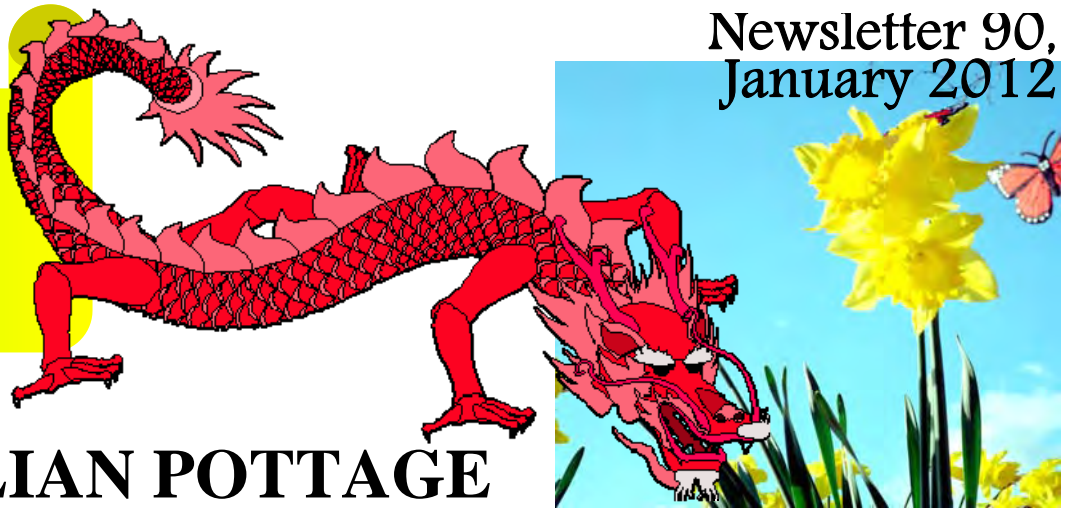


Welsh Bridge Union



MEET JULIAN POTTAGE

Julian Pottage has been living in Porthcawl since September 2005.

He was born and grew up on the South coast of England and learnt to play bridge at home, watching his parents. He went to Trinity College, Cambridge where he studied mathematics and later gained election as Associate, then Fellow of the Pensions Management Institute.



He is an established top bridge author, having written both individually and in collaboration with other writers and he also makes regular contributions to bridge magazine and other publications. He is known, via his bridge books, by players all over the world. I have witnessed this myself, playing on BBO when someone from Turkey asked was he Julian Pottage, the bridge writer. On discovering that he

was, the Turkish man enthused about one of Julian's books in his possession that he thought was very good indeed.

As a player, he achieved a run of success as a junior and went on to win several National competitions, including the Tollemache and Pachabo double in 1999. He discovered *the compound guard squeeze* and also named and described *the mole squeeze*. To some of us who just about know that squeezes exist, the idea of discovery, analysis and naming of new versions and possibilities is almost beyond comprehension.

Julian's other interests include photography and family ancestry. He has placed several thousand photographs with the Robert Harding picture library, mainly landscape and travel photography until he married Helen and his children were born, since which time he has concentrated mostly on family pictures. He has traced his paternal ancestors back as far as 1674, and has identified around 1,000 known relatives who are related to roughly two thirds of all known Pottages.

Making a Difference

He and his family came to Wales because he wanted to be back by the coast and because there was a suitable school in Porthcawl for his four children, not

(continued on Page 2)

forgetting sea and sand for the family dog. Julian plays bridge, of course, but the greatest difference he has made to Welsh bridge, so far, has been in setting up and delivering seminars and in organising team bridge practice for aspiring players on BBO, with the help of Mark Roderick. Once teams are selected, he will analyse bidding and play and make relevant suggestions, by email..... excellent distance coaching.

The seminars are held in two centres – Cardiff and Colwyn Bay, for the convenience of those taking part. Julian is quite adamant that no-one who aspires to play for Wales can be considered unless they attend these seminars. This year the sessions were over two days and covered a variety of issues for people to think about and work on. Julian provides all the original material as well as conducting the seminars. In the North, Adrian covers the same ground and uses the same material.

The organisation of online team play is simple for the participants. They are given a list of dates and must reply to say which dates are possible for them. They then receive an email telling them which dates they are playing, to which a response of confirmation is required. Finally, each player receives a chart showing what dates and what times they are playing. A couple of days before each match, individuals receive the names of their team and those of the opposition team. All they have to do is turn up and wait to be invited to their tables. Afterwards, they receive copies of the hands, the bidding and play and the results from other matches, playing the same boards, so that each player can learn from the experience and perhaps detect an inadequacy in their bidding system, etc. Simple for the players, but the amount of time needed for the organisation of such events is enormous. Twenty-four people

playing the same boards at half-hour intervals; dozens of emails, collating everyone's availability, sending out emails and the final chart showing times and dates for each person, the final lists of names in each individual's match. Then, looking at the hands and play and writing a commentary on each hand and sending this out to everyone - all free to the players. What a wonderful contribution he is making to Welsh bridge.

I was curious to know more about him, so I asked him a couple of questions and was rewarded by his revelation of the inner person.

How do you find living in Wales?

'The people are friendlier than where I have lived in England. The day we arrived two different neighbours came to welcome us – that does not happen in England. The weather is a little different – there is no such thing as an overcast day – if there are clouds, it rains. The sport culture is little different too – you would scarcely know it when the football World Cup is on but everything seems to grind to a halt when Wales are playing rugby.'

What are your hopes/plans for the future?

'Two long-term ambitions are to become a grandfather (both of mine died before I was born) and to achieve making 100 blood donations. On the bridge front, I would like to play in the European Championships one day. I would also like to see more young players in the game. By better marketing, we might convince youngsters that bridge is better than watching TV or playing computer games.'

Hear hear to that. And thank you, Julian, for giving your time and expertise for the improvement of players in Wales.

Jill's Quill



It is two weeks till Christmas and I am busy checking over everything one more time before sending off to Laura for proof-reading and type-setting. You won't get this newsletter till the end of January, but I shall be away for a couple of weeks, soon, and Laura is very busy doing a University course in London, amongst all the other things she does. So we need enough time to email-conference so that the finished article is out by the Lady Milne Trials, when kind participants will be able to take them back to their areas.

They say bad news travels fast, so I expect many of you already know that Linda Greenland, our Treasurer, will be leaving us. She will be issuing her last statement of accounts at the AGM this year. She and Ken will be moving back to Kent to be near elderly parents. Their gain will certainly be our loss. Linda has been WBA's treasurer for seventeen years and, at one stage, was managing most of the WBU's interests and activities. Ken, too, has been very active in East Wales, as well as the wider area. On behalf of us all, I wish them both a smooth transition, a painless resettlement and the greatest personal fulfilment in their new life Kent. We shall miss them.

There have been so many meetings that it has been hard to keep up with things. There are a lot of enthusiastic WBU members who have been coming up with good ideas about a variety of important issues, especially how to encourage more participation by social players and how to improve – *save*, even - our traditional national championship events. Meetings have been held; recommendations made and discussed. One recommendation is to hold the Open Pairs areas qualifier as a Simultaneous Pairs and it has been decided to trial this as soon as possible. By the time you read this, it will have happened and results can be evaluated.

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter, and particularly, those people who actually wrote to *offer* contributions. I so enjoyed reading them and I know you will, too. Whether it is playing bridge in New

Zealand, taking part in a congress for the first time or having a pleasant lunch and game of bridge in a delightful environment, such accounts are interesting and entertaining. So thank you, again.

I have tried to make up for the missing two out of the four editions promised this year. I did not see the point of clashing with the journal so I was waiting to see. In the event I decided to leave the newsletter till January. I hope you all had a great Christmas. Don't forget, if you have something say or ask, send me your article or email. Enjoy your bridge.

Jill

As always, a huge thank you to all those who have contributed. I am always glad to receive material that the reader would enjoy. Contact me at Polly64335@aol.com, or telephone 01248 853033

JILL

CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER

The winner is Andrew Mountain of Wrexham, but it seems that the background figure had a 'hand' in it.



“Don't look now - but I think we are being followed by Bill Oddie”

IS IT SAFE?

by our friend in the North, Paddy Murphy



Safety plays are nice when you can spot them, but the safest of plays are those that cost nothing. After some uneventful bidding West received the lead of the ♣K in what looks like a solid game contract.

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

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Double	3♦
4♠	All pass		

Declarer played the ace of clubs and took the zero-risk line of ruffing a club high, crossing to the jack of spades (North and South both following) and ruffing another club high. After drawing the final trump, declarer led the ♦10, which was won by North with the ace, West unblocking the king in dummy. North then led the ♥7 and West finessed the ten, losing to South's jack. South exited with a diamond. Declarer has lost two tricks and the position below has been reached (5 cards remaining):

West	East
♠ 4 2	♠ 8 6
♥ 6 5 4	♥ A Q 2

This is the full hand:

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

The lead of the ♥7 appears to present a bigger problem for declarer. Playing the ace, however, and proceeding on similar lines has the same effect as in the example above, and leads to this end position with the defence's having taken one trick:

West	East
♠ 4 2	♠ 8 6
♥ 6 5 4	♥ Q 10 2

A Cunning Plan

Pairs is a funny game. You find yourself in a variety of ambitious contracts and if they are anything like the ones I end up in you are generally planning to lose as few tricks as possible.

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

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



With three hearts (K98) outstanding declarer can cope with any distribution by leading the ♥4 and covering North's card. In reality, North shows out so declarer simply ducks and South is end-played to lead into hearts or give a ruff and discard. One might say

that this is a routine play, but at least half of a large expert field went off in 4♠.

A competitive auction led West to an optimistic 3♠ contract; the contract was not doubled, however, so -100 might be a good score if 3♠ is making.

North led the ♥Q, which looks like a doubleton. Planning ahead, if West were to lose the lead to South then the fragile 9-high trump holding might come under some pressure for the loss of 2 trumps, 2 clubs, a heart and a diamond and the dreaded -200. This looks like the time for the cunning move of cashing the ace of trumps and seeing what happens. Declarer led the ♠2 to the ace and bingo! the stiff king appeared from South. West could then pick up the trump suit up for no losers by returning to the ♦K and taking the marked finesse against the ♠J.

