

# Welsh Bridge Union



## SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL ...

In a small club, small numbers mean small masterpoint awards. We now have the technology to introduce a *Simultaneous Pairs for Small Clubs*, which increases the masterpoints available for each event. The sims are played in individual clubs with the results sent to an overall scorer. The new format has been tried by a few clubs nationwide. We await members' feedback.

The first Small Clubs Sim was held on two 'nights' of two nights each: Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday. In the first, 59 pairs from 5 clubs participated; in the second 49 pairs from 5 clubs. You can see the main advantage - winners get more points - but another plus is that the field is more random, so you can improve your comparative score.

If your club hasn't tried it yet, urge them to give it a go next time. As with the bigger sims, you simply play in your own club, but against your usual opponents plus people in small clubs around Wales.

### MON/TUES 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012

Club	Pair	%	MPs
1 CRI	Nicholas Beswick & Mike Miles	66.72	108
2 LD	Mrs A Martin & Mr B Schofield	65.06	103
3 D	George Mandow & Korsten Jupp	61.99	98

### WED/THURS 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012

Club	Pair	%	MPs
1 LW	Berwyn Woolnough & Les Davies	65.52	96
2 AR	Brian Harden & Peter Taylor	65.14	90
3 S	John Cox & David Melville	63.43	84

## OR MAYBE NOT SO BEAUTIFUL ...

ACBL American Contract Bridge League  
6575 Windchase Blvd. • Horn Lake MS 38637-1523  
662-258-3100 • www.acbl.org

2011 4628071  
Adrian Thomas  
Junior Master

Chief Executive Officer

Use your player number in all ACBL sanctioned games.

During his visit to Canada and the United States, Adrian was issued with a ticket of eligibility to play. We wonder how they came to a decision over his ranking. Was it a little white lie of his own, his deceptively youthful looks, or his impenetrable Welsh accent? Or was it something else? You are invited to email the editor with your suggestions.

# Lady Milne Gallery

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### Seniors Congress/Open Swiss Pairs

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June/4<sup>th</sup> June,  
YMCA Newport

### Celtic Congress

29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July,  
Fishguard Bay Hotel

### Ladies' Weekend

9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June  
Crossgates, Mid Wales

### WBU Swiss Pairs

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July, Venue  
Cymru, Llandudno

### Mid Wales Congress

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July, Metropole  
Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

### Aberystwyth Congress

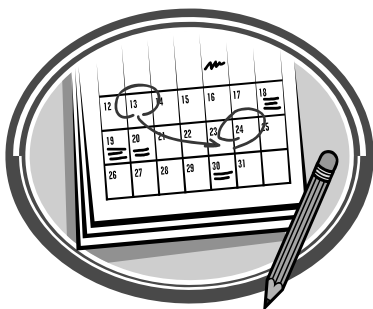
27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July, Aberystwyth  
University, Penglais Campus

### August Green Point Events

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> August  
YMCA, Newport

### Welsh Foursomes (Swiss Teams)

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> September, David  
Lloyd Tennis Centre, Cardiff



**Congratulations to the winning team from Scotland: Sheila Adamson, Fiona McQuaker, Anne Symons, NPC Brian Short, Yvonne Wiseman, Liz McGowan, Sam Punch.**



**Gilly Clench and Lee Collier (WBU team) prepare to do (friendly) battle against Jean Kelly and Betty Cotter of the Republic of Ireland**



**Val Kennewell and Margaret Lane (WBU team) in action against Mamie MacCormac and Antoinette McGee of Ireland**

## Jill's Quill



May already and we are reaching the end of the bridge season. Actually, it has extended so much that there is no break whatsoever, now, but many still like to think of bridge as a mainly winter activity

By the time you get the next newsletter the Management Committee will be ending their second year. Adrian will no longer be the Chairman and after two years of initiatives, I am sure he will be glad to let go. His legacy is amazing: he has approached, with enthusiasm and dedication, a great range of issues, from addressing the needs of clubs players to this latest initiative of producing a new Bad Behaviour policy. Working parties have been set up on a variety of things, including Competitions and the Selection process and he has been personally involved in all of them. In one way or another, every member of bridge clubs in Wales will have noticed some of the results of the work undertaken. New congresses for club players; the selection of Open and Senior players who have won the Home International events, and the ladies' team whose second place result was the best for a long, long time; a newsletter to keep people in touch, especially those who don't have access to the internet; experiments in using sims for qualifying rounds in National events and sims for ordinary small clubs. There is a lot more, and you can keep abreast of the work done by reading the Minutes, which are excellently produced by Mike Tedd, on the WBU web site.

One of the advantages the President has is his vast bridge acquaintance with players which he has extended throughout Wales as everyone knows, by now. He knows a lot of talented people and they have accepted his invitations to work on behalf of bridge in Wales. He also knows bridge at every level and in many countries and he brought this experience to help see where there is a better way. Read the newsletter and you will see that his reward for this extensive travelling and hard work (and the inevitable brickbats that have been thrown at him by people who don't know any better) is a pearl beyond price.

If I am repetitive in my praise it is because he is special and I have so many reasons to admire him, not least that he has got people to contribute to this publication. He won't be leaving us entirely and I am sure he will support the new President when he takes over very soon.

Have an enjoyable summer.

**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](mailto:Polly64335@aol.com), or telephone 01248 853033

### TIGER OR TIGGER?

My Tuesday night partner is Cool. He is laid back; nothing seems to bother him and he is a pleasure to play with. Those who don't know him think he is a bit of a hippy and, indeed, he does have a little pony-tail and wears extremely casual clothes.

Last night a one of our other players, who was dressed very smartly, joined the table and I remarked on how smart he looked. He looked at my partner and quoted some famous person as saying that a tie takes the beast out of the man.

My laid-back, tie-less partner looked at him, made a rather effeminate pawing gesture towards him and gave the tiniest kitten roar. It just cracked me up.



# SCALING THE HEIGHTS

by our friend in the North, Paddy Murphy



The Llangollen Swiss Teams congress was as usual a great success and many thanks to the organisers, directors, hotel staff and all those who took part.

There was plenty of action in the slam zone and some interesting bidding sequences and plays. On the following board the EW pair bid a good grand slam by way of some nice bidding by East.

<b>NS Vul.</b>	♠ 8 2		
<b>Dlr: South</b>	♥ K 10 8 2		
	♦ J 5 4		
	♣ Q 8 4 2		
♠ A K 10 9 5 3		♠ Q J 7	
♥ A J		♥ 9 7	
♦ K Q 7		♦ A 10 9 8 3 2	
♣ 10 7		♣ A 6	

♠ 6 4
♥ Q 6 5 4 3
♦ 6
♣ K J 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
-	-		Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
7NT	All pass		

- <sup>1</sup> Cue
- <sup>2</sup> RKCB
- <sup>3</sup> 2+Q♠
- <sup>4</sup> Specific K ask
- <sup>5</sup> None

After 1♠-2♦-3♠, 4♣ was the key ace showing bid which enabled West to count 12 tricks (on normal breaks) and West decided that the ♦AJxxx was likely to be enough for the grand slam to be a good prospect; as it was the six card diamond suit was sufficient.

Many pairs played the following hand in a slam: and were poorly rewarded as the 62.5% slam fails on the routine Q♣ lead. The key to avoiding the slam seems to be devaluing the K♣. A possible Jacoby sequence is shown below.

