

THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON



SENIOR CAMROSE CHAMPIONS

**Liam Sheridan, Tony Disley, Gwyneth Dew, Mike Hirst, Roger Penton, Mike Tedd
NPC, Jim Luck**

*See Page 2 for more details of
Wales's tremendous victories*



**Crockfords success: Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Peter Goodman, John
Salisbury, Mike Tedd, Patrick Jourdain, Adrian Thomas, Tony Ratcliff**

Enter the lady

The Senior Camrose took place in Oxford on the last weekend in May. The Welsh team included Gwyneth Dew, feeling nervous about her Camrose debut in the wake of the tremendous performance by the Open teams. Gwyneth need not have worried. She was the privileged lady involved in creating more history for Wales.

Wales were lying equal fourth on Sunday morning, when a stunning 25-0 win over the then leaders, Ireland, took them into second place. Then a 20-10 win over the new leaders, Northern Ireland, followed by a 17-13 win against the Teltscher team gave Wales a 6VP lead over Northern Ireland and 9VP over England with others fairly close. The finish was tense; Wales played England in the last match and lost 14-16; but that was enough when NI failed to score a big win. Congratulations to our Seniors on a magnificent victory!

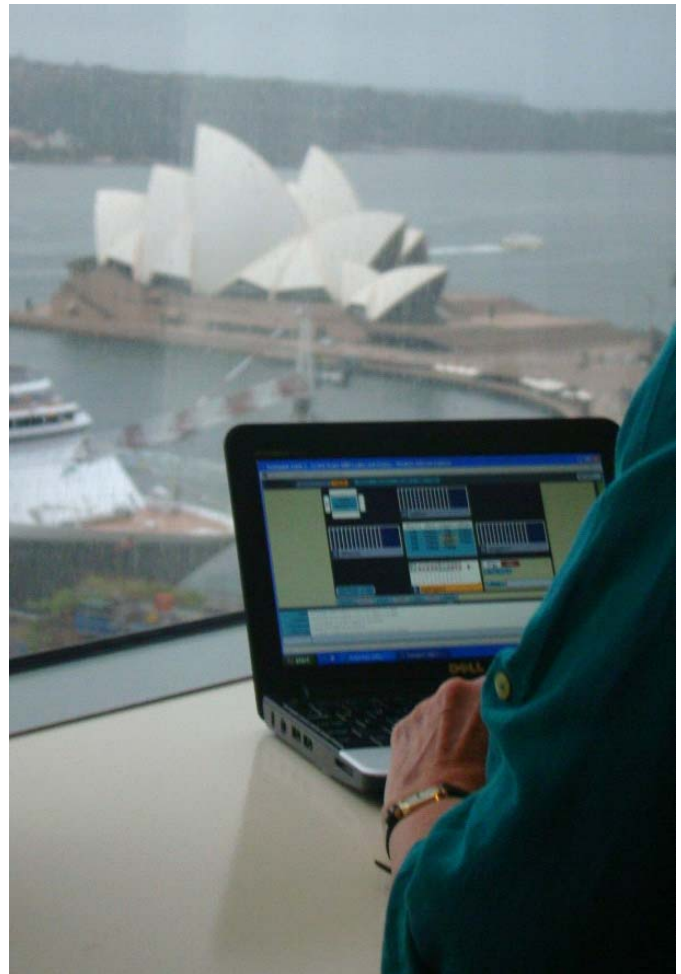
Enter the Gladiators

A third prestigious win for the team of Denning, Shields, Goodman and Thomas in the Crockford Cup has shown, beyond doubt, that Wales is a force to be reckoned with. They fought off all contenders but one, and even they could not push our heroes off the top of the leader board. They led throughout.

Not only this: Jourdain's team won the Crockford Plate, proving that the All-Wales Spring Fours final a year ago was no fluke and our top players have depth as well as strength. What a fantastic year for Welsh bridge!



Sydney Harbour Bridge Player

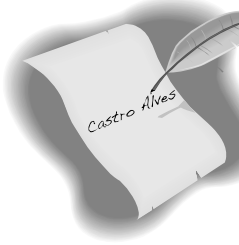


What is this person doing overlooking the Sydney Opera House? Emailing home excitedly to tell her family what a great time she's having? Look carefully at the monitor and you will see that she has Bridge Base Online in front of her and is playing Bridge. Is she mad? No! At home in Wales her partner, Val Kennewell, is also sitting at her computer, partnering her, practising for the Lady Milne.

The team have practised for months to improve Wales's ladies chances. While the other three at the 'table' are in Wales, with the sun well and truly gone down, this lady is up early and bright so as not to miss the session. Well done, Margaret Lane.

Congratulations to Diane and Filip Kurbalija on their success in winning the National Open Pairs. It was the strongest field we have had for a long time, so very well done! Who is that in the background, though? I feel another caption competition coming on ...

Jill's Quill



What a year it has been for our Welsh International players! How exciting for those of us who have been following their play. Welsh members are all proud of them.

It is regrettable, though, that so few young players are around to share in Wales's successes and be motivated to become Welsh bridge champions in the years to come. If you have teenage children or grandchildren, the next time they say they can't see what is so interesting about a card game, buy them *The Cardturner*, by Louis Sachar (very cheap at amazon.co.uk). Read it. You will enjoy it, too. I thank Beth Wennell for lending it to me. I ordered one for myself as soon as I'd finished, and immediately started circulating it.

The Management committee is, primarily, a think tank. In the past nine months they have identified issues that need addressing. There have been several, some of which are: falling numbers in competitions; the lack of young people playing the game; the selection process; funding; meeting the needs of ordinary club players; and it was agreed that this last mentioned should be their first priority. So, Adrian set off Wales-trotting (see his 'Reflections'). His initiative of including area club players' teams in the Perry and Spickett weekend was quickly put into place this year and was a great success (comments from those who were there would be welcome). The newsletter had already been reintroduced, to keep all WBU members in touch. The MC decided on (three or) four editions a year.

It does not mean to say that the MC concentrated only on club players. Neville and Noelle are working towards using a method of recording master points, which is not yet universally popular, nor seamlessly practical, in a world where many clubs don't have a computer-literate member, but it is essential for the efficient awarding of master points in

modern times. Adrian has liaised with several groups and individuals on many of the other issues we have discussed, too. Mike Tedd produces superb, incisive and reader-friendly Minutes of the meetings, behind which all this sincere work goes on. You can see them online.

Another of the concerns of the MC is to eliminate anti-social behaviour at all levels of Bridge. Bad behaviour will not be tolerated and everyone can help by calling the director if someone's attitude is objectionable. There is no room in Wales for people who bully either their partners or the opposition. Such crassness is virtually non-existent at the top level, and Wales's reputation for friendliness must be preserved.

An urgent priority is to increase numbers playing in competitions. Jean Hand has taken on the role of National Tournament Organiser. She has been involved in working for the North Wales Bridge Association for many years and is an ex-president of the WBU. She has played in International events, also. Her vast experience will be invaluable in the role. I spoke to her briefly and she confirmed that her most urgent concern was to try and get more people playing in competitions. I am sure we would all agree and wish her well.