The diamond suit broke 3-2 and +140* was worth over 90% of the match points.

The full hand:

♠ J 8 6 ♥ Q 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K Q 10 9 6 3 ♠ 9 7 5 4 2 ♥ A J ♦ K 8 7 3 ♣ 8 2 ♠ K ♥ K 10 8 7 6 3 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A J 5	♠ A Q 10 3 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ A J 6 5 ♣ 7 4
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In isolation, the 9 card suit combination xxxxx versus AQ10x or xxxx versus AQ10xx plays for five tricks by finessing the queen then playing the ace (27% chance), for four tricks by playing the ace then leading towards the queen (83% chance) or for three tricks by applying either of the above, or finessing the ten then the queen (95%). These odds change dramatically, however, when you take other aspects of the hand or bidding into consideration.

**Deep finesse will tell you that 10 tricks are cold if you lead the ♦J from dummy to pin the 109 doubleton in North's hand. However, this author will tell you that that is gilding the lily.*

A Message from the National Tournament Organiser

Every area has been finding ways of encouraging social club players to dip their toes in the warmer waters of congress events devised especially for them, in the hope that they will enjoy meeting and playing against people from other clubs and areas. The organisation of the area qualifier for the National Pairs will already have taken place, run for the first time as a simultaneous pairs. I am keen to receive any constructive comments from people on changes and innovations made in order to make all aspects of competition more accessible and enjoyable for as many people as possible.

Here are some reminders of this year's venues:

Mixed Pairs Final, 25th-26th February, Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells. The hotel is offering a reduced rate to those competitors who wish to stay. **Please remember to quote "Bridge Competition" when booking.**

Teams of Eight Final, 17th June, Metropole Hotel.

Open Pairs Final, 10th-11th March, Royal Pavilion, Builth Wells showground.

Webber Cup Final, 28th-29th April, Llanidloes Community Centre. This is a new WBU venue so please contact me for further details.

Ladies' event, 9th-10th June, Crossgates Community Centre (PLUS Cambria Cup Final).

Finding a venue to suit all can be a problem so I hope that by varying the locations in 2012 I will have managed to please most people in each Area. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable season.

Jean Hand

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

Item	p.	Details
New Junior Coordinator	3	Mark Roderick: mark.roderick@ntlworld.com
Newtown BC	7	Email address for Secretary: pgmoody@talktalk.net
WBU Swiss Teams		24 th -25 th November 2012

EAST WALES

Judy Belcher

It is with great regret that I have to report the death of Judy Belcher on Monday October 3rd.



Judy (left) and Daphne at the Europeans

Judy was born in Cardiff but was brought up in Australia. When she returned to the UK she met and married Robin who was running a bridge club in London. They had 2 sons - Jonathon and Richard. Later Judy and family moved to the Devon/Somerset border where they bought and ran a hotel - hosting bridge weekends. Judy played for Somerset in the Western League and the Tollemache.

She was honoured and delighted to play for the Welsh Ladies team in the European Championships of 2010 in Ostend, Belgium. On her return she was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. She faced this with fortitude and great courage. Judy will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Daphne Patrick

CALENDAR

February 2012

5th (Sun) Teams of 8 Area heat (Gwent)
 18th – 19th EWBA Congress, Newport
 18th – 19th EWBA Novice event (simple systems). **TRY IT!**

March 2012

25th (Sun) EWBA Webber Heat Gwent

April 2012

22nd (Sun) EWBA AGM Cardiff

Results

Louis Leron Teams (23rd October 2011)

- 1: Liz Atkinson, Chris Rochelle, Gwynn Davis, Sue Ingham 91 VPs
- 2: Ken Richardson, Terry Parkes, Steve Webb, Tim Barsby 72 VPs
- 3: Diane Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija, Dan McIntosh, Tony Ratcliff 69 VPs

National Mixed Pairs area final %

- 1: Dan McIntosh & Diane Kurbalija 59.49
- 2: Marion Shewell & Peter Smith 53.70
- 3: Gwynn Davis & Sue Ingham 53.01
- 4: Mark Roderick & Noelle Bond 51.16

MID WALES

Nearly all our income comes from the Mid-Wales Swiss Teams Congress at the Metropole in July, so we are happy to report that this year it was another outstanding success. The hotel and playing conditions are excellent, the bridge is friendly but keenly competitive and the finances are modestly handsome. It is all a great credit to our Congress Secretary, Jean Cufley.

Jean has also agreed to manage the Lady Milne (women's Home International) at The Metropole in April 2012. It would be nice to see our women players following Wales's successes in the Camrose (well run by Jean last March) and the Senior Camrose.

For 2011-12, Alan Screen has taken over as Area Tournament Organiser, and reports that there is a renewed interest in area competitions. Two events that have not run some years for lack of entries have been contested with 5 tables in each.

There have been a few successful social events. At Crossgates in August, Rita Lawrence organised a well-attended lunch with some friendly bridge. Dolgellau bridge club ran another very enjoyable one-day event in Penmaenpool in October.

Mid Wales Bridge Drive (in aid of the Air Ambulance)

This very successful event was organised by Rita Lawrence on 13th August, 2011, on behalf of the MWBA and ably directed by Alan Screen. Enthusiastic participants from across Mid Wales enjoyed good food, good company and good bridge.



Top 6:	%
1. Mike Jones, Dai Hayes	61.54
2. Berwyn Woolnough, John Salisbury	61.32
3. Chris Blackman, Monica G-Edwards	59.19
4. Ralph Lamb, Lyn Lamb	56.84
5. Margaret James, Pamela Woodhouse	56.20
6. Tony Davies, Belinda Davies	55.98

Results

Individual – JV Davies Cup	%
1. Diana Harris (Castle, Welshpool)	63.16
2. Jeff Thomas (Aberystwyth)	58.22
3. Jeremy Dawes (Castle)	57.57
4. Berwyn Woolnough (Ll. Wells)	57.24

Ladies' Pairs – Flaye Cup	%
1. Jean Cufley, Fiona Noyce (NT)	59.73
2. Helen Davies, Belinda Davies (K)	56.94
3. Pam Woodhouse, Monica Garbett-Edwards(A& NT)	56.67
4. Jo Davies, Mair Jones (A)	55.28

Mixed Pairs – Harrop-Griffiths Cup	%
1. Paul Gagne, Diana Harris (CAS)	66.47
2. Mike Jones, Margaret James (A)	54.96
3. Dai Hayes, Pam Woodhouse (A)	54.37
4. Tony & Belinda Davies (BRE)	51.79

Area Teams – McKinley Cup

1. Mike Jones, Keith Bellamy, Dai Hayes, John Valentine	147 VPs
2.= Alan Screen, George Novak, Paul Gagne, Diana Harris	140 VPs
2.= Dewi Jones, Dylan Raw-Rees, John Evans, Andrew Phillips	140 VPs

Open Pairs – Evans Jones	%
1. Paul Gagne, Diana Harris	61.27
2. Andrew Phillips, John Evans	58.57
3. Dewi Jones, Dylan Raw-Rees	57.14
4. Robert Havards, Jeff Thomas	54.60

* * * * *

NORTH WALES

North Wales have nominated Dr Paddy Murphy as WBU president for next year. Paddy is Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Bangor University, working with research students. He enjoys playing bridge and watching his son play football and gets through a lot of audio books, especially when driving. We wish him every success during his year as president of the WBU.

With the sad passing of John Wain earlier in the year, the position of NWBA Treasurer has been taken up by Nigel Worthington. Our thanks and best wishes go to him. John left his affairs in meticulous order to ease the transition. John also arranged for Mark Spalding to run the No Fear congress he started four years ago, which has been a great success. Good luck to Mark. Anyone wishing to honour John's memory by helping Mark, please let him know.

The Swiss Pairs congress numbers were down this year, mainly because of the Torquay 'Riviera' congress replacing the Eastbourne event which appears to have crept ever nearer to Wales, but caused a lot less damage to our Swiss Pairs when in Eastbourne. Grateful thanks to our regulars for their support, and we look forward to welcoming those who tried out the Torquay congress back to Llandudno next July.



Jean Hand's one-day Swiss Pairs event was well attended and was a most enjoyable experience. The Spring congress, held earlier in the year and now organised and run by Margaret Barnes and Sheila Shea, was also well attended

and was most enjoyable. The Holiday Inn has become a popular venue for this event.

Jean Hand is now the National Tournament Organiser and is hard at work trying to improve events and increase numbers taking part. There are many suggestions for change that she is processing. We wish her well.

The **WBU's seminar for would-be Wales players** was a huge success. Everyone stayed the course during an exacting two days and learnt a great deal. Thanks to Julian Pottage, Adrian Thomas, and the many Welsh Internationals who supported them.

Gwen Hurst has retired from her post as Wrexham Garden Village treasurer after many years. During her time as treasurer Gwen introduced duplimated boards and purchased Bridge Mates and a display screen for the club. She has worked hard for the club and, as well as being a representative on the NWBA Council, she has taught via the U3A, and Wrexham GV club runs special evenings for learners. Physical pain has forced her to limit her activities, so we all wish her a well-deserved rest and many happy hours concentrating on playing the game she loves.

Sadly, three more North Wales well-known personalities and keen bridge players died during the year. **Warwick Horspool** (Llandudno), **Ivor Owen** (Wrexham GV) and **Rita Jones** (Benllech) all died very suddenly during the past year. Rita died suddenly in hospital after an acute illness that, in characteristic fashion, she had kept to herself. She was originally from the Valleys and came to North Wales as PE Adviser for Gwynedd. She was a keen golfer and, in more recent years, enjoyed competitive crown green bowling. She was a Welsh International lacrosse player as a young woman. She approached bridge with the determination of a Border Collie but accepted defeat like the true sportswoman she was. Whenever there were volunteers sought to help in running Camroses etc., Rita was always there.

Ivor Owen was a member of Wrexham Bridge Club for many years, and took part in area and national events. He was a very good player and director. After directing his last Thursday session he did not turn up for the

Monday game and enquiries revealed that he had died while getting ready.

