Robinson
<b>1 Star Regional Master</b> Mr D Howard-Houston Mr C Reimoser	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs K Matthews	<b>4 Star Premier Master</b> Miss B M Lee Mrs A Phillips	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs B B Burley Mr T Homburg Mr G Lund Mr T P Lyons
<b>Regional Master</b> Mrs P Hart Dr A M Jackson Mr A G Willard	<b>2 Star Master</b> Mrs P Kulkarni Mr P J Wells	<b>3 Star Premier Master</b> Mr R C Rutter	<b>Master</b> Mr G Boardman Mr P Doerfler Mr R Fordham Mr I McKenna Mrs C Turner
<b>Premier Master</b> Mrs D Ebsworth Mr D Municchi	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr E Goodwin Mr J Wright	<b>1 Star Premier Master</b> Mr C R Withers	<b>County Master</b> Mrs P M Claybourn Mr L K Jones Mr A J Stalker
<b>8 Star Tournament Master</b> Mrs M Dufficy	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mrs J Bishop Mrs MC Fisher Mrs C A Petrie Mr D G Werry	<b>1 Star Premier Master</b> Mr R G Singleton	<b>District Master</b> Mrs S Brown Miss P Mackenzie Rev C M Smith Mrs H Wigley
<b>Tournament Master</b> Mrs I Haws	<b>Master</b> Mr R Ashby Mr I G Jackman	<b>3 Star Master</b> Mr J Burbey Mr D Facer	<b>Club Master</b> Ms J Clarkson Mr R Dew Miss L A Holroyde Mr G W Hurren Mr T Johnson Mrs J Lythgoe Mr W T Lythgoe Mrs C Rattenbury Mr J H Scott
<b>5 Star Master</b> Mrs D M Strauss	<b>County Master</b> Mrs I Myskova Mr C Shepherd Mr G Srinivas	<b>1 Star Master</b> Mr K Lloyd Mr B Sayers	
<b>4 Star Master</b> Mr DR Blake	<b>District Master</b> Mr A E Balfe Mrs M Johnson Mrs C Killeen	<b>Advanced Master</b> Mr D Banks Mr A J Tryndie	
<b>3 Star Master</b> Mrs B E Powell		<b>Master</b> Mrs E J Morgan Mr P Sansom Mr D C Stainton	
		<b>Club Master</b> Mr S Armstrong Mrs E O'Donnell Mrs I Stevenson	
		<b>Yorkshire</b> <b>National Master</b> Miss AM Bamforth Mr JMC Cole	
		<b>3 Star Premier Regional Master</b> Mrs V Healey	

Bransford. Jan 15, golfers should meet at West Midlands BC for the Golf Print Trophy heat. Feb 10, *Doyle Plate Mixed Pairs*, West Midlands BC. Please send entries for Warwks events to P Whitehouse, ☎ 0121 704 9287.

## Wiltshire

[www.wcba.co.uk](http://www.wcba.co.uk)



*CLIFF Sibley Swiss Teams*: the first event of the Wiltshire season was held on 30 September in Devizes. Eight teams entered and the winners were Valerie and Peter Austwick with Pat Davies and James Dunlop.

*Corsham Pairs* (14 October): 1. Chris Dixon and Pat Davies; 2. Roy France and Keith Williamson. The Corsham ladies supplied their usual delicious tea which was much appreciated by the players.

*Garden Cities Qualifier* (21 October): an appeal which affects the winners has not been resolved. The final result will be on the website when available.

*Premier League*: after three matches, Pat Davies's is the only unbeaten team. They are followed by Martin Buck's team. Two of the proposed dates for playing the matches have been deleted. Please see the website for details. *Western League*: in the first match we travelled to Cornwall. The A team won 18-2, the B team lost 8-12 and the C team won 19-1.

The draw for the Knock-out competition has been made and matches can be found on the website.

Katherine Hodgson and Roy France of the Swindon club are currently leading the *BGB Autumn Sim Pairs* (Thursday) event.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Championship Pairs heat; Jan 6, Butler Pairs; Jan 20, Mixed Pairs. Jan 28 (Swindon BC) and Jan 31 (Bath BC), EBU National Pairs Qualifying Heats – please contact the clubs if you wish to participate.

Entries for the county events via the website [www.wcba.co.uk](http://www.wcba.co.uk).

## Worcestershire

[www.wcba.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.wcba.freeserve.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Hammond who was presented his Dimmie Fleming award for good service to our CBA by

Keith Stanley. The *Malvern Green Point Weekend* was heavily oversubscribed and bridge players from both the *Swiss Pairs* and *Swiss Teams* had to be disappointed. *Pairs* (136): 1. Pam Pearce and Ron Davies (Glos & Beds); 2= Debbie Roberts and Geoff Nicholas (Oxon), and Roger Jackson and Judy Sanis (Glos). *Teams* (68): 1. Keith Stanley, Irving Gordon, Patrick Shields, John Greenhalgh, Mike Tedd (Glos, Surrey, B&B, Wales); 2. Nick Forward, Steve Allerston, John Sansom, Richard Jephcott (Worcs); 3. Chris Selway, Mike Elliot, Liam Sheridan, Gwyneth Dew (Wales & Avon).