<b>NS Vul.</b>	♠ 9 3 2		
<b>Dlr: South</b>	♥ 10 3 2		
	♦ Q J 5		
	♣ Q J 5 4		
♠ K Q 8 5		♠ A 10 7	
♥ A Q 9 6 4		♥ K J 8 7	
♦ A K 10		♦ 9 6 4 3	
♣ 6		♣ K 8	
	♠ J 6 4		
	♥ 5		
	♦ 8 7 2		
	♣ A 10 9 7 3 2		

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>3</sup>	All pass		

- <sup>1</sup> Raise to 3 or better
- <sup>2</sup> splinter
- <sup>3</sup> wasted values

On the next board in the same match, many declarers fell foul of a false inference:

<b>Board 13</b>	♠ J 6
<b>Game all</b>	♥ J 9 7 5 4 2
<b>Dlr: North</b>	♦ 6 5 2
	♣ Q 3
♠ A K Q 7 5 2	♠ 10
♥ K 3	♥ A 10 6
♦ Q	♦ K J 10 4
♣ K 9 7 4	♣ A J 10 6 2

	♠ 9 8 4 3		
	♥ Q 8		
	♦ A 9 8 7 3		
	♣ 8 5		
<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	6♣	All pass	

- <sup>1</sup> Fit showing
- <sup>2</sup> Game-forcing
- <sup>3</sup> RKCB
- <sup>4</sup> 2 of 5 without the queen

Declarer assumed that when South cashed the ♦ A at trick 1, it meant he also held the ♣Q. As a





# AREA NEWS

(Make sure you get your news to Jill Knight for the next newsletter)

## EAST WALES

It is with regret that we must inform members of the deaths of Betty Gardner and Mary Aherne. Obituaries on Page 8 and 9.

Adrian Thomas is moving to Dolgellau for romantic reasons, but can still be contacted as usual at [adrianthomas2009@googlemail.com](mailto:adrianthomas2009@googlemail.com)

### Results

#### EWBA Webber Heat VP

1 <sup>st</sup> Sue Ingham, Gwynn Davis, Ken Richardson, Chris Rochelle	99
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mike Best, Mark Roderick, John Beard, Kevin Maddox	86
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mike Hirst, David McAndrew, Patrick Jourdain, John Glubb	77

#### Arthur James Pairs %

1 <sup>st</sup> Tony Ratcliff & Patrick Jourdain	60.95
2 <sup>nd</sup> Liz Atkinson & Simon Gottschalk	56.46
3 <sup>rd</sup> Geoff & Isabel Evans	56.09

#### Gwent Bridge Academy Claret Jug

Joan & Herrick Westcott.

#### Brecon Claret Jug

Paul Smith & Muriel Atak

## CALENDAR

### May 2012

19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Perry Shield/Spickett Bowl/ <i>The East Wales teams are:</i> <i>Perry Filip &amp; Diane Kurbalija</i> <i>Steve Webb &amp; Tim Barsby</i> <i>Sue Ingham &amp; Gwynn Davis</i> <i>Spickett Chris Forbes &amp; Jo Copping</i> <i>Liz Atkinson &amp; Gilly Glench</i> <i>Kay Dyer &amp; Jane Broo</i>
------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

20<sup>th</sup> WBU AGM (Seabank Hotel)

### June 2012

2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Seniors Congress (YMCA, Newport)

## MID WALES

### 19<sup>th</sup> MID WALES CONGRESS Green Pointed Swiss Teams

14th & 15th July 2012, Metropole Hotel  
*Congress Directors: Mike & Sarah Amos*

First 3 sessions Swiss Teams. Then:

- the bottom 8 or 12 teams (dependent on entries) will be split into groups of 4 and play each other in a Round Robin. The teams with the highest VP score in each group after the 3 matches will win a prize.
- Everyone else will play a further 3 x 7 board matches

Entry fee £49.00 per person including a light Sunday luncheon.. **Telephone: 01597 823700**

\*\*\*\*\*

## NORTH WALES

### NEW BRIDGE CLUB IN LLANFAIRFECHAN

Duplicate Bridge - Teaching - Junior Bridge - Rubber Bridge

At the newly built Llys-Y-Coed Centre (Cae Ffynon Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL33 0HP). The ground-floor venue has ample parking and is a modern centrally heated well lit room. New members are welcome any teaching and coaching needs will be assessed

Duplicate £1.50 per session (free tea and coffee)

Club membership £10.00 per annum with free WBU membership (£5.00 per annum otherwise). Junior Membership fee to be confirmed.

For more info email:

Paddy ([chs027@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:chs027@bangor.ac.uk)) or  
Margaret ([margobarnes2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margobarnes2001@yahoo.co.uk))

Phone: 01248 680689 or 07886 690773

*Were they trying to beat Penrhyndeudraeth in the longest-name contest? If so, they lost by 2.*

**Sheila Shea** is retiring as Area Tournament Organiser. I asked her if there was any North Wales stuff she wanted me to put in the Newsletter, and she said "Not really. I'm packing up being ATO having done it for 20 years and think I should go in the Guinness Book of Records but can't see that's particularly interesting to anyone really". Nothing about Sheila is uninteresting, as you know. My follow-up question was "What are you going to do instead?" She replied "Live! and not get continually moaned at – 'It's too expensive'; 'It's too hot'; 'There's too much/not enough/too hot/too uninteresting food'. And no telephone calls at 8 a.m. from people who can't be bothered to read their Journal to find out what time something starts. Perhaps I might even play uninterrupted bridge! Who knows?"

## WBU SWISS PAIRS

**7th July & 8th July 2012**  
**Venue Cymru, LLANDUDNO**

For those who have never played in this, your Editor and Layout Editor can both thoroughly recommend it. It's pairs with the fun of teams: you play 8-board matches against opponents whose score is roughly the same as yours, and the result is VP-ed.

The playing-room is big enough, the sandwiches are very nice, the ice-creams and donkeys are just like they were in the 1950s and there are several good restaurants, albeit at the opposite end of the prom, for those who like to combine bridge with gastronomy.

Mikey and I always take an afternoon travelling up via the pretty route, stopping in Llanidloes for tea and cake on the way.

It's directed by Mike Amos, which will be an added draw for many.

Contact Margaret Smith on 01248 723610 or [margaret.smith39@googlemail.com](mailto:margaret.smith39@googlemail.com) for entry form and contact details, or follow the link on the WBU Home Page.

### Lazslo Pairs winners

Paddy Murphy & Chris Pope 61.94%

### Valance Individual winner

Wyn Williams 60.00%

## WEST WALES

### DON'T FORGET ...

The first Celtic Congress in Fishguard (Fishguard Bay Hotel, Goodwick), June 29th – July 1st 2012.

### Results

#### John Isaac Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Colin Nash & Adrian Micusan	126
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Moore & Diana Jones	122
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vida Halford & Glyn Williams	100

#### Ann Dolan Limited Masterpoint Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Elsdon & Cecilia Rossiter	111
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barry Thorne & Ann Dassen	110
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Pam Jennings & Alun Jennings	100
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Judy Lewis & Lucy Brooker	100

#### Laidlaw Murray Teams of Four

1 <sup>st</sup>	Roger Penton & Tony Disley, Dan McIntosh & Tony Ratcliff	163
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Alderdice & John Jamieson, Denys Maddock & Eleanor Price	53
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mary Moore & Di Jones, Liam Sheridan & Ann Fox	34

### Swansea Charity Event 2012

Friday June 22nd - Open/Novice Pairs

Saturday June 23rd- Pairs

Sunday June 24th- Swiss Teams



**Colin Nash and Adrian Micusan, winners of the John Isaac Pairs**

# THE AXE MAN COMETH

by Julie Hodgson

*Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011*

Dolgellau Bridge Club is distinguished more by its good humour and sociability than its standard of bridge, with a few exceptions. So twice a year we have lunch together and play a little bridge before and after, thus tempering the conviviality with some serious card play.

Our fame must be growing as this year we attracted players from farther south, and even from Scotland.

Twenty-eight keen bridge players gathered at Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel. This stunning hotel, full of gracious country house charm, did us proud. While those from afar enjoyed a cup of coffee the committee organised an extra table in the dining area. After more recounts than a close election the numbers somehow crept up from 26 to 28, thus necessitating an extra playing table rather than a couch for the sitting-out pair to relax on.