Warwick Horspool also took part in national events, with a range of partners. He was a keen cricketer, and had played for Lancashire's second team. He had been Chairman of Llandudno BC since 2004 and, indeed, was about to set out for the club when he died suddenly.

A sad farewell to all three and condolences to their loved ones and friends.

* * * * *

Recent results

Harold Griffiths Teams of Four

1. Chris Pope, Peter Kaufman, Simon Edwards, Paddy Murphy 109 VPs
2. Barry Lloyd Jones, Bob Pitts, Dave Keen, Jean Keen 66 VPs
3. Brian Crawford, Diane Knight, Peter Nickson, George Horton 34 VPs
3. Beth Wennell, Margaret Barnes, Barry Wennell, Wyn Williams 34 VPs

WBU One-Day Swiss Pairs at Northop

1. Ted Reveley, Bill Niccol 124 VPs
2. Liz Commins, David Stevenson 98 VPs
3. Tracy Capal, Stuart Matthews 97 VPs

Area Mixed Pairs qualifier %

1. Joan Marray, Julian Merrill 63.53
2. Sheila Pike, David Evans 63.13
3. Margaret Barnes, Paddy Murphy 61.31
4. Peter Nickson, Di Knight 61.01
5. Anne Edwards, David Steven 57.01

My husband, David, was directing the Mixed Pairs area final and saw an elderly man wandering around, lost. David asked which orientation he was sitting in and the elderly man replied 'North/West'.

Later, David was called to the table for a lead out of turn, read the rules and the same old man said he didn't know what bridge was coming to and how could David say all that rubbish? His partner pointed out to him that David had been reading the rules. *Catherine Spalding*

WEST WALES

Fishguard Celtic Congress 2012

The first Celtic Congress will be held in Fishguard at the Fishguard Bay Hotel, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire on June 29th – July 1st 2012.

There will be Green-pointed events, social bridge with prizes, pairs and teams. Alongside these events there will be a **Wales v. Ireland** match involving similar types of players at each session:

International players **Area players**
Club players **Committee members**

Accommodation at Fishguard Bay Hotel can be booked through Bridge Overseas (www.bridgeoverseas.co.uk, Freephone 08000 346246). A coach will be run from various points in South Wales – see WWBA website for details and for travel directions and alternative accommodation.

Looking for something to do on a Saturday night?

Swansea Bridge Club holds a 'Dragon' night on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 7p.m. All are welcome - £4 with prizes.

Results

Vince Bevan Open Pairs	%
1. Peter Milewski, Eric Hartland	59.00
2. John O'Sullivan, Jill O'Sullivan	57.77
3. Mike Baker, Steve Jarvis	56.63

Mixed Pairs Area Qualifier	%
1 Mary Moore, John Beard	59.89
2 Liam Sheridan, Gwyneth Dew	58.41
3 Laura Woodruff, Mike Close	58.07

CALENDAR

(all events at Llandybie Memorial Hall)

February 2012

5th (Sun) Teams of 8 Area Qualifier

March 2012

25th (Sun) Laidlaw Murray Teams

April 2012

22nd (Sun) John Isaac Competition
Ann Dolan Novice Competition



HANNAH: A budding young bridge player

On my visits to West Wales over the last two weeks I visited a young blind girl who is interested in playing bridge. Hannah is fifteen years old and in her GCSE year at school. She currently plays at home with her mother, grandmother and a friend co-opted by Gran. They all play in the local Cardigan club. At present Hannah is content with this arrangement as, in addition to learning to play, she also has to learn the use of Braille cards and is in the process of adapting to her new guide dog. She is one of first two under-16s to be granted a guide dog

She plays whist at present in her local village and has definite card sense

I spent a couple of hours with the family and was impressed with Hannah's abilities. Obviously, it does take her a little bit more time to inspect her hand and dummy. Opponents call out the cards they play.

I agreed with the family that they should continue to play at home with Hannah, but that if in future she wants extra lessons or to try playing at a club I will call on contacts in the local area to help. I will keep in contact with Hannah both now and in future.

Her plans are to go into the Sixth Form and then on to university to read Maths

I have also asked a person from the Llanelli area to look into special equipment that might help. He came across two blind people playing bridge regularly in Hong Kong. This is a good start.

Adrian

REPLAY THESE HANDS WITH ME *by Peter Goodman*



Today's first hand is taken from the first board of the 2011 Welsh Open Pre-Trial.

Vul: EW ♠ 9 8 4 2
Dlr: South ♥ A 7 5 2
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ A 8 5

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

♠ A K J 6 3	
♥ K 8	
♦ A K 8 7	
♣ J 4	

The recommended auction is as follows, where bidding the other major shows a general slam try and invites opener to proceed:

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥		4♠

In actual fact North tried 4♣ as a 'two-way' bid and South tried to sign off in 4NT but found himself playing in 6♠ on the lead of the ♦10. The play exceeded the bidding.

Although North-South were clearly in optimistic bidding mood the prospects still looked fair. With any 2-2 spade break and some 3-1 where the ♦Q is singleton, the contract is easy: 5 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, 1 club and 2 ruffs (= 12) or 3 diamonds and 1 ruff (= 12).

After winning the first trick with the ♦K and cashing the ace and king of spades, declarer noted East's heart discard (a club is more deceptive) and took stock. South seemed to have both a club and a spade loser.

East probably holds five hearts. He would always keep length in dummy's longest side-suit. West did not lead the ♣K so East has one or both of the club honours too.

If declarer ruffs two diamonds the contract will fail as West can exit with a second Heart to break up the squeeze. Noting the ♦10 lead

he therefore ran the ♦8, carefully throwing a club, ruffed the ♦7 and conceded a trump to East:

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

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

West does best to return ♥Q, but nothing works. On a diamond return, declarer can ruff, cross to the ace of clubs, play a ♥ to the king, cash his final trump, squeezing East out of his long ♥ or a top club. On a club return, declarer wins with the ace in dummy, plays a ♥ to the king, cashes two trumps and East is squeezed again.

On the ♥Q return, however, South still prevails: he wins in hand, plays the ♠J throwing a club, and East is squeezed as follows (East still to play):

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

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

South has read the cards well to diagnose East had five hearts originally.

Note: If East's first discard is a club it is more difficult to read his shape.

Our second hand comes from the Cwmbran Swiss Teams a week later. Although a very experienced declarer went one down at the

table, I am fairly confident he would have made it in a longer team match. Which introduces a pet Swiss Teams theme of mine: declarer card play is about making “the best attempt within a reasonable time frame”. Excessively slow play is not to be tolerated in a Swiss teams events.

This hand also introduces another theme we will return to in future months: *timing the play and use of entries is critical.*

Board 10 ♠ A 5 3 2
Dlr: North ♥ A 9 3 2
Vul: EW ♦ A 5 4 3
 ♣ 4

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

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠		

After a fair auction West leads the ♦J and the prospects are bleak. Maybe North-South did too much bidding but that’s the modern game. You seem to have two spades, one diamond and one heart loser with little prospect of parking one of them unless spades are KQ doubleton.

In these situations where you have four losers also count your **winners**: 2 clubs, 1 diamond, 2 hearts and 1 spade = **6**. Is there any way of making four further trump tricks and basically arriving at a situation where West has a winning heart and East has a winning trump both at trick 13?

These hands occur more often than you think. Routinely duck the first diamond and duck a spade at the first opportunity (we don’t want the person with 2 trumps being allowed to ruff). You will likely reach this position needing four more tricks with the lead in the North hand:

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

You have hit a critical point and really need to be in the South hand: clubs may be 4-4 and on another distribution East might be able to pitch his last club on your ♦5 and over-ruff your ♠3 later. So you carefully cash the ace and king of hearts, leaving this position:

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

As you see, after a club ruff and a diamond ruff, West is left with the boss heart and East the boss trump which fall together at trick 13.

Our opponents wisely stopped in 3NT with their 31-count and took the available 11 tricks. We feared losing match points if others were more intrepid.

So at the end we watched a declarer of the evening making the same 11 tricks:

“Were you in Six?”

“No”

”Ah, good.”

“We were in Seven”

Mike Best, East Wales

OBITUARIES

Fred Hyatt

We regret to report the death of Fred Hyatt on Tuesday 15th November. Fred was 77, and had been resident at Picton Court convalescent home for some 4 and a half years after suffering a stroke. He leaves his widow, Anne and 3 sons and 6 grandchildren. Our sympathy and sadness at this loss goes out to them all.



Both Fred and Anne have made an enormous contribution to bridge in Wales over very many years. Fred was a Grand Master, playing at the highest level and contributing to the development of the game by teaching beginners and encouraging newcomers. Anne was the highest ranked Lady Grand Master in Wales for many years, only relatively recently overtaken. They ran the British Steel Bridge Club for many years, virtually until its closure, and that Club was the starting point for many keen and competitive bridge players now spread throughout South Wales.

Marjorie Greenwood

Many members will be saddened to hear of the death of Marjorie Greenwood on July 5th at the grand age of 97. She was the first master Point Secretary of the W.B.U. having been persuaded to take on the role by Stewart Spickett – she had worked as his secretary. At the time she was married to her first husband and was known as Marjorie Kirk. After his death she married Frank Greenwood and they played together in Newport in the seventies and eighties.

In later years she was a regular player at Swansea Bridge Club during the summer

months. This was because she was a great walker and belonged to both the Gower Society and the Ramblers and lived in her caravan at Llangennith for seven months of the year. She was very fit and healthy until the last few years and members of Swansea Bridge Club and the Gower Society will remember attending her 90th birthday celebrations.

IN PRAISE OF COACHING

Seminar for players with serious intentions, Colwyn Bay Cricket Club

The recent coaching weekend in Colwyn Bay provoked me to think more deeply about aspects of the game than I have done in some time. The discussion covered a wide variety of topics including card combinations (what do you play from AQ or Q10 when a small card is led towards KJ9 in dummy), system (new methods for responding to the 2NT inquiry over a Weak 2 (3♣ = I wish I hadn't opened)), short vs. long suit trial bids, mini-splinters, Exclusion RKCB, Redwood, and whether KQJ10987 is good enough for a jump shift bid. This was all useful, and will probably lead to changes in partnership bidding and attitudes to play and defence, necessary to improve at the game. Overall, the weekend was very enjoyable, though exhausting; the hand choices for the play section were good and always provoked an interesting discussion.