There is no area news section in this newsletter. There is a limit to what one can cull from the area web sites, which takes a lot of time, and I do think that asking area Chairmen to contribute three or four times a year is a bit of an imposition. In any case, there are so many international successes to include. More area news next time, I promise.

Meanwhile, during this quiet season, remember there are congresses for players of all levels. Do give your local one a try. Above all, enjoy the rest of the summer. Best wishes to you all,

Jill

Polly64335@aol.com ☎: 01248 853033)

Forthcoming Congresses

WBU Swiss Pairs Green-Pointed Congress Venue Cymru Llandudno July 2 nd – 3 rd
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Mid Wales Congress Green-Pointed Swiss Teams Llandrindod Wells July 9 th & 10 th

August Green Point Events Swiss Pairs Saturday Swiss Teams Sunday Cwmbran 6 th – 7 th August
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Porthcawl Congress Brochure to follow Seabank Hotel November 11 th – 13 th

RESULTS

National Open Pairs 12th – 13th March

1 st	Filip Kurbalija & Diane Kurbalija	64.43%
2 nd	John Salisbury & Mike Tedd	59.93%
3 rd	Aida Aris & Adrian Thomas	56.76%

Portland Pairs 27th March

Colwyn Bay Heat

1 st	Joan Marray & Julian Merrill	62.14%
2 nd	Graham Shaw & Wendy Jenkins	60.67%
3 rd	Rory McKinley & Jill Knight	59.96%

Top Welsh pair in National Ranking List:

4 th	Joan Marray & Julian Merrill	61.48%
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Webber Cup 2011 7th – 8th May

1 st	Patrick Jourdain, John Glubb, Dan McIntosh, Tony Ratcliff	221VP
2 nd	Keith Shuttleworth, Brian Nicholls, = Roger Bowles, John Waller	201VP
2 nd	Sue Ingham, Gwynn Davis, = Ken Richardson, Chris Rochelle	201VP

WBU Seniors Congress

Seniors Swiss Pairs 28th May

1 st	Celia Oram & Derek Oram	102 VP
2 nd	Martin David & Chris Davies	100 VP
3 rd	Mike Huggins & Irene Robinson	94 VP

Seniors Swiss Teams 29th May

1 st	Brenda Foley, Geoff Foley, Celia Oram, Derek Oram	102.5 VP
2 nd	Keith Shuttleworth, Joe Patrick, Norman Massey, Daphne Patrick	98 VP
3 rd	David Birt, Mike Best, Steve Tomlinson, Nelson Stephens	96 VP

Open Swiss Pairs 30th May

1 st	Nelson Stephens & Sue O'Hara	105 VP
2 nd	John Sansom & Pam Pearce	103 VP
3 rd	Wyn Williams & Sheila Shea	99 VP

Ladies Welsh Cup

June 5th

1 st	Sheila Shea, Beth Wennell, Andrea Martin, Margaret Barnes	120 VP
2 nd	Lee Collier, Gilly Clench, Val Kennewell, Margaret Lane	99 VP
3 rd	Irene Thomas, Noelle Bond, Isabel Evans, Linda Powell	95 VP



Congratulations to Beth Wennell, Sheila Shea, Margaret Barnes and Andrea Martin on a clear victory, winning all their matches.

Simultaneous Pairs results on Page 18.



WALES IN THE CAMROSE: Llandrindod Wells, March 2011

The 2011 Camrose series was the 5th in the current format, which has the five “British” nations (including Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)

supplemented by a second team from one of the five. In the first three of those five years the country with two teams won the trophy; this year was the first time Wales had supplied two teams (labelled as Wales and WBU). Guess what – Wales won and the contribution of both teams was vital.

Wales has provided a very steady squad to the Camrose over recent years, with only two slots over the last 10 weekends filled by someone other than Fil Kurbalija and Tim Rees or the current sixsome – Paul Denning and Patrick Shields, Peter Goodman and Adrian Thomas, Dafydd Jones and Gary Jones. In the last four series Wales has been 3rd out of 6 every time.

Over the first weekend of the 2011 Series in January, Wales scored 88 VPs to lie 4 behind England. This was 1 VP behind their best result (the preceding March) but that time they had been 8 VPs behind the leaders, so this was a good start. In fact the only team to which Wales lost that weekend in Dublin was the WBU team!

The second weekend, in March, was different in that the venue was in an attractive location (venues have for some time been nice hotels but near an airport or motorway). This was at the oft-used Metropole in Llandrindod Wells. To some of the visitors it initially felt a long way from the nearest airport, but everyone found it and had a pleasant journey there.

As always, the battle starts with the two teams from the same nation, so Wales had to play WBU first match. In January Wales had led by 10 IMPs after a tight first half, but this time round Wales motored ahead to be 61 IMPs up at the half way mark. There were 5 double figure swings in Wales’s favour – two slams, playing 1NT redoubled making, one game misdefended (played other way up in other room and much easier as a result) and one game that was not bid but should have been. The most tricky of these was the slam on Board 15, where the Welsh North-South thought they had lost points

Board 15 ♠ A K 10 9 7 5 4
Vul: N/S ♥ J 2
Dlr: South ♦ Q 9
 ♣ Q 2

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

♠ Q
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ A J 5
 ♣ A K J 10 6 4

South opened 1♣ (natural at one table and 16+ at the other) and both Wests bid 3♥. Over North’s 3♠, both Welsh Souths bid 3NT. WBU (and England) had a natural 1♣ opening and settled for game, while the Strong Club led to 5♠ by Wales’s North. A slightly ambiguous 6♣ try got Wales to 6♠, while after a similar start a 6♥ grand slam try got the Irish to 7♣. The play in 6♠ was trivial, but there were 13 top tricks, which might have been 13 IMPs out. Not today –only Adam Mesbur of Ireland was in a grand slam, an impossible 7♣.

As in Dublin, the WBU came fighting back in the second half with the same tactics, bringing in John Salisbury and Mike Tedd. Wales meanwhile let Adrian Thomas and Peter Goodman have the evening off. This time there were four double-figure swings to WBU (compared with none in the first half) and they pulled back 36 imps, slightly more than the 30 pulled back in Dublin. It seems that the Wales team tires more easily than the WBU! There were three slam hands on which Wales lost double-figure swings – one with two losers which were quickly cashed, one made more tricky by the opponents’ opening the bidding, and this one

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

Traditional methods proved inadequate when Wales bid this hand. 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 2NT showed 25+ balanced; East transferred and got a cue bid in response, but signed off. For WBU, Alex Hogg & Alex Maddocks had a weapon hidden away – in response to their 2♣ opener, East could bid 2♠ showing a 5-card suit and not many points. He did, and West took no time in raising to the six-level. Either the diamond finesse or the heart finesse is enough, and the latter worked.

At the end of the first match – thanks to Scotland trouncing England, Wales had moved into the lead in the Camrose table, 9VPs ahead of the field. They lost the lead in a heavy defeat to Ireland in the next match, and then pulled back partly by beating Scotland.