We started our Chicago morning session pretty much on time at 10.30. This is a good way for people to meet each other and those of us who ended up with an impressive minus score felt justified in blaming poor cards.

The hotel staff coped admirably with serving different courses of a delicious lunch at the same time and soon after 1.30 we were all wined and dined and ready to continue with the afternoon duplicate session. I must confess to being the last to arrive for this as I had snatched a very brief siesta on an irresistible window seat.

Thanks to the very efficient director the afternoon proceeded smoothly and by 4.30 we were enjoying tea and cake, and eagerly awaiting the results.

The North-South winners were something of a foregone conclusion as we were happy to welcome back the President of the Welsh Bridge Union, Adrian Thomas. He and his partner Mike Morrall won comfortably. The East-West winners were Jan and Pete Cole from Dolgellau who won by a larger margin than Adrian and Mike. Well done Dolgellau!

The Chicago session was won by Jo Davies, with Bob Smith winning the booby prize, a

book of tips on how to improve your bridge! Bob also won the raffle, a bottle of Château Rauzan Gassies 1996 2nd growth Margaux. So he was at least able to drown his sorrows in considerable style. I hope our very welcome visitors enjoyed the day as much as the locals did. Thanks to Eric who directed with his usual panache and good humour, and many thanks to George for doing the lion's share of the organising.

The week had however, started in a distinctly surreal manner. Two of our visitors, including Adrian, joined us for our usual Monday evening session. We arrived at the club to see Eric sitting next to the cupboard with a look of great concentration on his face. The padlock had failed to respond to the code. Having smaller and more nimble fingers I confidently attempted where he had failed. The small, determined and for some reason upside down padlock remained stubbornly closed. All our boards, travellers etc. remained inaccessible. Several others tried, all to no avail. Some among the committee started thinking of other games that could be played, maybe charades?



All was not lost, however, as George had gone home for hacksaw and hammer! Just as he was beginning to make some small headway another of our members, who happens to have been mayor of Barmouth, strode in brandishing an axe. We did wonder whether this was to attack the cupboard or the inefficient committee who had allowed this appalling lapse on the very evening that the President was here.



With the sound of splintering wood we finally gained access to the cupboard and play got under way only a little later than usual. What Adrian made of all this we never did find out. Needless to say he and his partner won.

#### **NORTH - SOUTH**

1	Mike Morrall & Adrian Thomas	60.32
2	Margaret & Michael McCumiskey	57.14
3	Bob Smith & Patrick Jefferson	56.75
4	Margaret James & Pamela Woodhouse	51.98
5	Andrew Loat & Rita Lawrence	48.02
6	Mavis Bevan & Muriel Harrison	40.08
7	Eric Johnson & Doreen Chapman	35.71

#### **EAST - WEST**

1	Jan Cole & Pete Cole	66.67
2	Jupp Korsten & George Mandow	55.56
3	Betty Brooks & Jo Davies	55.16
4	Margaret & Neville Richards	51.59
5	Julie Hodgson & Penny Davidson	44.84
6	Rachel Cleaver & Christina Cook	39.68
7	Brian & Margaret Williams	36.51

*[Inadvertently left out of previous Newsletter]*

### **ON COMING ACROSS A RARE SPECIES (Jill's Chester safari)**

My partner and I had failed to qualify for the final of the National Open Pairs, but there was a Teams event on at Chester Bridge Club on the Sunday, and there was still room – possibly because many of the Welsh regulars were in Llandrindod Wells for the weekend.

I was glad to see that the playing-room was full and that the unavoidable clash had not damaged their event. There was a goodly number of GM's and PGMs – some quite famous, and one a delightful person I had not seen for twenty years. It was lovely to have a chat with him, brief though it was.

There was the usual speech of welcome – and a particular one to a team from Manchester University who were being taught by Manchester international player, Michael Byrne. The speaker indicated the team in the centre of the room, and his welcome was followed by a spontaneous round of applause which the youngsters appeared to find surprising and amusing, but they smiled and nodded coyly in acknowledgement.

My partner and I were delighted to be playing them in Round 4, having found our level by

this stage. As you do! One was a Tom Cruise look-alike, but with a smattering of acne round his mouth; the other was a redhead. Both were very polite to us. Tom Cruise seemed to have absorbed the very latest bidding devices and was telling his partner how he should have bid his hand, explaining the system very quickly while his partner listened and chewed his nails. I mimed a little tap on his hand and told him to stop it. He took it in good part. I apologised and said I was only being Mum, then saw their faces and corrected it to 'Grandma'.

The 8-board match went smoothly. I think the boys were a little disconcerted not to be given an easier ride. But they are far too young to know about the reputation of 'Little Old Ladies' at the bridge table. Actually, we did get the better of them, though not excessively; but when we went to score up one of our other pair must have been charmed into carefree abandon, having gone for 1400. Because young players are such a rare species, people tend not to know exactly when to stop pushing and to double them. At our table, just as they had been girding themselves for a landslide victory, so we were licking our lips in anticipation of a few tasty doubles.



The final result was a narrow win for them. Good for them, too. I hope they enjoyed the event and tell as many of their fellow students as possible about Michael's bridge lessons. If you can't learn at the bridge equivalent of mother's knee, then university is the next best thing. At their age they have all the requirements: quickness of mind; the ability to absorb the new with ease; the excitement at the possibilities of the best game in the world and the optimism to seek to conquer the challenges. Good luck, boys!

# OBITUARIES

## Betty Gardner

26th May 1943 – 7th March 2012

Betty Gardner died on 7th March after many years of suffering.

About the time she represented Wales at Pau in the summer of 2008, she started to suffer from lymphoedema, her right arm swelling enormously causing great pain. Cancer had reappeared in the breast which had been operated on about 10 years earlier, and that Christmas she was given a terminal diagnosis. Amazingly, after months of chemo-therapy, she was given an all clear in the autumn of 2009, but the swollen arm persisted. At the turn of that year a different cancer was diagnosed in the other breast and she had a mastectomy in February 2010, followed by chemotherapy until the start of this year.

She continued to play, and enjoy, competitive bridge four or more times a week, pain permitting. Her keenness to play was enhanced by her inability, because of her useless arm, to continue with her other passions of golf, handicrafts, and baking cakes. Despite her pain she was surprisingly successful, qualifying for three national finals last year. Sadly she was not well enough to travel to mid-Wales for any of them.

At the end of February her GP persuaded her to go into to St Anne's Hospice to try to get her pain under control, which the area cancer hospital had not managed over the years because of reactions with her bi-polar medication. Within a day or so pain relief was achieved, and she was able to play with Hazel in the Newport club on the Saturday coming top! She was about to leave the hospice the following week when she suddenly collapsed and died. She had found the hospice a haven of care and relief, a comfort to her friends but a great surprise to her since she had been adamantly against any form of residential care.

After gaining a PhD in Chemistry, Betty joined the Patent Office. She enjoyed various pursuits including riding, but over 30 years ago developed the bi-polar illness from which her father and brother had suffered but failed to live with. This illness she fought as

subsequently she fought cancer, giving up bridge at that time to concentrate on the demands of work. She resumed bridge only in the late 1990s after ill health retirement.

It was, I believe, the manic high of her bipolar illness which was the driving force in both her long fight against cancer and her bridge. She took no hostages at the bridge table. Should an opponent make a mistake, she would pounce for the kill. The night she died, my memory of her was of a kindly (at least to her bridge partner) and stoic British Bulldog, fighting to the end..

Her Siamese cats were her love. Sadly, a year ago, she realised she was no longer able to look after them and she gave them to the Siamese Sanctuary.