I cannot thank enough the players who contributed to the weekend, particularly Adrian Thomas who has done sterling work to ensure bridge coaching has been high on the agenda this year. We often feel lonely up here in the North so it was a real pleasure to see so many Camrose players. Praise is also due to Julian Pottage and the hard-working players who provided much of the coaching material (available to all members on WBU website).

I hope that these events will continue to be held in both North and South and that other seminars, of a gentler nature, will be offered for people who want to improve their bridge. I also hope that more people will take advantage of the opportunity, whatever their ability or standard. Bridge is a complex game and I'm sure every player, from beginner to Grand Master, will admit they are always learning.

Paddy Murphy (NWBA)

GOING DUTCH *by Simon Richards*

At the end of October four of the players who represented the WBU in the Camrose series earlier in the year travelled to Veldhoven in the Netherlands to play in the 8th Transnational Open Teams. This took place during the second week of the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup and the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl; players eliminated from the round robin and quarter-final stages of these events could enter the Transnational.



A record and star-studded entry of 151 teams took part in a 15-round Swiss Teams, with the top 16 teams qualifying for the knockout stages. All the matches were played with screens. Sadly the WBU team was never in the hunt for a qualification place, finishing in 120th position, but all the team members gained valuable experience and would pass on our thanks to the selectors for recommending us for this event.

The team - Trevor Towers, Simon Richards, Alex Hogg and Alex Maddocks - started against the eventual winners and current European and World Junior champions, the Israeli Juniors, losing by 31 IMPs. 29 of these came in two boards over which a veil should be rapidly drawn. There then followed a succession of matches against Dutch teams playing what purported to be Dutch Acol, although I have yet to identify any link with the system of that name played in the UK. The Dutch version generally comprised 5-card majors, strong no trump, short club with

transfer responses and a range of multi-way two bids.

First in hand vulnerable you hold ♠ J 5, ♥ A 10 7, ♦ A K, ♣ A K J 5 3 2. How do you value this hand? The club length favours upgrading while the two shortages suggest a more conservative approach. Your bid? Do you upgrade this hand to a 2♣ opener (or 2♦ if you play Benji)?

It certainly makes life easier for partner if you do upgrade the hand, particularly when East intervenes in spades – partner can then find the lay down 7NT.

The full hand was:

Board 29	♠ J 5
Dlr: North	♥ A 10 7
Vul: Game All	♦ A K
	♣ A K J 5 3 2
♠ 7 3	♠ 10 9 8 6 4 2
♥ K 8 5 4 3	♥ none
♦ 9 6 3	♦ J 8 7 5 2
♣ 10 8 7	♣ 6 4
	♠ A K Q
	♥ Q J 9 6 2
	♦ Q 10 4
	♣ Q 9

The conundrum is that if you show this as 20-22 balanced, when partner shows his heart suit Roman Keycard Blackwood reveals a missing keycard. Neither hand can then confidently bid the grand. Fortunately the grand was not bid at the other table either.

After the bidding problem, time for a lead problem. At game all you hold:

♠ none, ♥ 9 8 4, ♦ K 10 9 7 6 5 4 2, ♣ 10 5

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All pass		

1. *Playing Precision*
2. *Game forcing*

Dissuaded by the vulnerability from intervening in diamonds, do you lead one? I led a club – wrong; an easy thirteen tricks for declarer. The full hand was:

Board 26 ♠ none
Dlr: East ♥ 9 8 4
Vul: Game All ♦ K 10 9 7 6 5 4 2
 ♣ 10 5

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

♠ K 8 7 6 4 3 2
 ♥ 10 6 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ K 9

If you lead a diamond (and it should really be a high diamond as suit preference for spades) partner wins with the ace and gives you a spade ruff. You then return the compliment by playing another diamond for partner to ruff. There is now no entry to dummy for the club finesse so partner comes to the king of clubs later for one down.

Our team-mates were playing in 5♣ from the East hand, and were a quick two down after the spade lead was ruffed and a diamond return allowed another ruff followed by a trump promotion. 14 IMPs in the out column.

The print-out of the hands included a double dummy analysis using Deep Finesse, which indicated that East-West can make 6NT because of the 8-1 diamond break. I am not sure how you get to 6NT, and you should certainly not bid it, but three pairs in the field managed it (one went off).

Finally a play problem.

Board 2 ♠ A K Q 7 2
Dlr: East ♥ 9 6 2
Vul: N-S ♦ 4 2
 ♣ Q 10 2

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♠	2♣ ¹	Double ²
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♠

All pass

1. Good diamond raise
2. Three-card spade raise

East leads the ♦9. You win, cross to hand in trumps and play a heart to the jack which holds. How do you play the club suit for one loser? (the odds favour the double finesse - running the queen and then running the 10).

From the initial lead I placed the ♦KQJ with West and ♥AQ with East, so East was likely to hold a club card (probably the king) for his bid.

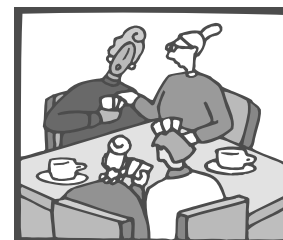
Wrong – beware of Dutch nines. I should have checked their convention card: the nine is a standard Dutch lead from A109, K109 and Q109 (strong nines). The double club finesse lost to KJ stiff offside and more IMPs out; fortunately they were not in game in the other room. Not everybody plays top of nothing, MUD or second and fourth leads so this was a lesson learnt. We were all on the lookout for Dutch nines after this.

Thanks again for the opportunity to play in this high-standard event. It is said that you learn from your mistakes and we certainly learnt a lot over our four days in Veldhoven.

Spotted at Cardiff Airport – warning to wide loads, presumably?



AROUND THE CONGRESSES



I was delighted to receive quite a few contributions from congress-goers, this time. Their congress status ranges from brand new to very seasoned, and all suggest that congresses are really entertaining. So I have devoted a special section to them. I hope you enjoy reading about them. I did.

PORTHCAWL CONGRESS

Porthcawl has remained most like the old congresses in its variety of events. It must, surely, take a great deal more organising than any other Welsh congress (as attested by Irene Thomas in issue 87; glad she's had enough energy left to become a Grand Master).



The large playing room at the Seabank Hotel hosted its first bridge congress 60 years ago. Did they put up the Christmas decorations specially early in celebration?

It is really interesting to see the brochure of the first Porthcawl congress in 1951 on the WBU website. The town were obviously VERY keen to support the venture as there are thirty adverts in the brochure, and thanks are expressed to those of the town who donated trophies. There is a goodly number of events listed, and one of the free-time attractions is a talk on Canasta by none other than Terence Reese, who was also the Tournament Director.

The congress was run over five days, Wednesday and Thursday catering for ladies and those who did not work, building up, on the Friday, to the weekend championship events. Evening dress would have been worn

for the evening events. All so civilised and with a real sense of occasion.

Porthcawl still has a lot to offer bridge players of all standards.

Results

Ladies' Pairs		%
1 st	Mary Moore, Diana Jones	68.52
2 nd	Catherine Draper, Gilly Clench	60.76
3 rd	Wendy Williams, Jane Brook	57.29

Men's Pairs		%
1 st	Adrian Thomas, Andrew Woodcock	68.83
2 nd	Mike Hirst, Bernard Goldenfield	62.96
3 rd	Mark Westley, John Dakin	60.19

Mixed Pairs		%
1 st	Adrian Thomas, Aida Aris	66.67
2 nd	Alan Williams, Rhona Goldenfield	66.03
3 rd	Gilly Clench, Andrew Woodcock	63.89

Red Dragon Championship Pairs Final		%
1 st	Mike Tedd, John Salisbury	90.35
2 nd	Ian Constable, Val Constable	89.29
3 rd	Mark Roderick, Mike Best	87.18

Little Dragon Consolation Pairs Final		%
1 st	Mark Westley, John Dakin	65.71
2 nd	Maria Budd, Malcolm Harris	59.62
3 rd	Tony Disley, Roger Penton	58.01

Townsend Consolation Cup		%
1 st	Linda Greenland, Aida Aris	67.95
2 nd	Chris Morley, Jennifer Wardell	57.69
3 rd	Jackie Davies, Richard Harris	53.53

Championship Teams Final		
1 st	Mike Hirst, Patrick Jourdain, Tony Disley, Roger Penton	51 IMPs
2 nd	Bernard Goldenfield, Rhona Goldenfield, Alan Williams, Jim Luck	49 IMPs
3 rd	Gary Jones, Mike Vail, David Carlisle, Adrian Thomas	33 IMPs

Prince of Wales Consolation Teams		
1 st	Peter Goodman, B J O'Brian, John Salisbury, Mike Tedd	63 IMPs
2 nd	Michael Keogh, Judy Brewer, Richard Brewer, Michael Kennedy	53 IMPs
3 rd	Catherine Draper, Gilly Clench, Andrew Woodcock, Gerald Tredinnick	37 IMPs

Open Events winners

Friday afternoon Pairs: Jackie Davies, Richard Harris

Saturday Evening: Alan Biggs, Robert Mabley

Seagull Pivot Teams: Vida Halford, Glyn Williams, Linda Pinnock, Marjorie Morris

Skier Consolation Teams: Aidan Schofield, Sally Cairns, Beth Wennell, Barry Wennell

LLANDUDNO SWISS PAIRS

by Bill Niccol

Providing you have one bridge hand which gives you immeasurable pleasure, then the effort is worth it. Such was the case for myself this year at this excellently organised event, even though my partner, John Gladders and I hardly shone. Well, in fact the opposite was the case. We could not manage a single 8-board match without a demonstrable error rearing its ugly head. In the final match, first board, for example, I had 'decked' a cold slam, cold on the lead anyway. Enough of that. This is why we play:

Vul: NS	♠ 9 6		
Dlr: North	♥ 9 4		
	♦ A K J 9 7 6		
	♣ 9 5 2		
♠ 8 7 4 3		♠ A 2	
♥ K 10 7		♥ J 5 3	
♦ 8 5		♦ Q 2	
♣ 8 7 6 3		♣ A K Q J 10 4	
	♠ K Q J 10 5		
	♥ A Q 8 6 2		
	♦ 10 4 3		
	♣ none		

West	North	East	South
-	2♣	3♣	4♣
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦

All pass

The auction in itself gave all the players pleasure. Some sort of symmetry involving the club suit I guess. John Gladders opened 2♣ showing either a Weak 2 in diamonds or an

Acol 2♣ opener. What my 4♣ was is uncertain. I have a penchant for bidding the opponents' suit to show 5-5 in the majors and here was a perfect opportunity. Partner, however, announced it as a cue bid agreeing diamonds. Well who was I to argue? Anyway how would you play on the ♣K lead?