When Wales came to play England on Sunday morning, the English were in the lead by 2VPs from Ireland and they were 4VPs ahead of Wales. At this point WBU played Ireland. Both Welsh teams started well; they gained points on this hand playing different denominations in each match.

♠ 10 7 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ A K Q 9 6 ♣ 10 7 5 ♠ K ♥ J 9 5 3 ♦ J 8 7 5 ♣ Q 9 6 3 ♠ A 9 6 ♥ A 10 7 6 4 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ J	♠ Q J 8 5 4 3 ♥ Q ♦ 10 ♣ A K 8 4 2
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In the Wales-England match South opened a Weak Two; one East had to face 2♦-Pass-2♥ and the other had 2♥-Pass-3♥ and they both made a minimum bid in spades and played there. For Wales Paul Denning managed 11 tricks for +200, which went nicely with the +50 collected by Goodman & Thomas in the other room.

In the WBU-Ireland match both Easts also bid spades at their first opportunity but the opposition competed in hearts and East bid clubs on the next round. For WBU Trevor Towers passed 3♣, while the Irish had to bid 4♣

over Mike Tedd's 3♥, and that got raised to game. Three aces to lose meant 5 imps to WBU. At the end of that match Wales were even with England but WBU had done well to beat Ireland 17-13. The leader board was unchanged but the scores were closer. Finally Wales were to play Northern Ireland; they scored heavily there, racking up a 25-2 win. It was all up to WBU against England – and they came through well – gaining 10 imps from a slam on this – the final hand of the weekend!

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

After (Pass) – Pass – (2♦ Multi), Alex Hogg passed with the big hand and heard (2♥) - Pass – (Pass), confirming that it was a heart suit on his right. He now bid 3NT and got a raise to 4NT from partner. His 6♣ closed the auction, and when the opponents failed to find the Ace and ruff at the first two tricks he was home. In the other room Mike Tedd opened in first seat with 2♠ showing spades and a minor, and the big hand ended in 3NT.

When the dust had settled, Wales were winners on 170 VPs, England had moved back into second place with 165, and Ireland came third with 160. This a fantastic result for Wales – not only did the Wales team win the Camrose for the first time since the competition started in 1937, but instrumental in the victory was an excellent performance by the WBU team, beating both England and Ireland on the last day.

The event was a pleasure to all concerned. The accommodation was excellent, as was the organisation and directing; many thanks to all in Mid Wales who contributed to that.

Patrick Shields

DON'T PANIC!

by our friend in the North, Paddy Murphy

The wise words of Douglas Adams often apply in bridge and no more so than in this deal from this year's Portland Pairs competition.

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

Declarer (West) must have been happy with dummy in 6♥ and more so on a club lead which left several chances for establishing spades for a diamond discard. The bad news came on cashing the ♥ ace when South showed out!

Not panicking, west cashed the ♠K, finessed the jack and cashed the ace for a diamond discard. He then cashed the king of clubs discarding another diamond, ruffed a ♣ and crossed to the ♦ ace and ruffed a diamond leaving this position:

	♠ -		
	♥ J 9 8 4		
♠ -	♦ -	♠ 9 3	
♥ K Q 10 7	♣ -	♥ -	
♦ -	■	♦ -	
♣ -		♣ 10 9	

Irrelevant

West simply exited with the ♥7 and the forced heart return gave him 12 tricks. Simple stuff, you might say, but this was worth 97% on the board, and only 6 declarers out of 155 managed to make 12 tricks, fully deserving their non panicking match points.

The complete hand:

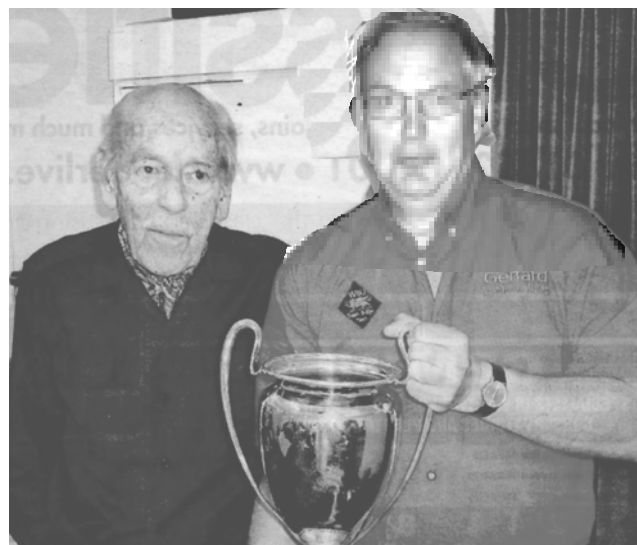
	♠ Q 8 7		
	♥ J 9 8 4 3		
	♦ K 5		
	♣ 7 6 3		
♠ K 4	♠ A J 10 9 3		
♥ K Q 10 7 6 5 2	♥ A		
♦ J 7 6	♦ A 9		
♣ 5	♣ A K 10 9 2		
	♠ 6 5 2		
	♥ void		
	♦ Q 10 8 4 3 2		
	♣ Q J 8 4		

TROPHY DOES THE ROUNDS



Having acquired the Camrose trophy for Wales with his team, Adrian took it to as many Welsh clubs as possible to show the members. Wrexham Garden Village club celebrated the victory by inviting a reporter to write about the event. Readers were informed that the trophy was donated by Viscount Camrose to launch the event in 1937.

Gwen Hurst, of Wrexham club, ensured that her oldest learner, Mr Edward Clarke (aged 95), was in the newspaper photograph to prove that bridge is a game for people of all ages. Mr Clarke said, "I have really enjoyed myself at this club. Playing bridge keeps my mind active and also enables me to make new friends along the way". Adrian added, 'It's a game that can be enjoyed by old and young alike.'



Mr Edward Clarke and Adrian Thomas

Anagrams

Unscramble the names of well-known bridge players, all of whom feature in this issue:

Noted game pro

Up in England

Manager alert!

A manlier dish

Flint factory

Art in NHS

Dizzily go free

Talks cipher IDs

Solutions on Page 13



Lady Milne in 1934

This year's Home International Series for women's teams took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The brochure of the hotel suggests they were staying in a lovely place. But the contenders had one thing only on their minds – playing their best, aiming to win.

The Welsh ladies were all geared up, both physically and metaphorically, and they began their first match: – against England, bridge scourge of the Celts much of the time, and the Welsh team were set on beating them. They did! A good start. Then they met the NIBU team (the host fields 2 teams) and had a very good win of 20-10. They were very encouraged and went into the third match with high hopes.

This was against the Republic of Ireland, who were equally determined, and beat Wales, as did Northern Ireland in the penultimate match. Undeterred, the ladies assembled for the final match against Scotland. The first stanza of 16 boards did not go well for Wales and they must have gone into the short break a little shell-shocked. However, in the final stanza of the weekend they re-emerged, dug in and began to score substantially on their side of the score sheet. At first the Scots were convinced they would have beaten England to first place, the way things were going. But I was watching Laura Woodruff and Sue Ingham, and I saw them both bid and play well, bringing home contracts that should have been beaten, and finding the only lead to beat the contract when defending. Perhaps the Scots were getting over-excited at bringing home the trophy again. In fact, the Welsh had brought their deficit up to within one point of Scotland when a couple of flat boards and another plus on the Scots side gave them the victory.