Betty did not complain about her pain despite suffering severely. During the last 15 years, when I got to know her well, she went out of her way to help those in need. Many friends have commented how bravely and strongly she fought her illnesses. They could not understand how she was able to cope. She will be greatly missed by her many friends within and outside bridge.

*Brian Harden*



**Betty (2<sup>nd</sup> left) at what she regarded as her finest hour at the European Championships, Pau, 2008**

*[I remember Betty as a great eccentric but also a woman of endearing enthusiasm. Her birthday fell during our Pau excursion, and her delight and surprise at the cards and cake her teammates had arranged were wonderful to see. She and Daphne had formed a scratch partnership to rescue the team after another pair dropped out, and they played with determination and selflessness (embracing their role of "sacrificial lambs") throughout. Daphne was a generous and level-headed captain and a kindly partner to Betty. Laura]*

## **Margaret Banks (1928 – 2012)**

Margaret Banks died on 19<sup>th</sup> March just a few days before her birthday.

Margaret spent her early life in suburban Manchester and won a scholarship to grammar school. However her ambitions to attain a University place were put on hold when circumstances forced her to leave school earlier than she anticipated.

Margaret met and married Tom Banks, a mining engineer. When Tom took up a post in Sierra Leone, Margaret and her two young sons joined him. It may well have been in colonial Africa that she started to play bridge. The family returned to the UK in 1962 and Margaret ran a small grocery business. She hated it. After her third son was born Margaret went to college and qualified as a teacher, a profession that led to the family's moving to Prestatyn in 1972.

Margaret never fully got over Tom's death in 1976, regarding November as the worst month of the year. Despite having a full time job and bringing up a young son, Margaret started to play bridge in earnest, Sunday evening rubber at 2p and Friday at 5p per hundred. She joined Prestatyn Golf Club, to play bridge on Wednesday evening, the prize for winning here, six eggs.

Duplicate soon followed when she joined Rhyl Bridge Club. She started to teach bridge in 1984 at a night school class at Prestatyn High School. Warwick Horspool and Roger Eastwood enrolled only because the computer course was full. The class was successful and the students persuaded Margaret to run an "advanced" class the following year as well as another beginners' class.

In 1986, Margaret was instrumental in founding Prestatyn Bridge Club and was elected its first Chairman. During this time Margaret joined Llandudno & District Bridge Club and must have had few evenings at home because she still played duplicate at the Rhyl and Prestatyn Clubs and rubber on Friday and Sunday.

She became interested in playing in North Wales Area events and congresses and won her first 3 green points in the Laszlo Cup held in a smoky garret at Wrexham Squash Club.

We played in a Swiss Teams sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant, having persuaded me to play only with the promise of free cigarettes. On the way there she suggested that we introduce the Unusual No Trump to our armoury. On the first hand opponents opened 1♠ promptly followed by 2NT from Margaret, I bid 3♦ and Margaret raised to 5♦, swiftly doubled. My free cigarette burned down to half its length in one gasp. A perfect two minor suit fit with the king of clubs on the right side brought home a lay-down 12 tricks, a 20-0 victory and promotion to Table 1.

Liz Commins first met Margaret in 1981 playing at Rhyl Bridge Club. Margaret recognized her potential and Liz says:- "It wasn't long before she took me under her wing and she laid the foundations of my bridge career. We played together in various events both teams and pairs for approximately 11 years and were reserves for the Lady Milne team in 1994."

Although Margaret was an active member in North Wales bridge, she will be remembered as a teacher by those who she introduced to the game, as a mentor to those who she encouraged to progress and as a skilful player and excellent partner to those who were privileged to play bridge in her company.

**Anthony Waller**

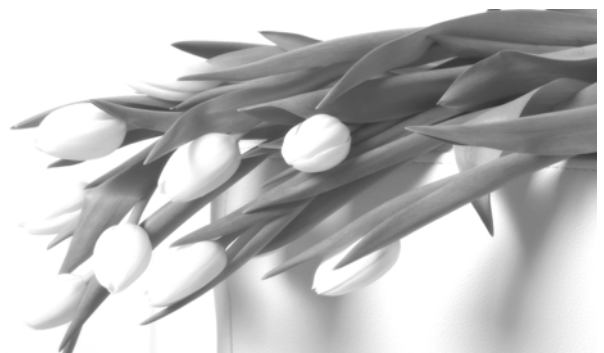
## **Barrie Robinson**

Barrie Robinson died on April 15th.

He was WBU auditor for 25 years and had intended standing down this year. He was also auditor of West Wales Bridge Association, and a long-standing member and officer of Porthcawl Bridge Club.

Our thoughts are with his wife Vera. He will be dearly missed by all.

His funeral was held at Margam on April 26th and afterwards friends were welcomed at the Grove Golf Club, South Cornelly.



## Mary Aherne

1925 - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011

“Mary Aherne, who has died aged 86, was one of only nine life members in the history of the Welsh Bridge Union. She served the Union as its Secretary over three decades from 1978 to 1996.

Mary Aherne was born in 1925 as Mary O’Shea on the island of Valentia off the west coast of co. Kerry, Ireland. Four years later the family moved to Cardiff. In 1955 Mary married Jack Aherne. Mrs. Aherne worked at the industrial firm, Currans, in Cardiff.

As an officer of the Welsh Bridge Union she was a delegate to the British Bridge League. Outside bridge her interests were golf and bowling. She was a member of Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff for over fifty years. Her husband died in 1996. They had no children.

PDJ "



**Mary Aherne (with Colin Smith) at Cardiff Bridge Club, watching a Camrose match**

The obituary above was written by Patrick Jourdain in January for the Daily Telegraph. He was keen that some record of this extraordinary woman be included in the newsletter. It was too late to include it in January’s edition, but Mary’s place in the history of the Welsh Bridge Union is so significant that we pay tribute to her here.

I remember that at WBU Council meetings Mary had every relevant fact stored in her exceptional brain and she was quick to produce whatever information was needed. It appeared that she had little use for time-wasters and empty oratory. My partner, Rona, found a friend in her when she became President. Both childless, they had a strong interest in people which was often revealed in a little bit of harmless gossip, and when I played with Rona and Mary was there, I would see their two heads together, catching up with the latest. Mary was also a very social person and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Bridge scene. She played in the Officials’ team when we went over to Ireland and joined us after play for a chat and (being in Ireland) a good laugh. She loved company.

**Diana Harris** writes: When I became President in 1993 I was very fortunate to have the assistance and guidance of Mary. As Secretary to the WBU, there was nothing that she didn’t know about the internal affairs of the WBU and she was able to guide me through some turbulent times. As well as being a brilliantly efficient Secretary, she was a kind and helpful person who enjoyed playing bridge at the Cardiff club.

**Adrian:** ‘Mary Aherne? She was a star! She knew everything. She did everything. When we were playing away she booked our accommodation, our plane tickets, or whichever was cheapest mode of travel. She would give us our tickets, a timetable of travel and our room numbers at the hotel. She saved the WBU thousands and it was great for us to be organised. We didn’t have to think or do anything. There was no one like her.’

**Jean Hand** writes: Mary was a very efficient and capable Secretary with a vast amount of knowledge. When I was organising (for the first time) the Lady Milne here in North Wales, her help and advice was invaluable and very much appreciated. Having not been in touch with her for some time I was pleased when she telephoned me last summer to inquire about the Perry and Spickett as she was keen to attend. It was pleasing to know that she had maintained her enthusiasm.

Mary will always be remembered for her invaluable support to the Welsh Bridge Union.

# Hand of the Month by Tony Haworth

This hand occurred this month in the Porthcawl club and I used it for my column 'Hand of the Month' for the club website.

Porthcawl's site now contains a series of Tutorials on the Fundamentals of Bridge - ideal for beginners or even more established players who aren't doing as well as they should be.