Presumably you ruff and play a spade to the 9? East wins and returns a spade, won in hand. Now what?

After considerable thought I saw a masterful line – a first round finesse of the jack of trumps. The contract then makes if West has Qxx or if the trumps are 2-2. (win the presumed heart return and cash the ♦10). So I made 11 tricks. Only afterwards did I realise the inferior line of bashing out the two top trumps gives an overtrick. Grrr. [The game was rarely bid so Bill and John got 97% of the matchpoints on the deal – Editor.] Well done to Liz Commins and David Stevenson who finished second in the event.

[Taken from Merseyside & Cheshire Autumn Newsletter, courtesy of Bob Pitts (Editor). Bill, Liz and David are members of Merseyside & Cheshire as well as of the WBU, which is why they get a special mention. Your Editor]

Results

1. Bill and Liz Wattleworth 167 VPs
2. Liz Commins, David Stevenson 165 VPs
3. John Sansom, Pam Pearce 157 VPs



Winners: Liz and Bill Wattleworth are presented with the Rona Morgan-Edwards trophy by NWBA Chairman Marie Topp

The First Aberaeron Holiday Bridge Congress

11th – 13th October 2011

... as seen from the perspective of a **Brecon Bridge Club** "Improver"

ABERAERON ... what a gorgeous and colourful, little town in which to congregate, albeit for an indoor event – and the destination for a **first ever midweek holiday congress**.

A daunting prospect for us newcomers. Just over a year ago, Robin Lewis and Don Owen, two senior members of the Brecon Bridge Club, had used the kind term "Improvers Course" for new, aspiring members of the club to bring some structure and method into our - so far - haphazard play. These weekly lectures opened a whole new world of perception and understanding of bridge. Then, in July last year, a Congress was advertised, organized by Lee Collier, June Jones, Neville Richards, Liam Sheridan and Adrian Thomas, WBU President. Adrian had graced Brecon Bridge Club several times and had impressed in particular its more junior members with wide-ranging lectures on the finer art of bridge play.

This new-found confidence challenged the fortitude and determination of a contingent of eight dedicated players to leave the protective cocoon of their Brecon Club and face the grown-ups of the bridge-playing wider world.

The venue was the charming and elegant 17th century **Feathers Royal Hotel**, courtesy of owners Richard and Lee Collier (Lee herself a formidable participant). For three full days a huge function room complete with grand piano provided space for play, nourishment and entertainment for over 80 participants.

Liam, Adrian and Diarmuid Reddan, the charming Tournament Director from Ireland, welcomed the Brecon 8 and others with great conviviality which instantly set the tone and atmosphere. Fear and trepidation flew out of the window and we settled happily into our allotted Red Section, according to handicap. The Blue Section was populated by senior and superior players from other parts of Wales, Ireland and even England.

Seven tables, 18 boards, a coffee-break and a further 20 boards to play, with aggregate scoring, concluded Day 1. With Diarmuid

flying between tables to educate the uninitiated in scoring with the electronic counters, with Liam invariably consoling one or two distraught ladies over a miscounted trick and with Adrian, always gentle and smiling, encouraging the odd forlorn player, the Brecon Eight felt that they did not embarrass themselves too much on this first day. Other than playing himself, Diarmuid was at the electronic controls and results of each session were promptly printed out and posted to view over a most generous three-course dinner.

Highlights of the after-dinner entertainment were Quiz Questions, Irish Bingo and Prize-giving for winners and near-winners, but an early night was called for most of us after such strenuous intellectual exercises during the day.



The Brecon Improvers (and friends) showing delight in the Aberaeron Congress

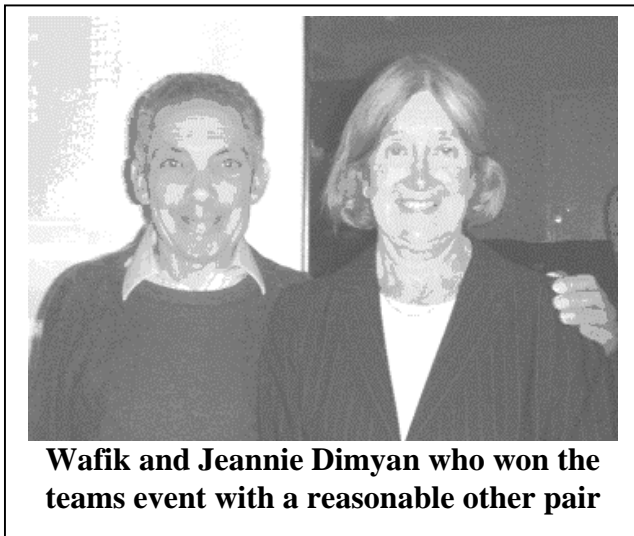
Sunshine on Wednesday, Day 2, took just about everyone on a walk through the enchanting colourful streets of Aberaeron towards the harbour and the seaside. We returned ready for the pre-lunch Question-and-Answer sessions with Adrian and our Irish friends, which meant a full post-mortem of interesting hands from the previous day.

The format was changed for the afternoon – we played Matchpointed Pairs – and I am proud to say that Sheila Giles and Ian Milton of our Brecon-8 came top with 101 points.

The evening Pairs was an entirely different matter – some novices of the Red Section had

boldly volunteered to play with the Blue Section Stars. It is to the *Blues'* greatest praise and credit that they all kindheartedly and sympathetically coped with what must have seemed to them amazing idiosyncrasies. A lot of gnashing of teeth and slapping of foreheads was observed amongst the lower echelons which included the author. But after-dinner music and song, presented by Gilly Clench and Ian Milton, another excellent three-course meal and Liam and Adrian's fascinating wit and rapid repartee lifted the spirit again. And for the tireless competitor we were even treated to an overhead-projection of a LIVE-Session on BBO, Peter (i.e. "petepunt") playing and winning with 18 IMPs, while we spectators happily finished our glass of wine.

Last but not least, a Marathon Day 3: the Teams Competition for which Adrian, Liam and Diarmuid created a combination of mixed handicaps. A *tour de force*, but enjoyable and educational for everyone, so much so that the Brecon 8 could celebrate another victory. Adrian announced "... emerging with a score of 143 Drs. Wafik and Jeannie Dimyan from Brecon, ably supported by Liam Sheridan and Diarmuid Reddan, in first place."



Wafik and Jeannie Dimyan who won the teams event with a reasonable other pair

The applause was deafening – First prizes, Spot prizes, Special prizes were handed out to many players and kind speeches were made. Adrian suggested Diarmuid ought to be entered into the Guinness Book of Records for not having had to throw the Rule Book once at anyone throughout the entire tournament. And Liam again encouraged us to "consolidate, consolidate, consolidate and to play at least three times a week". But he also referred to the time required to improve the proficiency of

our play the length of which is currently too depressing to mention here.

Eventually, the exhausted but grateful Brecon 8 gathered their belongings and slowly headed home, happy in the knowledge that they had just attended (I quote Ian): "A wonderfully well organized event, in a beautiful setting, with a most generous team of hosts". Sheila agreed: "The event was most informative and confidence-building and the Tournament Directors were at all times kind and attentive to each individual". Jeannie and Wafik added: "It was much less intimidating than we thought and there was such a relaxed atmosphere". Kerry simply said "I loved it".

Jutta Drew

Results

Tuesday Afternoon (Aggregate Scoring)

North-South

1	Herbie Rowley, David Batterley	-640
2	Jutta Drew, Kerry Drew	-1020
3	Mary Atkins, Ceri Mowat	-1150

East-West

1	Gerry Morris, Lynn Morris	2990
2	Alwyn Jones, Bob Alderdice	2760
3	Roger Goodwin, Barbara Goodwin	2020

Tuesday Evening (Aggregate Scoring)

North-South

1.	Dorothy Harris, Gwen Davies	860
2.	Mary Atkins, Ceri Mowat	180
3.	Jutta Drew, Kerry Drew	-170

East-West

1.	Gerry Morris, Lynn Morris	2120
2.	Celia Rossiter, Bill Elsdon	1220
3.	Roger Goodwin, Barbara Goodwin	980

Wednesday Afternoon (Matchpoint Pairs)

Blue Section

		%
1.	Joe Walsh, Adrian Thomas	63.8
2.	Beryl Warner, Carmel Wiseman	59.2
3.	Peter Goodman, BJ O'Brien	58.8

Wednesday Afternoon (Matchpoint Pairs)

Red Section

		%
1.	Ian Milton, Sheila Giles	63.1
2.	Sheila Williams, Anne Thomas	60.6
3.=	Rosemond Nelson, Neville Richards	53.8
3.=	Rory Gibbons, Mary Fletcher	53.8

Wednesday Evening (Matchpoint Pairs) %

1.	John Walker, Kate Walker	63.3
2.	Rory Gibbons, Pat Quinn	62.4
3.	John Evans, Diarmuid Reddan	61.8
4.	Beryl Warner, Carmel Wiseman	60.4

Teams Competition

1. Wafik Dimyan, Jeannie Dimyan, Liam Sheridan, Diarmuid Reddan 143
2. Joe Walsh, Pat Quinn, Richard James, Alwyn Jones 138
3. Liam Hanratty, Nora Hanratty, Rory Gibbons, Mary Fletcher 135
4. Jutta Drew, Kerry Drew, Gilly Clench, Lee Collier 125
5. Sue Thomas, Tony Mitchell, Chris Draper, Rosemary Barr 124
6. Mary Atkins, Ceri Mowat, Clare Hamon, Enid Hamon 116
7. Sheila Williams, Anne Thomas, Ian Milton, Sheila Giles 111
8. Kate Walker, John Walker, Dorcas Cresswell, David Cresswell 100
9. Daphne Jones, Gwenda Davies, Hilary Evans, Pam Jennings 78

... and a jolly good time was had by all

ONE-DAY SWISS PAIRS

at the Holiday Inn, Northop

The North Wales Autumn Green-pointed pairs was held on October 9th and resulted in a comfortable win for Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol. This is an excellent, well run event, and everyone is friendly. I thoroughly recommend it. With a 12.15 start and a 1-hour break we were finished by 8pm which I think is perfect timing for a one day competition. If you have not played in this event yet then I suggest you give it a try next year.