The amazing thing is that, by Wales's drawing with England in the first match, and holding Scotland so well in the last one, the result was a draw for England and Scotland for first place. As for Wales, I saw a marked improvement in their performance and much

of this is due to their own determination (see the photograph of a bit of Margaret Lane) and to those who have arranged seminars, team play online and have given them so much encouragement and help - Adrian and Julian and Mark, particularly, not to mention long-suffering life-partners. Watching the event online, I got a shock when I saw Sheila going into BBO, especially as she was playing across the Irish Sea at the time. Must have been her husband, Chris, logging on to see how they were doing.

Never too old (or too young): *Yvonne Wiseman (Scotland) was making her Lady Milne debut at 17; Dinah Caplan (England) was making hers at 78!*

Result of Caption Competition

The entries for the competition were all funny and I found it hard to decide. So I gave my man the photo of Adrian and Peter wearing leis and straw hats and read the captions out to him. The one he laughed hardest at would be the winner.



This turned out to be the one sent in by George Novak from Mid Wales. His caption:

'Alan told me this is the right dress code for the Welshpool Mixed Pairs'

Well done, George!

Runners up: *'I will give you odds of 5 to 1 that he plays the diamond 6 to the fourth trick of the seventh hand'* (Justine Cooper.) *'Well, I think we look a right pair of jokers'* (Helen Barrie) *'You what? You would have preferred a pink lei?'* (Andrew Mountain).

Thanks to all who entered.

Replay these hands with me *by Peter Goodman*



The first hand is from the recent Perry Shield competition and it features a very familiar topic and thought process:

<p>♠ K 4 ♥ K J 10 6 5 3 2 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ A Q ♦ A J 6 ♣ A 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 6 2 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 7 5 4 3 ♣ K 5</p>	<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ K 8 ♣ J 9 7 6 3 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
1♣	3♥	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	All pass

East's raise to 4♣ was very sporting, while West's slam try 4♥ cue bid was also pretty optimistic.

After the ten of diamonds lead, West took stock and things looked bleak. He cleverly played the king of diamonds and ducked a club to North who saw no rush to switch so played another diamond to West's jack. West then cashed the ♦ ace and led the ace of clubs, dropping South's now singleton king. The ace of diamonds followed, with a spade discard from dummy.

<p>♠ K x ♥ K J 10 6 5 3 ♦ - ♣ -</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ A Q ♦ - ♣ 10 8</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 6 2 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 7 ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ - ♣ J 9 6 3</p>
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West now crossed to the jack of clubs and played a spade, making South decide. Had his partner got the kings of spades and hearts, or just the ace of hearts?

The evidence: If West had the king and queen of spades and the king and queen of hearts, he would surely not have cue bid 4♥. Also, if North had seven hearts to the ace he might have tried to give South a heart ruff by leading his ace at the very beginning and continuing the suit. But the clearest evidence is how North plays his hearts. Whatever their discard agreement, he must play to discourage a heart lead, suggesting that he does not have the ace, thus making it easier for his partner to envisage the king of spades in his hand. Conclusion: South must back his partner and play low on the ♠10 from dummy.

When South actually rose with the ace of spades, West grabbed his chance to win the heart return with the ace and ruff a small spade, dropping North's now singleton king. Well played West, and hard luck South, who illustrates how tough defence is at the top.

The next hand is taken from the very popular North Wales Swiss Teams. As the opposition had stopped in 4♠, making 6♠ or going one off is a 26 IMP swing here.

<p>♠ K Q 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 7 2 ♦ void ♣ A 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ void ♥ J 5 3 ♦ A Q 8 6 4 3 ♣ Q 9 6 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 6 ♥ A 9 ♦ K 9 7 5 ♣ K 10 4</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ 10 8 6 4 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ J 8</p>
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After West opens 2♦ North finds himself in 6♠ on the lead of the ♦J. I have deliberately put declarer's hand (North) in the hand usually presented as dummy, to illustrate the many facets of a technique known as a dummy reversal:

- Stage 1: Count your losers: No obvious ones.
Stage 2: Count your winners: two or three clubs, three hearts and a number of spades. So we need 6 or 7 spade tricks.

Best technique requires you to ruff three times with the hand holding king, queen and three small spades. Ruff the first diamond and lay down the king of spades, to find the bad news. Now play towards the ♥A and ruff another diamond; cross to the king of clubs and ruff a third diamond, leaving:

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

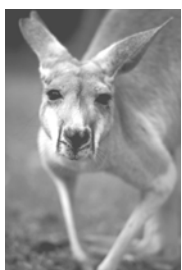
Needing six more tricks, carefully cash the king and queen of hearts, throwing a club; ruff a heart returning with the queen of spades; play a losing club to ruff small or throw the king of diamonds if East ruffs.

The key to the timing of the hand is to delay playing the ♠Q, which is needed as a late entry, and to realise that this dummy reversal line works when spades are 2-2, 3-1 or 4-0.

The other key play is NOT to cash the ♠A at trick two!

Around the Ash Bucket

I've just got back from a 6-week tour of my distant relations in the (even more distant) Antipodes and my sister in California. I took the weather with me. It hadn't rained for six months in Waroona, south of Perth, but sure enough on my second day there the rain came down like stair rods (has anyone still alive actually seen a stair rod, I wonder?). My arrival in sun-soaked Adelaide was followed



after a few hours by another downpour; luckily, my hostess and I were able to amuse ourselves under cover by watching the royal wedding. The next stop was the Sunshine Coast, to meet my father's 83-year-old cousin who emigrated in 1968 and has never set foot

outside Queensland since. Sunshine Coast? Ha! Two days later the heavens opened. The only surprising thing about it was that the Ashes weren't being played at the time.

I flew from Australia to Wellington, for the express purpose of taking the train to Auckland, one of the highlights of my trip. The "...fantastic views of New Zealand farmland, the volcanic plateau, Mount Ruapehu, the world famous Raurimu Spiral, and stunning river gorges - all from our panoramic windows ..." were not to be had. It poured down all day. So torrential was the rain that I got drenched in the 18-inch gap between the train and the platform canopy at Ohakune, where we stopped for lunch.

I left Auckland at 2 p.m. on 18th May and arrived in Los Angeles at 6 a.m. ... on 18th May. It was raining.

In my absence our livestock has increased by two rather pretty rabbits, which appeared in our large and weed-infested garden and have never left. We are hoping they are of the same sex.

Partnerships

Here is an amusing thing that happened a few weeks ago at my club. We had just finished bidding and won the contract. My partner had been away for a few weeks and I made a bid that confused my partner (nothing unusual in that, you say). At the end of the auction the opposition asked what system we were playing and for an explanation of the bidding.

Without a pause for breath I said, "We play Alzheimers"

"What sort of system is that?" they asked.

"Five-card majors with lots of fancy gadgets that we keep forgetting!"