[Bridgewebs/Porthcawl>Tutorials](#) (or Library)

Defending is generally accepted as one of the more difficult aspects of the game. However, good systemic techniques (signalling, discarding, etc.), the ability to assess declarer's most likely hand layout (counting, what he did/didn't bid etc.), and a degree of 'vision' can often lead to success.

**Board 5:**

**Vul:** NS

**Dlr:** N

♠ K J 10 9 3 2

♥ 6

♦ K 2

♣ J 10 9 6

♠ A 8 7 6

♥ 9 3

♦ A 7

♣ K Q 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	4♥	All pass

Take this hand from a Porthcawl Monday night session. The auction was swiftly concluded with East's opening 4♥ preemptive bid. With the South hand, no problems with your (automatic) opening lead of ♣K, on which partner plays ♣3. Take a moment to consider your next lead.

The majority of players would play a small club to partner's assumed ace, after all what harm can it do? But sitting with two outside aces, it's time to be a bit more positive.

My partner and I play count on partner's lead of a king (see footnote), so I know now that partner started with three, or put another way, declarer started with a singleton. Any more thoughts?

Let's try to assess declarer's hand. A singleton club, 8 hearts (?), so four cards in diamonds

and spades. Irrespective of these four cards, assuming semi-solid hearts, declarer can lead up to dummy's kings twice (leading the singleton suit first).

- With 2 diamonds and 2 spades or 3-1, ten tricks will be taken (if declarer holds 3 of one suit, the third card can be discarded on the other king).
- With four diamonds (unless QJ10x) and a void spade, declarer is bound to go off - he can't successfully ruff in dummy.
- He can't have a void diamond and four spades (opening a 4-level preempt with 4 cards in the other major, and more relevantly North remaining silent with a 9-card suit - I think not).

So with an 8-card heart suit, South has no realistic control over the outcome; whatever he reasonably does, declarer's fate is already sealed - making or one off.

So let's consider the possibility of declarer having opened with a 7-card heart suit (still with the singleton club remember). He will now have 3-2 or 4-1 in diamonds and spades.

- If he is 3-2 he cannot get rid of the third card (probably a ♦), so is bound to go one off (with ♦Qxx he could take an optimistic view - small to the king (ducked by South), and then small from both hands, thereby setting up the queen. With this holding he may try the ♠J finesse, which fails, so also one off). So once again his fate is sealed.
- However what if he has 4 diamonds and 1 spade? Once again he can get rid of one diamond loser on a spade, but not two - so one off whatever we do - unless ... (time to put your thinking cap on).
- Suppose declarer's singleton is the ♠Q - consistent with opening a 4-level preempt with a 7-card suit. He could now play ♠Q (you can't realistically duck in case it's a doubleton), and eventually enter dummy with ♦K after drawing trumps in





order to discard two diamonds on the established spades. So is this the only conceivable holding on which your next play can influence the outcome? Yes.

If you still haven't looked at declarer's hand, I'll tell you that in this last situation, your action *does* determine the outcome. You need to deprive declarer of an entry to dummy to discard losing diamonds at the right time (for him). So the (not obvious) winning defence is to cash ♦A and then lead a small diamond. Declarer with a singleton spade cannot get to dummy to discard a possible losing diamond.

Any down-side to this action? As already assessed, with 8 hearts he cannot be defeated. With 7 hearts, three diamonds to the queen, and a small doubleton spade, yes we have possibly given him an easier ride to ten tricks. But would he open 4♥ with 11-12 points and this distribution? Surely he would bid 1♥?

Now let's look at the hand. You can see that the cash of the ♦A is in fact the only way to defeat the contract. (Note if declarer has ♦QJxx and ♠x, this is also the only way to defeat the contract).

**Board 5:** ♠ 5 4  
**Vul:** NS ♥ J 5 2  
**Dlr:** N ♦ Q 10 9 4 3  
 ♣ A 5 3

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

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

Personally I would prefer to open 1♥. Had our East done so, the bidding would probably have gone 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♠ (forcing) - 3♥ - pass. Nine tricks made against best defence.

**Footnote:** Against a suit contract, many players now lead the K from either AKxx. or KQxx. Why? If partner leads the A, does he have a 4- or 5-card suit? You, with say Q82, and seeing three in dummy will encourage (attitude), correct if partner has 4, but wrong if he has 5. But if partner leads the king for count you will play the 2 (an odd number of cards) and he will refrain from cashing a third round. Again this is most relevant if declarer

has the short trump suit (as a result of a no-trump transfer for example): you want to prevent him from ruffing in the short hand.

Looking from the leader's perspective it's usually correct to lead the standard ace from AKxx, but with AKxxx it is often better to lead the K (there are other situations - listen to the bidding).

*The East Wales Bridge Association site is also a good source. Adrian has two tutorials on the site and Gwynn Davis writes a monthly column 'Cautious Bidder' where a variety of topics are discussed. (Ed)*



## St David's Day Sims (Welsh) Results

### Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February

1 <sup>st</sup> : Paul Smith & Murat Atac	67.93%
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Liam Sheridan & Joan Jenkins	65.93%
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Trish Tracey & Tony Ratcliff	64.80%

### Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February

1 <sup>st</sup> : Chris Morley & Jennifer Wardell	69.85%
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Beth Wennell & Barry Wennell	69.64%
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tony Haworth & Rob Charlesworth	67.31%

### Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March

1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew Scott & Liam Sheridan	69.15%
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Joan Beard & Deborah Davies	68.54%
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Chris Draper & Rosemarie Barr	64.41%

### Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

1 <sup>st</sup> : Tony Disley & Roger Penton	67.68%
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Patrick Keogh & Tricia Keogh	65.20%
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tony Ratcliff & Julian Pottage	64.75%

### Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

1 <sup>st</sup> : Tim Barsby & Joan Jenkins	68.18%
2 <sup>nd</sup> : John Gibson & Alan Jones	67.26%
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tony Ratcliff & Kevin Maddox	64.32%

I should be writing this in a month's time, when the immediate damage incurred has repaired itself and I can walk through the bidding, play, defence etc. with more ease. At present I'm still limping. Literally, too. But I promised an article so here it is.

The venue was superb. The last time we stayed in single rooms in Llandrindod, Menna's room was like a broom-cupboard. Now, all single rooms are fit for purpose, ensuite and clean and comfortable. The playing rooms, dining facilities and lounges were excellent. I did not use the spa facilities, but some of our WBU team did and swam each morning. Joan, whose immediate priority on arrival in the town was to get some mascara, could have had eyebrow and eyelashes tinted for a reasonable sum at the hotel, but she found out about this too late.

The food at the Metropole was excellent, everything to suit all tastes. Informal breakfasts, dinner presented *à la 'Masterchef'*, and at lunchtime fresh sandwiches with very thin chips (they deserved no less a name than 'pommes frites' in this centre of culinary excellence). The doctor had told me before I left home that they wouldn't consider giving me new knees until I had lost weight. The only thing to do was remind myself that the portions at dinner were small, and those you could control yourself (breakfast, sandwiches and chips) you must just, well, control. Simply not putting any more weight on would suffice till I got back home.

Mike and Sarah Amos directed beautifully. I sympathised with Mike's pain (he needs a new hip and *is* losing weight) but the playing rooms were next door to each other so his walking was kept to a minimum *and* the players caused no aggro at all. I doubt he was called to make a ruling more than a few times. During the end-of-event-dinner speeches it was revealed that absolutely no problems occurred and there were no appeals on rulings. In fact the lady players had been exemplary in their behaviour and attitude. Well, I gather I was a bit loud. Not in the playing room, of course, but in the lounge when we were given our winnings

from the Grand National Sweep. The only drawback to the weekend was a difficulty in finding a quiet place to score up.