This was my favourite hand from the event:

♠ K 9 5 ♥ none ♦ A Q J 8 4 ♣ A K Q 10 4

In recent years, the EBU have published regulations on what constitutes an Acol 2♣ opening, some of which I do not agree with, but that was not an issue here. Despite the playing strength, minor two-suiters are hard to describe after a forcing opening bid, so I selected the 1♦ card from the bidding box. The next hand passed and partner jumped to 3♦. We play this as a weak bid, but he often has 5-card support (though little else of note).

A 3♥ call came on my right, and feeling that I should be able to discard any spade losers on

my clubs or that the spade ace would be well placed I leapt to 6♦. My right-hand opponent took issue with this and doubled, but with the spade ace well placed, the contract was cold, partner putting down

♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ K 9 6 3 2 ♣ J 3 2

Of course we got a good score for this but not an outright top: the result was duplicated at 6 of the other 29 tables. Another table reached the odd contract of 4♠ doubled. With one defender holding ♠ A Q J 10 ♥ A K J 7 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 7 6 this should have gone down, but was let through. I'm sure declarer was disappointed to get only 61% for it.

This event is held in an excellent, and convenient, venue, being on the A55 near Queensferry. The staff are pleasant and helpful, making it popular with locals and friends from England, particularly Merseyside and Cheshire. The April Swiss Teams 2-day Spring Congress is held there and offers good accommodation and food.

Bob Pitts

Results

- 1 Ted Reveley & Bill Niccol 124 VPs
- 2 Liz Commins & David Stevenson 98 VPs
- 3 Tracy Capal & Stuart Matthews 97 VPs

LLANGOLLEN SWISS TEAMS

by Bob Pitts

This year's Llangollen Swiss Teams was again held at the Bryn Howel Hotel, just a couple of miles outside Llangollen. The venue and timings make this an event not to be missed. The hotel lays on food, which makes it possible to have sensible start and finish times with short gaps between sessions. Players from South Wales were expecting to be home by 9:30pm on the Sunday which is excellent – until a few years ago they would be lucky to be back before midnight from a congress in the North. The dates for next year are yet to be confirmed but I suggest that you keep the third weekend in November free.

There were many challenging hands during the weekend but that was part of the fun. For example, in the last match I picked up an 11-count with 6 spades and 6 diamonds. Of course partner opened one heart and jumped in

clubs on the next round as he also had a 6-6 hand. Thank goodness they don't occur too often (and in case you are interested we did not reach a sane contract).

This defensive problem from the second match caught my eye:

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

After North-South's unopposed auction of 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 4♠, West had to look for his best chance of beating the contract. We all have an aversion to underleading aces - perhaps it is the diet of pairs events that makes us reluctant to give away a potential overtrick - but at times it is the only option. Here at trick one West cashed the ♦A and saw his partner's 2. It was hardly sensible to be giving count in this situation, so West assumed that East had something useful in clubs. This looks like his best chance anyway. So West played his ace of clubs and led another hoping that his partner would win and return a diamond for a ruff.

He was disappointed. Declarer won the second round of clubs with the king and knocked out the trump ace, eventually arriving at ten tricks. West bemoaned his luck, but he was distracted by the ♣A. He should appreciate that if East has the club king, the contract can be beaten by leading a small club to the king on the first round of the suit, as he will then get his ruff. In fact, if declarer has only one club, this play is essential. Additionally, the underlead of the ♣A allows for the situation that exists here. Although South can win the first club with his king over East's jack, once West takes the ♠A (he can afford to duck the first two rounds to get a suit

preference signal from East), he can cross to the queen of clubs for that vital ruff.

Is this defence so difficult to find? Well apparently it is, as the most frequent contract was 4♠ and it was never beaten despite there being several excellent players sitting West. A few North-South pairs played in 3♠ or no trumps, but the only plus scores recorded for East-West were against 3NT once, 3♦ once and 3♠ once, each of which went one off.

The winners had travelled all the way from Hampshire for the event - Mike Kinsey, Mike Fithyan, Christine Ray and Richard Ray lost only 2 of their 12 matches and finished 3 VPs ahead of their nearest rivals. Stuart Matthews and Alan Stephenson finished in second with team-mates John Salisbury and Mike Tedd, well ahead of third place.

The Bryn Howell is in the heart of the Vale of Llangollen and is well worth a visit in its own right, being warm and welcoming. The bridge is a bonus. Ed

Results

- 1 Mike Kinsey, Mike Fithyan, Christine Ray, Richard Ray 166 VPs
- 2 Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Stuart Matthews, Alan Stephenson 163 VPs
- 3 Patrick Jourdain, Ben Green, Patrick Shields, Paul Denning 147 VPs
- 4= Bob Pitts, John Hampson, Patrick Murphy, Barry Lloyd Jones 146 VPs
- 4= John Rudolf, Pauline Rudolf, Jean Hand, Peter Hand 146 VPs

Editor's Note

*I have covered the Porthcawl Congress as it is almost the most recent; the others because I had articles sent to me. Apologies to the East and Mid. If people send me articles I shall be happy to cover those next time. If I seem to have plugged the **Llandudno Swiss Pairs** it is because next year, it is sandwiched between the Celtic and Mid Wales Congresses, through no fault of ours, and this year the Torquay congress actually took place on the same weekend.*

COMPETITION RESULTS ROUND-UP



August Green Point Events 2011

6th and 7th August 2011, Cwmbran

Pairs:	1	Ken Richardson & Chris Rochelle	114 VPs
	2	Stan Harding & Tara Harding	109 VPs
	3	Chris R Smith & John Cuncer	103 VPs
Teams:	1	Gordon Roxburgh, Patrick Jourdain, Miles Cowling, David S Jones	116 VPs
	2	Margot Wilson, John Gardner, Paddy Bowen, Brian Browse	101 VPs
	3	Mike Ralph, Ben Britton, George Barrett, David Atthey	100 VPs

WBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

%

Monday	1	Gordon Roxburgh & Tony Ratcliff	<i>Gwent</i>	72.91
	2	B Wennell & M Clare	<i>Llandudno</i>	70.19
	3	Keith Davison & Roger Draper	<i>Port Talbot</i>	65.63
Tuesday	1	Tony Ratcliff & Kevin Maddox	<i>Penarth</i>	68.45
	2	Denis Mottram & Mike Close	<i>Barrivale</i>	67.24
	3	Paddy Murphy & Liz Commins	<i>Colwyn Bay</i>	66.93
Wednesday	1	David Stephenson & Graham Norris	<i>Old Hall</i>	65.65
	2	Alan Lewis & Terry Evans	<i>Old Hall</i>	64.93
	3	Ray Mahoney & Gwynedd Mahoney	<i>Swansea</i>	63.03
Thursday	1	Kevin Maddoz & Gwynne Maddox	<i>Mid Glamorgan</i>	72.99
	2	Tony Ratcliff & Roger Penton	<i>Mid Glamorgan</i>	70.00
	3	Monica Garbett-Edwards & Chris Blackman	<i>Newtown</i>	67.33
Friday	1	Tony Ratcliff & Trish Tracey	<i>Penarth</i>	73.75
	2	Liz Commins & David Stevenson	<i>Llandudno</i>	67.15
	3	Dai Hayes & John Valentine	<i>Aberystwyth</i>	66.69

Welsh Foursomes

3rd – 4th September 2011

1	Filip Kurbalija, Daniel McIntosh, Tony Ratcliff, David S Jones	220 VPs
2	Degsy Williams, Croz Crosswell, Martin Jones, James Thrower	183 VPs
3	Roger Penton, Tony Disley, Trevor Towers, Simon Richards	176 VPs

WBU Invitation Pairs

10th – 11th September, St. Mellons Golf Club

1	Thor Erik Hoftaniska & Svein Arild Nass Olsen (Norway)	490 VPs
2	Paul Denning & Pat Shields	414 VPs
3	Micheal O'Briain & Pdraig O'Briain (Ireland)	412 VPs

Welsh Open Team Trial

1st – 2nd and 15th – 16th October, Cardiff Bridge Club

Pos ⁿ	Names	IMP score		VP score		
		b/f	1 st w/e	Overall	b/f	1 st w/e
1						
2	Paul Denning & Pat Shields		94	108	160	269
3	Mike Pownall & Peter Goodman		-22	89	130	265
4	Mike Tedd & John Salisbury		35	71	144	259
5	Alex Hogg & A Maddocks		24	44	141	250
6	Laura Woodruff & Mike Close		-37	-74	124	219
7	Mike Best & Mark Roderick		-64	-88	119	215
8	Simon Richards & Trevor Towers		-64	-101	117	214
9	David Birt & Geoff Evans		-29	-112	127	211
	Gary Jones & Dafydd Jones		63	*	151	*

* Did not play in second weekend

Bridge Down Under

by Celia Thomas (*Barrivale*)

We have recently returned from a 'trip of a lifetime' in New Zealand. Seven weeks away, seven games of rugby watched live and seven games of bridge.