Andrew Mountain (Garden Village - Wrexham)

Towards the end of a session, my partner left for a visit to Catatonia and played a couple of hands rather absently. I asked him was he tired. 'I think I must be,' he replied

One of our opponents remarked that he was not playing as well as he was wont, so I rushed to his defence 'He played really well in the first half,' I said, adding, 'when he was dummy.' Merriment all round, particularly from my partner who said to send it to the newsletter.

CROCKFORD'S CUP *by Adrian Thomas*



Crockford's Cup is the English National Open Teams competition. It is a knockout event with teams drawn for the first round. After the first round, the winning teams play for the Cup and the losing ones for the Plate; the last sixteen teams in both competitions play each other for a place in the eight-team final.

The Denning team won their first match, but the Jourdain one lost theirs (to the team who eventually came 4th in the Cup section). The luck of the draw, one could say.

One: The luck of the Welsh

Flushed from their Camrose success, four of the victorious Wales Camrose team faced a difficult last 16 draw against a strong Cambridgeshire team of Ian Pagan and Chris Jagger, Catherine Jagger and Jonathan Mostel.

The 48-board match started at just after 4.30 and the opponents' tactics were clear from the start: send their opponents to sleep by the slowness of their play. After 40 boards the opponents were 2 IMPs ahead and yours truly was virtually asleep. It was way past his bed time when the last set started at about midnight. His partner was still awake, though, and on what was our last board he faced a tricky hand to play in 4♠:

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

Mostel found the lead of a small diamond from the West hand.

This is booked for one off but P.G. does not give up easily. He won in dummy and advanced the ♥Q ... and everybody ducked. Now a small heart was played from dummy, and East rose with the ace, so Peter was able to

ruff out the king of hearts and somehow

bring the contract home. I had fallen asleep by then and even now can't see how he managed entries. We went back to score up and our teammates had also let 10 tricks make, but sensibly, and unfortunately for them, Ian and Chris had not bid the 'doomed' game.

When I relayed this hand to B.J. O'Brien he commented that the Welsh were walking on water at the moment I replied I thought we could probably survive a TSUNAMI. Result: we won by ONE IMP yet again! (does anybody still remember the Spring Fours?).

I wasn't the only one who had fallen asleep. There must be a lesson to be learnt here about slow play.

Two: The Final

Every competitive sportsman will tell you that to do well in any event you have to be well prepared. Good preparation typically includes things like practising hard, getting plenty of rest, coming to an event relaxed and stress free, having a healthy diet and a good night's sleep, keeping clear of alcohol and even keeping clear of your life partner.

Peter and I arrived for Crockfords with at least one of these things applying, having spent a week 'relaxing' in Killarney. Relaxing the Irish way, though, does involve a lot of drinking and Peter, with his life partner, led the way in this. He did agree to go to bed early - relative to Ireland, though, where his average is 3 a.m. Your president takes these things more seriously and his average was about 1.30 a.m. for the week, but his waking time was about 7 a.m. to prepare for various house events, *à la Irlandaise*.

Then we came to our travel arrangements from Killarney to Hinckley. Bill Hirst, a member of another Crockford's team, sensibly left Killarney on Friday morning. Peter and I both played in the Killarney Swiss Pairs on Friday night, went back to our Killarney house for supper and left at about at quarter to one in the

morning to catch the 2.30a.m. bus from Limerick to Dublin. Our chauffeur, B J O'Brien, got us there in plenty of time; but by quarter to three there had been no sign of the bus and we concluded it wasn't coming. So off B.J. set for Dublin. In fact he didn't have to drive us all the way as we caught up with the bus (in a country where NOTHING starts on time, that bus must be the only one ever to have left early. Or do they just not believe in timetables?) and followed it to the next stop where we swapped our mode of transport.

However, our problems had only just begun as the driver not only didn't seem to know the route, but drove at a speed similar to that of Akram Zaman who once took 8 hours to drive from Cardiff to Caernarfon, non-stop. We arrived at Dublin airport at about 5.55 for a 6.25 flight. We were lucky to get through airport security and to our gate with at least a minute or two to spare. And so to Birmingham airport, a couple of buses and one taxi to our hotel where we got to bed at 10.30 a.m. for two hours' sleep to supplement the good solid coach, plane and bus cat-naps. Then it was time to play and, using what resources we had, we completely focused on the bridge, too exhausted to waste time discussing hands between sets. We got another hour's sleep in our meal break. The bridge finished at ten past midnight, by which time I was doing a good impression of a sleepwalker. I didn't even watch Match of the Day. Peter headed for the bar.

Up to the penultimate match we had won five out of six matches, beating even the well-rested Bill Hirst team 23-7 in our sixth match. We had led throughout and, going into our final match, were 9 VPs clear of the field and could only be overtaken by our opponents, probably the pre-tournament favourites, of Nick Irens, David Bakshi, Tom Townsend, Norman Selway and Espen Erichsen. They needed to beat us 20-10 or better to win the event. Despite two costly swings (Peter and I missed two slams in very competitive and crowded auctions) we actually won 16-14, to become the first all-Welsh Crockford winners!

Our travelling tale is perhaps more classic than Tony Ratcliff's of driving back to Cardiff in the middle of the Spring Fours to complete a payroll run for his employers. And

mentioning Tony leads me on to another Welsh success: another all-Welsh team won the Crockford's plate, which took place at same time at the same venue. So well done to Tony, John Salisbury, Mike Tedd and Patrick Jourdain. It also gave the Welsh another opportunity for a combined photo.

The EBU are apparently discussing making it an English-only event in future! With the Bulgarians winning the Spring Fours, English players are not getting a look-in. Now being unbiased, I have to say the Welsh win was deserved and, as in the Camrose, pretty solid bridge was played by both pairs, but once again the No. 1 quality of fantastic team spirit played a huge part. If the slam hands were taken away we would have won by a mile, so, Julian, please put slam bidding on the agenda for our next training weekend.

Our biggest loss was on a hand where Martin Jones (Rosen team) and Pat Shields (Denning) both arrived in 7♥. Trumps broke 2-2 and now declarer had to play 10xx opposite AKJxxx for no losers. Both obviously laid down the ace; then one finessed and one cashed the king. We lost 20imps on board. What would you have done?

Another slam in this set was where I had the final decision whether or not to bid with:

♠ A K Q J 8, ♥ J 7 5 2, ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ 9			
Peter	Opp 1	Me	Opp 2
1♦	2NT ¹	3♠ ²	5♣
5♥ ³	Pass	?	

The bidding was:

- 1 Minors
- 2 Natural and forcing
- 3 Slam try in spades

Would you or wouldn't you?

My decision cost 13 IMPs, so these two decisions meant we lost the final set 6-39. Both decisions were, I hope you agree, marginal and nothing to worry or argue about. The team didn't and just kept going.

So now for our next targets of the Gold Cup and the final stages of the Europeans, previously perhaps scoffed at as my impossible dream. It's good to have ambitions, however unrealistic they may seem to others. At the risk of incurring the wrath of Nike, we have attained three dreams. Now, onwards ...