The organisation was first class. Every time I went down to play, and finished playing, Jean (Cufley) was outside the Open Room emptying boxes of boards or reorganising them into sets for packing them back into cases. I had been down in the playing area early on in the day to get a couple of (larger) Wales shirts, and Jean and Alan were already working away posting signs on doors and carrying table and chairs. Neville had brought lots of relevant equipment, including the Wales shirts and a small representative sample of his huge family. Drew, his very small grandson, was a revelation. I would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to imagine Neville as a baby until I saw Drew. It was quite astonishing.

The BBO organised by Simon Richards was spot-on. The team were all very pleasant and friendly towards the players. Jonathan Richards caused a bit of excitement when he was pulling of his jumper and his T-shirt went up as well. I missed that, but I did hear about it. The ladies showed their appreciation, apparently. I don't know how Jonathan reacted, but it's all part of his bridge education. On Monday morning I saw Simon Gottschalk and Joan discussing the weekend's hands over breakfast. Considering how we had done, I don't think Simon's analyses would be entirely congratulatory.

All-in-all ... Oops! wait a minute, it was a Home International bridge competition. So I must talk about the bridge, I suppose. Well, our Wales team was Aida Aris and Linda Greenland; Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija; Sue Ingham and Laura Woodruff. Because Wales were hosting the event we were called upon to provide a second team, to make 6 teams in all, so that there would be no sit-out. We were the WBU team which comprised Gilly Clench and Lee Collier; Val Kennewell and Margaret Lane; Jill Knight and Joan Marray. Our NPC was Diana Harris who had gallantly replaced Mike Close whose mother

had, sadly, died suddenly. Diana is an experience international player and did nothing to deserve her team's results. Margaret and Val had had some experience playing in the Lady Milne and Joan and I had played in the Wales team once before, but Gilly and Lee hadn't. Though Gilly had had a lot of experience, this was Lee's first time. When Gilly explained why they had had a bad board, Lee listened. That is a good start. Some people don't feel they will benefit from another's experience. Lee is not one of those. Gilly has a lovely way with her when discussing hands, and this helps. So things bode well for the partnership. Val and Margaret do analyse and discuss where they went wrong, and this strengthens their partnership. Joan and I get very little time together to discuss and cement our partnership, but we try our best to play whenever we can.

Joan did try to gain an understanding of why I passed when she opened 1♠, yet when LHO balanced with 1N and that came round to me, I doubled. What could she make of that? There was a long silence (I could imagine her puzzlement). Deciding my bid must be for take-out, she bid 2♣, I bid 2♠ and she passed.

Well, I put down ♠A84 ♥QJ54 ♦K65 ♣J95

Another long pause. The thing is, YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR PARTNER'S FACE. This is a good thing and, certainly, I try never to look at partner. I mean at the bridge table only. In real life she is quite presentable. In play, it's usually the midriff only that's visible when screens are used. It is only when the bidding has finished and the lead is made that you can put up a flap to enable you to see the card play (and partner's midriff). I knew what she was thinking, though. Oh yes!

But I had another surprise in store for her.

As she played her last card she said 'Didn't you see my opening bid, partner?' 'No,' I replied. Even Joan had no answer to that.

Minus 7 IMPs

Now, at this stage, no one could know what the final result of the weekend would be. What we did know was that Wales' biggest threat was Scotland. And this was our match against Scotland. We wanted to do our very best to play well in order not to jeopardise

Wales' chances of winning. When I saw the bidding on the second round, I wondered how my partner had been able to bid 1♠ over North's 1NT. Then I realised that I had not seen my partner's *opening* bid, first time round. So it had *not* gone Pass from South, Pass from me, 1NT by North and 1♠ from my partner. It had gone 1♠ from Joan, Pass from South, Pass from me, 1NT from North, Pass from partner, Pass from South. I understood all, now. But what to do?

How strong is Joan? After all, North could have bid 1NT with only eleven points in the (now) protective position. Joan could have anything from 11 to 18 points, though with my eleven points it is unlikely to be 18. How can I convey to her that I did not see her opening bid. If I double she will see it as a take-out of 1NT, denying spades.

Hang on, though ... since we do have some hiatuses (hiati?) in our system, might she wonder why I did I not bid first time? How can I suddenly show a hand willing to compete at the 2-level when I couldn't bid even 1NT over her opening? Could I not be saying, 'Sorry, partner, I could have bid but I was hoping North would balance with 1NT so that I could double for a spade lead and for penalties'? A ludicrous idea! I was, of course, clutching at straws. Joan's answer? North passed and Joan bid her 2♣ and I now wondered whether to bid 2, 3 or 4 spades. Joan's 2♣ suggested either that she wanted to pass any suit I bid at the two level, or that she had now no clue what I was playing at, so I bid 2♠. Those two possible interpretations are interdependent; I should have bid three any day of the week, but I was beginning to wilt. 2♠ was passed out. The lead was the ♦J and Joan made her contract exactly. ALL the other Easts were in 3NT making, with one East making an overtrick. Joan might have made game in ♠, but after the bidding from my side of the table, she did well to make her contract.

The East West scores 3N + 1 = **1 IMP**; 3N making 9 tricks = **0 IMPs**; 2S making = **-7 IMPs** Yes - minus seven imps. For people who are not used to team games, 0 means a flat board (draw) and all players have bid and played properly. A 1 IMP gain means that declarer played like a superhuman or (more

likely) someone misdefended to give the overtrick). Minus 7 means a wheel fell off and you shouldn't be there.

These were the hands:

<b>Board 2</b>	♠ K J 9 7	
<b>Dealer E</b>	♥ K 10 9	
<b>NS Game</b>	♦ 8 7	
	♣ A 8 6 4	
♠ A 8 4		♠ Q 10 6 3
♥ Q J 5 4		♥ A 8 3
♦ K 6 5		♦ A Q 4
♣ J 9 5		♣ K 10 7
	♠ 5 2	
	♥ 7 6 2	
	♦ J 10 9 3 2	
	♣ Q 3 2	

How would 1NT doubled by North do on the 'requested' ♠ lead? Well, East-West have to delay making their third ♦ trick until North has used up his only entry to the diamonds in dummy, but there looks like at least nine tricks. That would be plus 800. That's a comparatively huge score. However, North could make five tricks and the score, then, would be -500, not as good, and not as good as 3NT, but better than 110.

That certainly wasn't our worst score of the weekend, neither was it the daftest thing that happened, but it was a first for me. I can only think that when the bidding tray was pushed through the gap, a hanging down flap on the curtain concealed Joan's bid so that all I could see was South's pass.

On the whole, I had a lovely time. The ladies in all the teams were very friendly and many of them funny, as well, especially the Irish. The end of play dinner was great fun. Gilly was in top form making us laugh; Adrian's speech was entertaining; Alan Screen was a great MC; Patrick made an appeal on behalf of BGB and the non-playing captain of the Scottish team told the famous story of the pig and the wheelbarrow, in his own quiet Scottish way. Jim Luck, now freed from his job as commentator in the Vu-Graph room, told one about a man who had been given a very short time to live, but it was also funny. The Scottish ladies were modest in victory and are both elegant and young. So I think we'll keep on hearing about their successes. The English players are all young, too. What was really sad

for our team was that we lost appallingly to Scotland. Had our score against Scotland been just a little more dignified, Wales would have won. As was pointed out on the WBU website, Wales came second with a score that has often won, and they were a full match ahead of all the teams except Scotland going into the last round. They looked good and played well to achieve the best results we have had in years.

Congratulations to our Wales team who were a very close second. Congratulations to Laura and Sue who earned top Butler points overall. This is the best result for several years, and I hope we see them trying again next year. When they do – and win – this year's disappointed ex-WBU team will be cheering loudly.