The County's oldest Trophy, the *Healey Cup*, which used to be presented to the winners of a teams-of-four event from players invited from neighbouring counties, has now metamorphosed into an inter-club event within this CBA. In

its 57th year, the team that won the *Healey Cup* came from Stourbridge (where the late Harry Healey lived). The team were Brian Nightingale, David Banks, Georgina and Ian Lineker.

Georgina raised her pretty head once again by winning the *Ladies Pairs* with Joyce Skelton, beating Suzanne Griffin and Maureen Hannah into 2nd place. John Sansom and Richard Jephcott won the *Men's Pairs*, with Mike Holmes and Paul Hooker 2nd.

*Irene Allen Swiss Pairs* for players below Regional Master: 1. Mike Smith and David Cope; 2. Mike Heard and David Philpott; 3. Cliff and Judith Little.

Congratulations are due to Jimmy Ledger and Paul Hammond who won the *Men's Pairs* in the *Rhodes Congress*.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 3, Mixed Pairs; Dec 17, Xmas Charity Swiss Teams, Holt; Jan 4-6, Midland Counties Congress, Bransford; Jan 14, Nat. Pairs Heat, Holt Fleet.

## Yorkshire

[www.ycba.freeserve.co.uk/](http://www.ycba.freeserve.co.uk/)



CONGRATULATIONS to Bradford players Hugh McGann and Sarah Teshome, who represented Ireland and England respectively in the recent World Championships in Shanghai.

Yorkshire teams performed strongly in this year's inter-county *Northern Bridge League*. County teams were in first place in the Club and Junior Divisions, and runners-up in the A and B Divisions.

Winners of the *Huddersfield Examiner Rose Bowl* were the home team of Les Brown, Karen Bradley, Stuart Barrett and Patrick Trevanion. Stuart and Patrick continued their run of form with success in the next county event, the *Garforth Swiss Teams*, this time teamed-up with Heather Hobson and Roy Garthwaite.

273 pairs took part in the *Kath Grimoldby Sim Pairs*: 1. Derek Markham and Graham Barker (Bradford); 2. Sue Boag and Richard Hilton (Pickering); 3. Stuart Barrett and Hubert Castle (Huddersfield).

The Leeds club successfully relaunched its *Swiss Teams* event after a gap of several years. The trophy was carried off to Lancashire by Sue and Nick Woodcock, Catherine Draper and Andrew Woodcock

Belated congratulations to Doncaster players Julia Staniforth and Barbara Boaler, winners of the *Derbys/Notts Swiss Pairs*. Julia, with partner Di Western and London team-mates, also finished in 2nd place in the main final of the *EBU Summer Congress* at Scarborough.

**Diary Dates:** Dec 2, Yorkshire League (third series); Dec 16, Yorkshire Mixed Teams (New Earswick); Jan 6, Yorkshire League (fourth series); Jan 13, Yorkshire Pairs (Garforth); Jan 20, Yorkshire League (Division 11 only); Jan 27, Doncaster Swiss Pairs.

**December 21** is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of *English Bridge*.  
E-mail: [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)

## ABBOTKERSWELL CELEBRATIONS

ABBOTKERSWELL BC, South Devon, celebrated its twentieth birthday by holding its annual charity Swiss Teams event, which raised £302 for the Childrens' Hospice.

The club meets once a week on Thursdays and has a reputation of being very friendly. The standard of players covers beginners to grand masters (well, we have one!).

Further information by e-mail from the chairman, Ferai Akyol, at [fakyol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fakyol@hotmail.co.uk)



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### MISCELLANEOUS

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# MEMBER<sup>2</sup>MEMBER



## CLUB DIRECTOR and TEACHER TRAINING COURSES – 2007/08

### ESSENTIALS £32

Nottingham	Saturday 8th December
Wormbridge, Hereford	Saturday 12th January
Brighton	Monday 11th August

### JUDGMENT RULINGS £37

Deva Club, Chester	Saturday 8th December
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 12th December
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 12th January
Nottingham	Saturday 23rd February
Wormbridge, Hereford	Saturday 1st March
Brighton	Wednesday 13th August

### BOOK RULINGS £37

Nottingham	Saturday 12th January
Wormbridge, Hereford	Saturday 16th February
Brighton	Tuesday 12th August

### ASSESSMENT £42

Young Chelsea London	Saturday 12th January
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wed'day 16th January
Workington	Sunday 27th January
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 9th February
Deva Club, Chester	Saturday 16th February
Nottingham	Saturday 19th April
Brighton	Thursday 14th August
Wormbridge, Hereford	To be decided

For further information, or to register for a course, call **01296 317203**  
or email [peter@ebu.co.uk](mailto:peter@ebu.co.uk)

The World Bridge Federation will be producing a new code of Laws of Duplicate Bridge to be introduced in 2008. Watch out for details of conversion courses on using the new laws in the next English Bridge and on the EBU website.

### Focus on Value Teacher Training Courses – Courses for new teachers –

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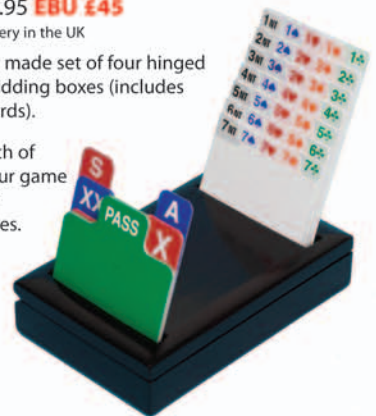
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