It's a style thing

by Bob Pitts (North Wales)

There is a debate amongst some of our local players about the best way to handle a minimum 4-4-4-1 hand with a club singleton.

Unless there is some conventional machinery available the choice lies between opening 1♦ or 1♥. If you open the former and partner responds 2♣, then without sufficient values to respond 2NT you are forced to rebid 2♦ on a 4-card suit (yes some actually do this!). However, they say if you start with 1♥, after 2♣ a rebid of 2♦ sound like you are 5-4. As you can tell, I much prefer the second of these; with so much club bridge being pairs sessions I hate hiding my majors. Of course, as with all bidding systems, the most important thing is that you and partner are in agreement - so it depends on your style.

This deal from this year's Spring Swiss Teams event in North Wales did nothing to change my opinion. Sitting East, my partner Barry Jones opened 1♥ and I responded 1♠, which he raised to 2♠. After the opening bid, all of my high cards looked to be working, so did he have enough for slam? I made a trial bid of 3♣ and Barry jumped to the spade game. I checked on the ♦A before settling in the small slam, not expecting the East hand to be strong enough for the grand after a minimum spade raise.

Vul: E/W	♠ 4	
Dlr: North	♥ 10 8 7 6	
	♦ K J 2	
	♣ K 9 5 3 2	
♠ A K 6 3		♠ Q J 9 2
♥ A Q 4		♥ K J 5 2
♦ 6 4		♦ A Q 10 8
♣ A 8 6 4		♣ J
	♠ 10 8 7 5	
	♥ 9 3	
	♦ 9 7 5 3	
	♣ Q 10 7	

As you can see the contract was excellent; and after I put in the ♦Q on the opening lead, one club ruff was enough to safely ensure 12 tricks. At the other table, a 1♦ start by East was met with a Baron 2NT response. The

spade suit got lost and 3NT was the resulting contract.

One of my friends playing in another team was annoyed that he and his partner had missed the slam on this board, but was consoled by the fact that had they bid it they would still have lost 13imps, as the contract against their teammates was 7♠. The single diamond finesse and 2 club ruffs in dummy looks the correct way to play this, but West took only one ruff and relied on North for both diamond honours – bingo!

NWBA Swiss Teams

at the Holiday Inn, Northop 2nd - 3rd April

1 st	Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Robert Pitts, Barry Lloyd Jones	163VPs
2 nd	Jean Keen, Dave Keen, Kath Nelson, Alan Nelson	162VPs
3 rd	Angela Booth, Peter Radley, Cheryl Duddell, Dave Duddell	160VPs



The winners, Bob Pitts, Barry Jones, Mike Tedd and John Salisbury

Anagram solutions (from Page 7)

Noted game pro	<i>Peter Goodman</i>
Up in England	<i>Paul Denning</i>
Manager alert!	<i>Margaret Lane</i>
A manlier dish	<i>Liam Sheridan*</i>
Flint factory	<i>Tony Ratcliff</i>
Art in NHS	<i>Ann Hirst</i>
Dizzily go free	<i>Lizzie Godfrey</i>
Talks cipher IDs	<i>Patrick Shields</i>

*OK., OK, would you rather have had "I herd animals"? L.

REFLECTIONS *of the President, Adrian Thomas*

I sit writing this two days after Welsh bridge history has been made, a first ever Welsh Camrose victory since the trophy started in 1936. I have been trying since my Camrose debut with Geoff Evans in the 1985-86 season. My partner, Peter Goodman, made his debut - not with me - a year later. Pat Shields made his debut in 1978 but then did not play again until 2005 - nothing to do with ability, just whereabouts and family.

Early in the year, after a discussion with one of Welsh selectors, Mike Close, I sent out an email to experienced Camrose players with the question "Why hasn't Wales won the Camrose?" Much to my disappointment I had only four replies, all from current regulars. I don't intend to name those disinterested parties because Mike and I have our answer.

The missing ingredient was definitely, in my opinion, *team spirit*, not just from those playing for Wales but from those in the WBU team, too. Other countries just could not cope with the Welsh charge on Sunday March 6th, 2011. While we had a draw and a huge win against Northern Ireland, the WBU team with seasoned campaigners Mike Tedd and John Salisbury and some new kids on the block, Alex Maddox and Alex Hogg, Trevor Towers and Simon Richards, were recording victories against the Republic and then England who needed 19 VPs in the last match against WBU to win yet again. They got 14 VPs after WBU were 30 or so IMPs up in the first stanza. Understandably, England rallied in the second half of the match but WBU hung on.

The six named above may not appear on record books, but all the Wales team know that without them, and Mike Best and Mark Roderick in the first leg in Dublin, Wales would not have won the Camrose.

The team effort did not just come from players, but also the supporters at the venue, including some Irish defectors for weekend; but I think the vibes were even coming through from those watching on BBO and those, such as Alan Pierce, looking down from above. Wales didn't win his trophy this weekend* but as his widow Maggie observed

many times after it finished, he wouldn't have cared less - we've done it (well words along those lines - she was very, very happy). The helpers and all the workers at the Metropole were incredibly supportive and encouraging.

In the past I have heard the criticism that supporters were watching only to look at our mistakes and lay claim for a place in the team themselves. There was none of that here. I believe everybody, whether present or watching at home, was truly behind the team. I conclude this from the many messages of congratulations flooding in from home and away, from people I didn't even know had my email address. Perhaps special mention should be made of Laura Woodruff, who had been there working BBO on Friday and Saturday, but had family commitments at home on Sunday. When the result was known (at 7.30) she put on her posh frock and drove from Porthcawl to get there virtually in time for the banquet, and she doesn't even drink!!

Thanks to everybody for your support. I think I have had about four hours' interrupted sleep since, in case I wake up and find it is a dream.



So what else have I been doing as President? Besides involvement in some issues, which I don't want to dwell on at this happy time, what is giving me most enjoyment has been my continued touring of clubs, but I assure members that issues are being dealt with

regularly by the whole of the newly appointed management team. The team sometimes have differences of opinion, but are all working to try to improve bridge in Wales. Of course not everybody will agree with all our decisions but be assured we are listening and learning.

So back to my tour. To date I have visited 32 out of 52 affiliated clubs in Wales, with eighteen more visits arranged to affiliated clubs, two to unaffiliated. Some, mostly in my local area, I have visited on more than one occasion.

The welcome everywhere has without exception been tremendously encouraging and made me and all members of Management Committee and Council feel it has been very worthwhile. I have met some wonderful characters, had many laughs and, I believe, shown that WBU wants to help and provide for all members, not just tournament and international members.

At some point I and one other volunteer, separately as a double-check mechanism, will sit down and analyse data collected from these tours. MC and Council will use this to shape future WBU policies, help to members etc. So far I have collected about 270 questionnaires. If you read this and you are thinking 'what questionnaire?' then ask your club secretary as there should be copies in the clubs I have visited to date.**

I hope nobody begrudges me my "jollies". It is hard work and time consuming but totally worthwhile, on both a personal level and a bridge administration level.

People who now know who I am, and can put a face to the name, will know I care for bridge as a whole. I will still have my critics but these appear to be few and far between. I may not remember your name or where I have seen you but mostly I am remembering I have met people before.