**Jill**

## What's in a Name?

Long ago, when I was a Young Man (i.e. I could still see dummy), I had to go into hospital for an emergency operation. In those days the Admissions Clerk used to record one's religion (rather than whether one was a smoker). Being somewhat disrespectful of bureaucracy in all its forms, I said I devoutly believed in a "Weak No Trump". Actually, I was then a practising (i.e. still trying hard) Methodist, but I awaited the outcome of this perversion with interest.

The next morning I was visited by the hospital's Anglican Chaplain, and we had a long and pleasant chat about all things non-spiritual. I asked him how the admission system had led him to me.

"Oh, that's easy. In the Council of Churches, we divide up all the hospital visiting according to our manpower: the Rabbi gets the Orthodox, Reformed and Liberal Jews; the Baptist gets all the Churches of Christ, Strict and Particular and Regular Baptists; the Methodist gets the Wesleyans, Calvinists, and Prisons; the RC Priest gets the Roman and Old Catholics; the Congregational pastor gets the Congregationals, Unitarians and Presbyterians; and, as the resident Anglican, I get all the Odds and Sods"!

**David Spalding (Gwynedd)**

# REPLAY THESE HANDS WITH ME

by Peter Goodman



Today's hand is taken from the second weekend of the 2012 Camrose. This year England fielded two very strong teams, yet Wales were able to compete on a par with the exception of one poor match against England on the first weekend. This eventually cost Wales the chance of retaining the trophy.

The hand illustrates the danger of entering the auction when you have little prospect of buying the contract. Your bidding serves only to give declarer information.

<b>Wales v.</b>	♠ K 9 7 2	
<b>England</b>	♥ 9 6	
<b>Love all</b>	♦ Q 9 3	
<b>Dlr: South</b>	♣ Q J 8 4	
♠ 8 6 3		♠ 4
♥ K 8 7 4		♥ A J 10 5
♦ J 2		♦ K 10 6 4
♣ 10 9 5 3		♣ K 7 6 2
	♠ A Q J 10 5	
	♥ Q 3 2	
	♦ A 8 7 5	
	♣ A	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl	4♠

<sup>1</sup> balanced 4 card spade raise

East-West had little chance of winning the auction and would have done better to remain silent. East paid the ultimate price, as his double pushed Mike Pownall into the inferior, but very much right, line.

On the ♥4 lead the contract appears to have two heart and two diamond losers, since the king of diamonds must surely be wrong. We will now see the 'intra-finesse' in operation

When East returned a heart, West switched to a trump and the remaining trumps were drawn. It was time for a recount.

This was the position with seven tricks remaining:

	♠ 9	
	♥ none	
	♦ Q 9 3	
	♣ Q J 8	
s♠ 8 7		♠ none
♥ J 2		♥ 10
♦ 10 9 5		♦ K 10 6 4
♣ none		♣ K 7
	♠ 10 5	
	♥ 2	
	♦ A 8 7 5	
	♣ none-	

South simply plays a diamond to the 9 and uses his heart ruff to run the ♦Q, picking up all East's diamonds. If West had played a third heart early, South would have been able to draw only two rounds of trumps before playing a diamond to the eight, because he would need the ♠K as an entry later.



## Results

### NATIONAL MIXED PAIRS FINAL

Metropole Hotel, 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dan McIntosh & Diane Kurbalija	60.19%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Moore & John Beard	57.02%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sheila Shea & Wyn Williams	56.90%

### NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS FINAL

Builth Wells, 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gwynn Davies & Susan Ingham	59.88%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mike Tedd & John Salisbury	57.63%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony Disley & Roger Penton	57.59%

### WEBBER CUP FINAL

Llanidloes, 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Diane Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija, Dan McIntosh, Tony Ratcliff	281
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Beard, Liam Sheridan, Kevin Maddox, Mike Best	264
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Roger Penton, Tony Disley, Laura Woodruff, Mike Close	251



## Things you might not have wanted to know

A brief look at some esoteric terms you may hear at the table and be puzzled by. If there is an expression you would like us to explain, write to Jill Knight at [Polly64335@aol.com](mailto:Polly64335@aol.com) and we will do our best to include it next time.

### Amber

Both sides vulnerable, as opposed to White (Love All), Green (they're vulnerable, you're not) or Red (you're vulnerable, they're not).

### Backward Finesse

A finesse against the 10 when you know the queen is offside or you don't want to risk losing a trick to a particular opponent:

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

You run the jack; if you get a cover, you finesse against the 10 on the way back.

### Blackout

An artificial negative over a low reverse. The cheaper of 2NT and 4<sup>th</sup> suit is negative, and makes subsequent bids non-forcing. All other bids are forcing to game.

e.g. 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♥ - 2NT (3♣/♦/♥ would be forcing to game)  
1♣ - 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ (2NT would be forcing to game)

Whether 2♠ would be forcing in the above auctions is a matter of partnership agreement.

### Coffee-house

To use a subtle but unethical tactic to gain an advantage, for example to make a remark intended to deceive the opponents. Derives from bridge in European coffeehouses, where conversation was often designed to give information or guide partners underhandedly. Hesitating with Qx would be an example; asking what a defender would lead from 109xx when you as declarer hold the 10 (to deceive the leader's partner) would be another.

### Double-shot

To use an opponent's infraction of the rules as a safety-net for a wild gamble, in the knowledge that if the gamble doesn't come off you will get an adjusted score anyway. For example, your partner bids 4♠, over which you have a marginal decision whether to bid on. Your right-hand opponent has a think then

passes; you pass and your left-hand opponent bids 5♦. You think "Aha! Now I can bid 6♠ with impunity: if it makes we will get a good score; if it doesn't, the director will rule the contract back to 4♠ because of RHO's hesitation". Alert directors will be wise to this tactic and will refuse to adjust the score in favour of the double-shooter.

### Gin

A term much used in England but almost unheard in Wales. It means the same as "cold" (unable to be beaten).

### Kibitzer (emphasis on first syllable)

A spectator. A Yiddish word meaning "meddler who gives unwanted advice". The verb *to kibitz* is a back-formation.

### Last Train

A bid one step below game, making a mild slam try but not saying anything about the suit. E.g. 1♥ - 3♥ - 4♣, now 4♦ is Last Train, invites slam, and doesn't necessarily show a ♦ control

### Rewind

Redouble.

### SAYC

Standard American Yellow Card: the bidding system in general use in America and elsewhere, consisting of 5-card majors, strong no trump, weak 2s in three suits, non-forcing Stayman etc. etc. Much in evidence in online bridge clubs, and often mistakenly used for Standard American (non-Yellow Card).

### Vienna Coup

Cashing a high card to get it out of the way before playing a squeeze, e.g.

♠ A J  
♥ A  
♦ none  
♣ 2

♠ K Q  
♥ K 4  
♦ none  
♣ none

♠ 4  
♥ Q 2  
♦ none  
♣ A

*East is squeezed (i.e. has to unguard one of the suits) on the ♣A but can safely discard a heart because you've got no entry back to your queen. The Vienna Coup means cashing the ♥A before you play the ♣A, so that you are in hand to play the queen if East discards his king.*

## Wales in International Bridge *by Mike Tedd*

Most people playing any sport or game will play for pleasure with no aspiration to reach the very top levels. Quite a few, though, will work hard to develop their skills with the honour and privilege of representing their country as a cherished goal. Thirty-seven different people have played for one or more of the Welsh teams in the last three years, and many others have played in the trials.

The main events that Wales now takes part in are the annual home internationals (the Camrose trophy for open teams, the Lady Milne for women's teams and the Senior Camrose), the biennial European Championships and the every-4-years World Bridge Games. Each of these has Open, Women and Senior events, but we do not play in every event.

The Camrose started in 1937. It took Wales until 2011 to win the trophy, at the 68<sup>th</sup> try! On one earlier occasion a Welsh player was on lead on the last board against a slam, holding two aces. One would have won the Camrose, but he led the other one.