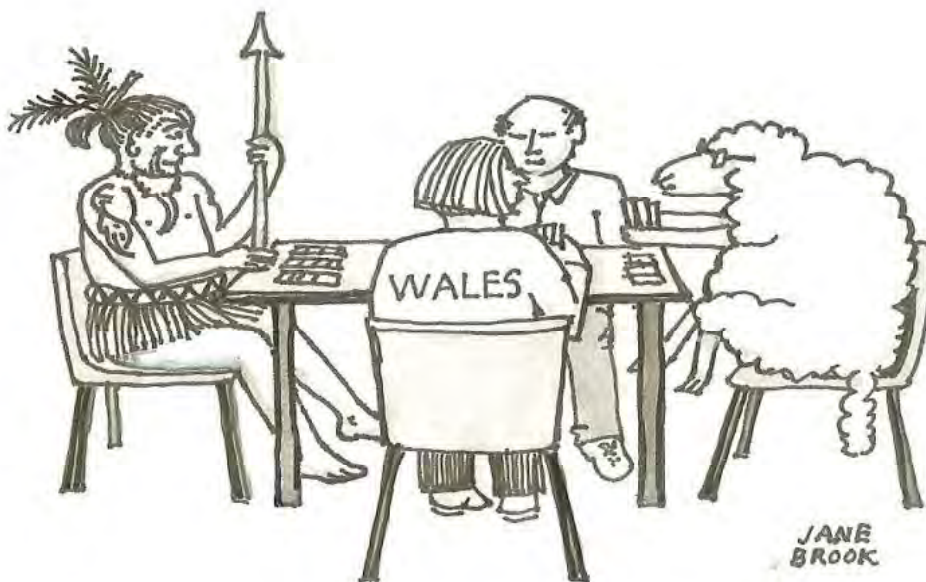
In the pub after an evening's bridge, and chatting about our upcoming trip, we began to talk about the possibility of playing a game of bridge whilst on holiday. The reasoning went along the lines of being so long away we couldn't eat out or go to the pub every evening and some degree of normal life would have to creep in. So it was, we thought of playing the occasional game bridge in New Zealand. Before we left we printed off pages of information about the clubs and it was obvious there were plenty to choose from.

Our first foray into the NZ bridge world was in Napier - reasonably big town on North Island. We phoned the secretary to find out times etc. and were told that we would be welcome and just come along. The club was within walking distance of our camp-site (we were travelling in a camper van). The club house was owned by the Bridge Club and was large with many side rooms. We were formally introduced at the start of play and given a round of applause.

Most people played Acol which was a help as there were other differences. Bidding was done on a piece of paper placed in the middle of the table, on a grid for each player. All the boards were pre-dealt, with hands and bidding attached (as in Sims and competitions).

The club played 5 nights a week and a couple of afternoons. Regular classes were also run. New Zealanders seemed to have quite a strict ranking system, so were able to designate different evenings for different standards. We happened to turn up for the intermediate evening which was just about right.

Half way through we all stopped for a drink served by some young girls - no wandering off as dummy to make a coffee. The timing was rigid and a loud warning bell would herald 'time to move'. This took a bit of getting used to as whenever we sat down the friendly New Zealanders wanted to chat about our trip, the rugby or a distance ancestor that came from Wales. As visitors, we didn't want to be the ones to hold up play. We needn't have worried: even though the system seemed quite rushed I would doubt we would have been penalised. It did mean we played a good number of boards at each club.



At the end of the evening in Napier, we had spent time with some interesting players, chatting and being treated like celebrities, had a lot of tips for places to visit and won some NZ master points. (what are they worth, Noelle?). We were offered a lift back to the campsite and were grinning at our adventure.

Between rugby matches we travelled the country from one beauty spot to another tourist attraction. With no fixed itinerary we were able to plan our trip to fit in with the said rugby matches, the weather and now towns with bridge clubs. The formula was generally the same - phone ahead, thriving club with 12 or more tables, very welcoming people, differentiated sessions and sometimes an

informal bar after to have a drink while waiting for the results.

We spent our last week in Christchurch. This beautiful city, the most English of all cities in New Zealand, was still showing the scars of the devastating earthquake of February. The club was being temporarily accommodated in the nearby bowls club, their own club having been damaged. They were waiting to find out whether they would be able to rebuild on the original site but it depended on the infrastructure beneath the building.

Monday night, twenty-four tables divided into two sections. Also present were a non-playing director and a 'superintendent' who moved boards and sorted any practical issues. On this occasion we had a half table which they called the 'phantom' table. Although there seemed to be a great level of formality, the friendliness shone through. We returned on the Wednesday and as we walked in couldn't fail to notice a table covered with mortar boards and scrolls. The chairman of the club appeared in an academic gown and then began proceedings. A graduation ceremony ensued with players wearing mortar boards, presented with certificates, reward for rising through the ranks. We clapped enthusiastically and we were impressed by the sheer number of keen players in this club alone. This was of course only one of many clubs in Christchurch. Homemade scones with jam and cream were served at half time – very nice too.

After seven evenings of bridge we came to many conclusions, including that bridge is alive and well in New Zealand. It was a fun thing to have done and we met a cross-section of New Zealanders that we would never have come across. We clocked up two lifts home, an invitation to dinner, many recommendations of places to see and things to do plus a couple of email addresses.

Someone asked us if we do this often whilst on holiday and the answer is no – this was a first. It will not be the last. What's Swahili for 3NT?

Thanks also to Jane Brook, Celia's sister, for her fab drawing. Celia's husband, Huw, is instantly recognisable (those who don't know him will have to guess which one is him). L.

GOODBYE CHRIS AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

Thankfully this is not an obituary but rather a brief acknowledgement of Chris Davies's contribution to bridge in Wales. For domestic reasons Chris has recently moved to England.

If you play your bridge in East or West Wales and stray outside your club then you are likely to have come across him at the table. For those of you living elsewhere in the Principality then away from the table Chris was a long serving member of the WBU Council and held a position in the newly constituted WBU Management Committee. He also had two spells as the Chairman of the WWBA. More parochially he was a committee member of his local club (Bridgend) for many years which included a spell as Chairman. All this while holding down the post of Headteacher at the third largest secondary school in Wales.



At the table with his long time competition partner he achieved a modicum of success at the lower levels of competition. His demeanour and behaviour at the table are impeccable and an important objective of his is to leave behind smiling opponents, regardless of the results. He brings two vital qualities to a partnership – a sense of humour and a sense of proportion.

Also, and this is little known fact, he is a bridge theorist who in the early 1970s was a co-inventor of a bidding system. This system was called the Coach and Horses Purple Spade. The Coach and Horses bit should be obvious but to fill in some of the detail it involved an intake of Somerset farm-brewed cider to stimulate the brain cells. The Purple Spade was a word play on Blue Club. In essence this system was only licensed to be played in the early hours of a Saturday morning after an over-stimulation on the Friday night. All players at the table had to play it. You would probably consider it as a series of grunts. Once the power of speech had returned then the game would revert to an over ambitious form of something vaguely reminiscent of Acol. Come to think of it perhaps no great change on the second count.

Thanks for all your efforts at local, area and national level. Also, and on a personal note, thank you for your friendship which has survived numerous club duplicates, WBU competitions and congresses. Good luck for the future which I know will contain some bridge play in Wales.

Martin David

I add my best wishes for plenty of new adventures and thank Chris most sincerely for the wisdom, sincerity, compassion and humour he brought to the management committee. I bet he was a brilliant headmaster. Keep in touch, Chris. Jill

THE HUSTLER

The Welsh Cup and the Cambria Cup are teams of four knock-out events played throughout Wales. The Welsh Cup team can be all men or all ladies or a combination of both. The Cambria Cup must have at least one man and one woman in the team and each person plays with the other members of the team in turn. The early rounds take place in the players' own area, usually in the house of one of the home team, but in later rounds teams agree on a mid-point and play there. The matches can be played in the evening or on a Saturday or Sunday. The team captain liaises with the other captain to choose an evening, or

day that suits all the players. They meet up and play and the results are sent off to the WBU. The host team provides refreshments.

It is only by taking part that people can begin to see the benefits of playing against others, head-to-head. They are not simply bridge 'battles' but a way of meeting other players, almost cost-free. That's how we started years ago, and it was fun - a trip out, or meeting people coming to us.

Mind you, when Mike Swanson's team were met and led down a very narrow lane for three miles, they must have wondered where on earth they were going. Our hostess's house was in a place called Paradwys but eternal high hedges must have made them feel they were being led to Hell after driving from Merseyside (this was pre-A55).

They arrived – four young men, two of whom were next-generation tall, one was chubby with a baby face. We introduced ourselves to one-another, then sat down for the first stanza. The first round was against babyface, and his speed left us fumbling and gasping.

They had travelled a long distance to play this match. By 'play' I mean 'put the time in'. Our consolation was that they thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food served up to them, so they went home late, but happy. Funnily enough, thirty years later, I heard David Stevenson relating this as an anecdote to my granddaughter who was caddying at the Swiss Pairs. So he hadn't forgotten the occasion. He had forgotten me, but I certainly had NOT forgotten him. Since that time I have thought of him as 'the hustler'.

They came, saw and conquered, and that was the day we KNEW we couldn't play bridge. But still, it gave us an incentive. It would be true to say that I have improved more than they have and, though I shall never be as good as they are, I resolved to try to fulfil my potential. I am still trying ...

If more teams put in for these most enjoyable events, the likelihood is that many will not meet Grand Masters. But they will meet other bridge players who enjoy a sociable evening of bridge. I hope that clubs will encourage players to take part at an area level, so that they feel they have spread their wings a little.

AROUND THE ASH BUCKET

Since I parcelled up the last newsletter in June, I have disposed of two children – not in the manner of Richard III, my aversion isn't that strong – and half moved to London; started a University course (breaking the oath I swore last time); left my house in the charge of one of my many distant cousins, whose mother is luckily a fanatical cleaner and comes to stay quite often; and embarked on a life afloat.

The elder of my two wards came of age in June, having already left home. In August the younger suddenly decided to live with her father (on condition he move to Porthcawl – he knows who's boss). Child-free and jobless, I applied for a 2-year course in West London.