So carry on enjoying your bridge and supporting the WBU

Ade

(with both player's and President's hats on)

* *The Alan Pierce cup was presented by Maggie for the Camrose match between*

England and Wales, after Alan's untimely death. Wales won it that first year.

*** Adrian has visited more clubs since writing this article and will be completing his tour this year, including non-affiliated clubs who have invited him.*

* * * * *

The Lady Milne – Musings

I have long since realised that being a Ladies' team captain means knowing that opponents' bidding systems are of minimal interest to the players. In fact, all emails exchanged in the week before the big event was about the far more important topic of "What are we going to wear?"

The journey over to Belfast gave me further enlightenment and provided me with more instructions for any future travelling ladies' captain to give his team.

- A) Only one bag per person, LESS than 10kg and able to fit into "test space".
- B) Any handbag should fit into this bag and, in no circumstances, be larger than the travel bag.
- C) There must be no holes in your see-through liquids bag.
- D) There must be only **one** see-through liquids bag per person.
- E) There should be no transferring of toiletries between see-through bags with other travellers ('Have you packed these yourself, Madam?')
- F) All bottles to be less than 100ml.
- G) This does not mean 125ml bottles that are nearly empty!
- H) Do not get cross with airport officials as this will lead to even further confiscation.
- I) The team Captain must carry enough money to buy replacement items.

Adrian

[Editor's note: the above was written by a man who once tried to take a game called "Pass the Bomb", containing a life-like and ticking bomb, through Belfast airport, long before the Good Friday Agreement.]

A deodorised rodent (a tale of woe)



We were doing well in the EBU National Pairs qualifier, both on form for a change, when two men sat down at the table for the last round of the first set. One seemed half asleep; the other was hyper-animated.

I opened 1♠; 2♠ on my left, which produced a flurry of Alert card waving back and forth between my partner and me. Partner asked; “He has clubs and hearts”, announced the windmill, and his hand swept up their convention card, stuck it front of my partner, while the index finger of the other hand shot across and indicated the relevant bit of the card. Then he described an arc high in the air before putting the card in front of me. “See, there!”, repeating the demonstration.

By this time my partner had her 4♠ bid on the table, whereupon he swooped low to his box and produced 5♣, with another flourish. Feeling slightly exhausted on his behalf, I passed. The sloth bid 5♥ and my partner doubled. Pass, Pass, Pass.

Partner led the ace of clubs and the windmill laid down:

♠ J x, ♥ J 10 x x x, ♦ x, ♣ 9 8 7 x x

I admit, my jaw dropped. So much for partner’s knocking the contract with club ruffs, I thought, looking hopelessly at my king-other heart and my Q 10 x x of clubs. But wait a minute! Declarer must have had only three clubs! What’s going on?

Declarer ruffed the ace of clubs. We called the director.

“There’s nothing you can do about it”, he said.

“But why would his partner bid clubs when he has five hearts? This is Pairs!”, I argued.

“That’s his choice”, the Director replied.

It was hard not to say that if that was his choice he was an idiot, but I managed to keep quiet. Partner says that with ace, king and two small clubs, she ‘knew’ I had a singleton at most, and that is why she doubled: A, K, then another club for me to ruff (we had each thought, of course, that the other had hearts.)

The sloth never stirred.

The director wrote down the bidding and went away, saying he would come back with his decision, so we carried on. Declarer held:

♠ K x, ♥ A Q x x x, ♦ K Q J 10 9 x, ♣ void

The traveller showed 5♥ making every time, of course, *except our table* which showed 5♥ **doubled**, making: a complete bottom. Partner and I were outraged. The director returned to the table and said the score stood. Nothing would budge him. In the interval I suggested we appeal against the decision, but partner was no longer interested. Food was ready.

We continued with the second half and had another good set. We finished second, 0.07 behind the winners. No guessing who they were, but ‘salt’ and ‘wound’ was our thinking. We still qualified, but we were not the winners, when I still think we should have been. It was only later that I realised that we should have queried declarer’s failure to explain that he had ‘made a mistake’ with his first bid. Surely my partner would have been allowed to take her double back, and it would have been a flat board.

I brought it up recently and she said “Remind me”. Her reaction? “WE SHOULD HAVE APPEALED!” Anyway, I am told that the director no longer works for the EBU.

Crossword solution - April

	S	E	V	E	N	N	O	T	R	U	M	P	S	
	V			I					K			O		
P	E		I	N	T	O	U	C	H	I			R	
R	A	N	K		E		L		B		O	N	C	E
O		S		B		S	I	X		T		T		D
				A			V			E				
A	V	O	I	D	T	H	E	F	I	N	E	S	S	E
			D		L					A		K		
B	I	D	D	I	N	G	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E
					N			U			E			
B		M		E		E	S	T		S		G		T
B	L	U	E		P		H		E		F	R	E	E
O		L		P	L	A	Y	E	R	S		A		N
			T			L				I			D	
	F	I	F	T	Y	T	W	O	C	A	R	D	S	

A bumper crop of promotions *from Noelle Bond* (28/02/2011 16/05/2011)

Club Master		Ann Evans	S	Allan Robins	MG
Cherry Cadwallader	MG	Morfudd Fisher	M	Beryl Sleath	S
David Croker	PN	Anne Hughes	OH	Susan E Thomas	NP
Jan David	CAR	Jean James	C	William O Williams	WS
Margaret Davies	CAR	Adrian Micusan	L	Two Star Master	
Margaret Edwards	WS	Martin Rich	CAS	Betty Bennett	R
Michael Gwynne-John	CBY	David Wainwright	S	Brian Griffiths	R
Eira Jones	LDB	Master		Ian Grove	S
Bob Morgan	PT	Martin Davies	BRE	Sarah Harrison	PN
Ros Morgan	PT	Margaret Ellis	A	Martin Ley	S
Joseph Mullally	CN	Chris Evans	S	Eileen Parry	MB
Brian Quinlan	C	Joan Gallagher	GA	Alun Richards	A
Marilyn Woolzley	S	Rory Gibbons	PT	Angela Roberts	WS
Area Master		William Glynn	T	Pamela Sherman	PN
Derek Adams	C	Margaret Harris	P	Pat Verdon	PN
Margaret Bird	GA	Maurice Harris	P	Richard Welsford	AG
Phil Bowers	MG	Richard Hughes	C	Three Star Master	
Michael Brown	S	Gareth John	L	Pam Higgs	OH
Hazel Craig	PN	Sally John	L	Four Star Master	
Peter Craig	PN	Adrian Jones	GA	Monica Dewsberry	MG
Sam Fellows	PN	Julie Milewski	H	Wendy Jenkins	WS
Paul Green	GA	Andrew Mountain	W	Five Star Master	
David Hill	GA	Jean Pollard	MER	Frank Long	PV
David Jennings	LP	Valerie Richards	LET	Ron Waterhouse	F
Pam Jennings	LP	Maria Richardson	S	Dorothy Williams	F
Daphne Jones	LDB	Gavin E Roscoe	WS	Tournament Master	
Lynne Roberts	CAR	David Stewart	S	Anne Thomas	GA
Elaine Robins	MG	Gillian Young	WS	Premier Master	
Judith Sweeting	GA	Advanced Master		Tony Davies	BRE
Sue Walker	CAS	Roe Bissett	CRI	Anne Ellis	CN
Marian Wille	Y	Betty Broadley	CR	Barbara Ellis	S
Margaret Worthington	CBY	Josie De Vos	PT	Angela Mayner	LD
District Master		Colin Easterbrook	OH	Regional Master	
Kaye Bennett	NT	Robert Hellier	GA	Carol James	PN
John Coghlin	S	Susan Jackson	M	Derek Walmsley	PR
Douglas Colmer	Y	Eric E Johnson	D	Premier Regional Master	
Brenda Connor	CBY	David M Jones	BEN	Aida Aris	GA
Terry B Gay	CRI	Sally Jones	WS	Peter Smith	AR
Catherine Hadwen	S	Margaret Owen	BEN	National Master	
Lynn Morris	L	Wendy Redding	GA	Margaret Barnes	LD
Brian Thomas	CD	Caroline Vincent	S	Premier National Master	
Herrick Westcott	GA	Keith Vincent	S	Jennifer Wardell	CAR
Joan Westcott	GA	Byron Williams	S	Life Master	
County Master		One Star Master		John Beard	BR
Dawn Bowers	MG	Sara Bartlett	OH	Kevin Maddox	MG
Mike Cronly	C	Barbara Buckland	L	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Grand Master Sheila Shea  CN </div>	
Anthony Curry	S	Ken Edwards	MG		
Mary Llewelfryn Davies	A	Gerry Morris	L		
Peter Dumelow	S	Sheila Morris	MER		