Now of course the problem with that is that no normal person can afford to live in London. I had had some vague idea of staying with one of my two London sisters, but they live in the wrong places and in any case have better things to do than listen to me griping about essays (worse than housework; mind you, they'd have had jolly clean kitchen floors). Just as I was about to throw in the towel, I realised that if I threw a stone or, more likely, supermarket trolley, instead, it would land in the Grand Union Canal, which is about that distance from the college. Within 3 weeks we had bought a second-hand narrowboat.

Now Jon and I sit and watch the tide creep above the weir next to the Thames lock, while the swans float serenely by and the neighbourhood heron swoops from roof to bank and back again – they all make a terrible racket, but there's something rather soul-restoring about it. Every evening, at about the time London's human exodus begins, a pair of Canada geese zooms overhead, honking in unison; I can't decide whether they're heading home from the office or from a bombing raid on Slough. Less soothing are the other large birds, the aeroplanes coming in to land at Heathrow. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good; and truly when the bitter East wind blows, the 'planes drown out someone else's television, presumably in Slough.

The cats have settled in quite well, though they've both had a dunking in the canal. Hattie had to be rescued from the 6-inch gap



between our boat and the next one; TomTom, more sensibly, fell off the stern and swam incredibly fast to the nearest dry land. The experience obviously wasn't all that harrowing, since two days later he pounced on, and caught, a duck *in the water*.

We do come home quite often. For one thing, a boat is not as warm as a house, despite the supply of free wood from the window manufacturer on the wharf. Nevertheless, most of my bridge is now played online, which I quite enjoy. For one thing, you can get a cup of tea whenever you like. And you can call down anathema upon your partner (of course I wouldn't dream of it, Sue) without having to go out and buy flowers or chocolates the next day. I can think of several chaps who might save themselves a lot of money by this means.

Sue (Ingham) and I played two hands recently which pointed up the importance of partnership kindness, courtesy and confidence. Both hands also demonstrate the playing power of long suits. I don't mean the sort of dreadful long suit you (well, I) might preempt on non-vulnerable, hoping to shut the opponents up. though they have their playing strength too; but good long suits which will take tricks almost regardless of distribution.

Take this beautiful diamond suit: AQJ10862.

Even if partner has a singleton opposite, you'd be jolly unlucky to lose more than one trick in the suit. Sue and I have an agreement that this is too good to open 3♦ non-vulnerable (we've got a different bid to describe it), but vulnerable, 3♦ is a perfect description. You might cop 800 but the opponents first have to work out that it's better to double than to bid their own game. Most of the time you will do no worse than -500, which will gain or lose 3 IMPs against the opponents' game.

If you find partner with a good hand, she will know that your suit is robust at this vulnerability. Or at least, you hope she will.

Vul: NS ♠ Q 6
Dlr: East ♥ A 10 8 6 2
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A K Q 4

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

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

The auction got off to a good start:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Me</i>		<i>Sue</i>
-	-	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4♥
4♠ ²	?		

1. 100% forcing opposite a suit preempt (Standard Acoll). My hearts are much too poor for my bid, but I know it's safe: I've got ♦Kx and a fantastic club holding, so it needs be we can subside in 4♦.
2. It may look odd that West has lurched into the auction with 4♠ after passing first time, but then she didn't know we were going to bid game. Now that we have, she's willing to take the non-vulnerable sacrifice or push us to 5♥.

Now, at this point I can count 11 tricks in 5♦: 7 diamonds, 3 clubs and the ♥A. It doesn't matter if Sue has 3 small hearts, because two of them are going away on the ♣KQ. Or if she's got a doubleton club, she can only have one spade, so we're still safe for 11 tricks.

Sadly, I didn't take the time to work this out, and took the "safe" option of doubling instead. Even worse, and for the same reason, I got the defence completely wrong, so we only took 300 instead of the 800 we were entitled to. I'd lost sight of the fact that Susan's suit *couldn't* be worse than AQJxxxx at this vulnerability, and paid the price. Unfortunately, Sue did too. She was, as always, forgiving, and would have been even if we'd been face to face across a

card table. Instead of feeling wretched and defensive, I could move unruffled to the next board. It's better to save the anathematising for the bar (or email) afterwards, when it won't wreck the rest of the session.

The second hand was more successful: I had a club suit of AKQJ752 that would give me 7 tricks 92% of the time. My right-hand opponent opened 1♦. What should I do?

I couldn't bid 3♣ because we play Ghestem (5-5 in the majors), but even if 3♣ had been available I wouldn't have bid it: this suit has too much playing strength for a wrecking bid. I didn't want to bid 4♣ because then we couldn't play in 3NT.

The answer is the Polish Cue Bid – 3 of the enemy suit - which either asks for a stopper (and usually promises a solid 7-card suit) or shows a game-forcing single-suiter. It is true that Sue might have a diamond stopper but no major stopper, so we might go 9 off in 3NT on an unlucky lie of the cards. A lot of the time, though, she will have one major stopped and the opponents won't know which one to lead. Even if they get it right, an undoubled 9 down might be better than the slam they're about to bid. If they double, partner can take out to 4♣ expecting me to pass or correct.

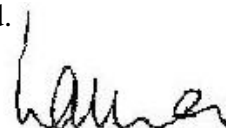
In this instance we struck gold:

Vul: None ♠ 10
Dlr: West ♥ 9 7 5
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ A K Q J 7 5 2

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

 ♠ A J 8 5 2
 ♥ Q J 8
 ♦ A J 7 5
 ♣ 8

At the other table my hand bid 3♣, which could be on any old rubbish non-vulnerable. South, with a moderate hand, unwisely ventured 3♠ which was raised to 4♠, 5 down and lucky to be left undoubled.



CIVIC PRIDE

Proud to be a Freeman of the City of Swansea – Neville Richards, Chief Executive of the Welsh Bridge Union, pictured here with the mayor..

This year seven members of my extended family together received certificates from the Lord Mayor to enrol them as hereditary freemen of Swansea. Younger generations of my family claimed their birthright in a ceremony at Swansea's Civic Centre.

The family received certificates from Lord Mayor Councillor Ioan Richard at 12.30pm on Wednesday June 1. The custom of the Lord Mayor handing a certificate to hereditary freemen when they are enrolled disappeared several years ago but, faced with seven applicants from one family, the Lord Mayor was happy to oblige the family and he presented them with their certificates wearing his full robes and chain of office.

The family members are all direct descendants by blood line or by marriage to the blood line of George Albert Guy Richards - a freeman of Swansea admitted in 1931, who was my father and a Master Baker in Swansea before moving away decades ago to set up in business in Cheltenham. I was admitted as a freeman No. 229 in December 1963 and I am very proud of my links with Swansea and trace my ancestors there through the Rosser, Robinson and Richards families.

The custom of hereditary freemen derives from the ancient body of burgesses of Swansea who met from time to time in the Common Hall to deliberate the Corporation's general policy. In practice, they exercised little democratic control over the Portreeve and Steward who ran the town but that did not prevent them jealously guarding their membership, which was restricted to the sons and sons-in-law of existing burgesses and their apprentices. Whenever membership was extended to someone else not related to an existing



freeman, this was usually accompanied by a stiff admission fee.

By the mid-nineteenth century after Victorian reforms, the title of freeman had become purely honorary, although the 12 senior freemen were entitled to £10 per annum from the Corporation. The last freeman to receive this stipend died in 1968.

Contact Neville:

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email: neville@wbu.org.uk

87 promotions: 13th June to 31st December 2011

Local Master		County Master		Three Star Master	
Mary Hill	K	Beth Channing	BRE	Josie Edwards	GA
Richard Hill	K	Helen Davies	K	Beth Forbes	MG
Chris Morgan	MG	Roger Draper	PT	Tom Kendrick	BV
Fran Morgan	MG	June Duffy	GA	Four Star Master	
Anna O'Brien	C	Susan Enfield	T	Dave Brook	MG
Club Master		Rick Malpas	S	Alan Heath	PC
Anne Harley	CD	Avryl Mort	P	Lyn Matthews	BV
Margaret Harrop	C	Jeff Thomas	A	Justine Petters	LD
Horia Maior	L	Master		Five Star Master	
Carla Morgan	S	David Garside	L	Greg Howell	AR
Barbara Sainsbury	C	Jennifer Harris	CD	Premier Master	
Area Master		Sean Macdougall	BV	Aileen Ashmore	C
Viv Brown	MG	Maurice Strivens	LD	Tim Butler	GA
Veronica Burrows	R	Herrick Westcott	GA	George Ellis	S
Molly MacDonald	GA	Joan Westcott	GA	Dylan Raw-Rees	A
Eileen Mahoney	PT	Advanced Master		Jonathan Richards	BR
Cecilia Rossiter	H	Mary Blackwell	SU	Margaret Richards	K
Sidney Nam	GA	Vic Smith	BEN	Ian G White	GA
District Master		Phil Snaith	L	Regional Master	
Linda Blunt	MON	R Mike Thomas	Y	Keith Bellamy	A
Margaret Bird	GA	One Star Master		Jo Copping	BRE
Phil Bowers	MG	Nicholas Beswick	CRI	Syd Phillipps	MON
Ann Davis	WS	Daphne Caddy	PC	Rod Sheard	W
Gillian Joel	A	Marion Green	CD	Nigel Worthington	W
Patricia Pledger	LP	Michael Jones	BRE	Premier Regional Master	
Richard Pledger	LP	Phil Reed	CRI	Paul Smith	BRE
Jacqui Roberts	A	Rosemarie Yates	GA	National Master	
Robert Squire	MON	Two Star Master		Colette Davies	L
Elenid Thomas	A	Joan Bird	VOG	Arthur Orme	M
		Jean Brooks	MG	Premier National Master	
				Jim Kinge	GA
				Ralph Lamb	A
				Denis Mottram	BV
				Life Master	
				Martin David	C
				Mick Green	BV
				Brian Harden	AR
				Peter Lane	S
				Colin Thomas	PT
				Lavinia Thomas	PT
				GRAND MASTER	
				Liz Atkinson	C
				Susan Ingham	C
				Irene Thomas	BR
				← Three New Grand Masters	