Information page (Please mark changes and corrections in your copy of the current *Journal*)

Item	Page	Details
Calendar		WWBA competition dates added to Calendar – <u>Mens/Ladies Area Pairs</u> 2 nd October; <u>Vince Bevan</u> 23 rd October; <u>Laidlaw Murray</u> 25 th March 2012; <u>AGM/John Isaac/Ann Dolan</u> 22 nd April 2012
Pencoed Bridge Club	6	Change of Secretary: Mrs Vida Halford 7 Clos y coed, Pen y fai, Bridgend CF31 4GD ☎ 01656 656862 vidahalford@hotmail.com

Contact Neville: Neville Richards, Chief Executive, Welsh Bridge Union
Meadow View, Llanddewi, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6SE
Telephone: 01597 850050/05602 941492, email: neville@wbu.org.uk

Top 20 John Hockey Trophy 2010-2011

Adrian Thomas	280	Barry Jones	135
Mary Moore	203	Jennifer Wardell	134
Tony Ratcliff	170	Barry Wennell	130
Liz Commins	169	Liam Sheridan	129
Mike Best	165	Gwynn Davis	127
Filip Kurbalija	160	Julian Pottage	118
Joan Jenkins	146	Susan Ingham	117
John Salisbury	140	Glyn Williams	116
Peter Goodman	140	Margaret Lane	112
Beth Wennell	137	Sheila Shea	111

Caption Competition No. 2

This edition's subject is the photograph of Fil and Diane Kurbalija on Page 2.

As well as the usual marks for technical merit (i.e. making Derek laugh), marks for artistic impression will be awarded to any entrant who manages to get something in about the *eminence grise* in the background. Marks will be deducted for use of the word 'smile' or any of its derivatives.

The winner will receive a magnificent prize of £10. Entries to Jill Knight, 16 Bay View Road, Benllech, or Polly64335@aol.com. If sending by post, please give name and address. **Closing date 1st September 2011.**

(Result of Competition No. 1 on Page 8)

St. David's Day Simultaneous Pairs, 28th February – 4th March

Monday	Lavinia Thomas & Colin Thomas	PT	73.56%
Tuesday	Sue Ingham & Gwynn Davis	C	63.66%
Wednesday	Gordon Roxburgh & Graham Jones	GA	68.46%
Thursday	Gareth Jones & Iorwerth Davies	CR	65.91%
Friday	Diana Jones & Trish Tracey	PN	68.86%



Bridge Great Britain Simultaneous Pairs– 12th-14th April

Tuesday	Susan: Greenwood & Roy Dickenson	CBY	71.30%	(5 th /1,571 overall)
Wednesday	Roger Bowles & John Waller	CAS	67.04%	(27 th /2,356 overall)
Thursday	Alan Jones & Carolyn Matthews	MG	69.46%	6 th /1580 overall)

World Wide Bridge Contest, Friday, 3rd June (5, 235 pairs playing)

1 st	Jill Knight & Gwynne Williams	BEN	68.4%	(30 th overall)
2 nd	Andrew Young & Alan Screen	NT	66.85%	(46 th overall)
3 rd	Tony Ratcliff & Julian Pottage	BR	65.17%	(83 rd overall)

As always, a huge thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. Without you there wouldn't be one. I am always glad to receive material the reader thinks would be of interest – 'Where are they now?', letters, 'Heard at the table' humour – anything that the reader would enjoy. Contact me at Polly64335@aol.com, or telephone 01248 853033 **JILL**

Inter-Area Events 2011

The Perry Shield (Open), Spickett Bowl (Ladies) and WBU President's Cup (club players) were held in Cardiff on 9th and 10th April 2011. Congratulations to the winning teams from the West East and East, respectively.

The President's Cup in one of Adrian's innovations, to include club players in what is one of the most enjoyable events in the bridge calendar, combining the pleasure of meeting people from the other areas with a sense of pride at representing your own. Reports from the club players were all favourable, and it was obvious to Perry and Spickett players that they were having a good time.

In spite of having to change the date and venue at fairly short notice, Joan Jenkins managed to find us a very good venue and the East did us all proud, proving excellent hosts and even providing a carvery meal after the event, which was most welcome. They asked players to let people be served according to the distance they had to drive home, which was a very kind gesture. Many thanks to the East from all of us. A very enjoyable and successful weekend.

RESULTS

<i>Perry Shield</i>			<i>Spickett Bowl</i>			<i>President's Cup</i>		
		<i>VPs</i>			<i>VPs</i>			<i>VPs</i>
1 st	West	112	1 st	East	117	1 st	East	111
2 nd	Mid	94	2 nd	North	112	2 nd	West	91
3 rd	East	87	3 rd	West	89	3 rd	North	88
4 th	North	67	4 th	Mid	42	4 th	Mid	70



**Winners of the inaugural WBU President's Cup: East Wales
Paul Relph (NPC), Ian White, Clive Case, George Williams, Tim Butler, Ron Thompson,
Joan Westcott, Herrick Westcott**

Perry Shield and Spickett Bowl 2011



Perry Shield winners: West Wales
(Laura Woodruff, David Melville, Tony Disley, Mike Close (Captain), John Cox, Roger Penton)



Spickett Bowl winners: East Wales
Jo Copping, Susan Ingham, Ann Hirst, Mike Hirst (NPC), Liz Atkinson, Chris Forbes, Gilly Clench