My debut Camrose match was in 1976 in Larne. We were the first team to revisit Northern Ireland after the troubles had started. The welcome was unbelievable. We won on the last few boards – I remember the hosts succumbed to their own hospitality. In 1977 we started by memorably trouncing a very strong England team. It seemed that Wales could win the Camrose at last – hold our own against the Scots and beat the Irish and we would be home. Sadly the next match saw us lose badly to Northern Ireland ...

There have been many changes over the years in the formats of the internationals. Camrose matches between two countries used to be a full weekend, which was expensive and time-consuming, so now the six teams come together for two weekends, playing a match against each of the other teams each weekend. The Lady Milne and the Senior Camrose follow a similar pattern in a single weekend. Like with rugby, having 6 teams improves the arrangements; after much debate it was decided that the hosting country (for the Camrose, the hosts of the second weekend)

should have two teams. Inviting Italy was not a sensible option!

Although teams are of course very keen to win, the atmosphere at international matches is very good. Old friendships are renewed, and new players warmly welcomed. Chat in the lounges and bars is lively, and when the play is all over there will usually be a nice dinner, with trophies awarded, generous and funny speeches made. It's always a bit daunting sitting down to play though, with so much at stake and lots of people watching. It used to be a few in the open room, plus a Vugraph room, but now there can be hundreds or even thousands watching on BBO. After a while you forget the audience – although when the gremlin inside tells you to do something daft, it does help if you apply the test “What would they think of that, watching in Aberystwyth?”

Finally in 2011, Wales did win the Camrose. It was a very exciting finish. It was our year to have two teams, and on the last day Wales started in third place. The main team needed to play well, and the Welsh second team needed to beat Ireland and England in their last two matches. It all went to plan and Wales were there at last (and it is good that the man who led the wrong ace was part of the winning team). In 2012 we actually scored more than in 2011, but we only came second to England.

2011 also saw Wales winning the Seniors Camrose for the first time; being only the 4<sup>th</sup> such event, we didn't wait so long for this. Wales has won the Lady Milne three times, and in the recent 2012 event we came second to a strong Scottish team, well ahead of England and the Irish with a score that would usually have won overall.

The good results owe a lot to the selectors, who have been very active in organising training events and practice matches as the teams prepare themselves.

Wales has played in European and world events only since 2000 when the British Bridge League disbanded, so like in football Wales, Scotland, England and Ireland all field teams. We haven't yet had major successes to report at these levels, but we can hope.

One welcome innovation is the use of diagonal screens across the table, so that you can't see your partner. These were brought in to make it harder to cheat, of course, but they greatly reduce other problems. Being aware of one's partner's body language and the tempo of his or her bids causes real difficulties which screens reduce. Most players quickly adjust to screens and like the benefits.

People ask "What does this all cost?" The WBU hosts each home international event every five years; lots of volunteers help, which reduces costs; players are offered some expenses, but don't always accept them. Other events are funded from our Bridge Great Britain income, but this is likely to drop, so we are sending fewer teams to conserve balances.

Following the exploits of our international teams is easier than it has ever been. Results are placed on websites as soon the individual matches happen. You can watch at home with BBO (at [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)) showing play in real-time, sharing the triumphs and tragedies on every hand, with expert commentary to read and now listen to. If you want, you can still attend at the venues, mingling with the teams and watching at the tables in the open rooms as well as enjoying the presentations in the Vugraph room.

And just in case you think the standard of play is always high, look at this swindle from the 2012 Camrose:

♠AQ                      ♠954  
 ♥AKJ965                ♥8  
 ♦1043                    ♦A752  
 ♣102                      ♣AJ864

Mike Pownall, East, overbid to the 4♥ game (actually 3NT is rather better) and got a diamond lead. He won the second round of that suit and finessed in hearts, losing to the queen, but the spade return picked up the king for him and now he ran his hearts. He threw four clubs from dummy, and while that was happening the opposition threw away five clubs. If you count that means the only one out is the ♣K, so Mike led the ♣10 to the ace, came back to the ♠Q, and cashed the ♣2 for his tenth trick!

## THE CAMROSE FINAL in Scotland



**2012 Camrose team:** Patrick Shields, Paul Denning, Mike Pownall, Alan Stephenson (NPC) Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Peter Goodman

After the decisive win by Wales in last year's Camrose, this year's first leg was a bit of a disappointment, with Wales lying third, only 4VPs behind Scotland but 21VPs behind England. After a very good final weekend, we finished second, having scored the same as England – a massive 101VPs, which did not change England's 1<sup>st</sup> place but did show that we were very much in contention. A switched-on mobile cost Wales a 2VP fine.

Second place is certainly no shame when one considers the population of England compared With that of Wales. Full second weekend results are below. Well done Wales on another great performance! Wales' fine is reflected in the table below.

	b/f	NI	E	I	S	W	SBU	Tot	Final
England	99	25		18	25	17	16	101	200
Wales	78	23	13	23	23		17	99	177
Scotland	82	12	14	14	25	13		78	160
Ireland	63	11	12		13	7	16	59	122
NI	71		1	19	8	7	18	53	121
SBU	56	22	4	17		3	4	50	109



## FOUR NO TRUMPS AND ALL THAT *by Bob Pitts*

The North Wales Spring Swiss teams was held the weekend before Easter and had a marked decline in entries compared to previous years. This is a shame when the organisation and timing of sessions is so good (well most of us appreciate the early finishes each day) and it is to be hoped more teams come along next time.

My foursome had a problem all weekend – me! Bridge is not a game where you can afford to lose concentration (except when dummy – my best position) and I was lacking in wakefulness both days.

There were few interesting play hands so let's focus on the uses (or not) of that old favourite – 4NT. There were plenty of potential slam hands around. On 5 of the first 8 boards on Saturday you could make a slam if you had to, though not all of them were with the odds. Bill Niccol told me that I should write up this deal where he felt our auction was spot on (even though it was against him).

♠ A 7		♠ K Q J 9 2	
♥ 10 9 5 4		♥ K Q J 8 6	
♦ A K 10 6		♦ none	
♣ J 7 4		♣ A 10 2	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1NT	Pass	2♥ ( <i>trfr</i> )	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All pass		

East could have responded with an immediate 4♦ bid to show at least 5/5 in the majors but with no slam ambitions, and so felt able to show a slam try because the majors are so good. West's hearts are not good enough to make a slam try earlier, but after 5♣ West expects no minor suit losers, and the ♠A makes it worth a raise to slam. Had West's values all been in the minors the auction could stop at the five-level (and with both major suit aces and the ♣K West would make a try for the grand). Note that 4NT from East at his third turn would be useless unless the reply shows specific aces (e.g. in Roman Blackwood). A shame we did not bid this accurately all weekend, though it is fair to say that most pairs reached slam on this deal.

Only one pair contracted for all the tricks on our next deal, though most East-Wests got to the 6-level. The question is do you want to be in the grand slam as it probably needs the ♦J to appear in 3 rounds? You might also get home if the ♠ king and queen are together doubleton, or if one hand can be squeezed holding 5+ hearts together with ♦Jxxx or Jxxxx (you might get tipped off about that in the auction). I make the odds for the 13 tricks at about 60%, which is a bit thin for a grand, but the diamonds were actually a handy 3-3.

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

Most started 1♣ - 3♠ (splinter, even if North overcalls a vulnerable 1♠ on a poor hand). Now 4♦ - 4♥ - 4NT - 5♣ might just encourage West sufficiently; he can 'see' 12 tricks, and if he feels that the other table will bid at least a small slam it might be worth the risk. Here 4NT from West does provide useful information: it shows the other 3 keycards, and if East had two aces and a spade void he could respond 5NT (you do play that in your 4NT responses don't you?).

♠ A 8 7 6 5	♠ K 10
♥ Q 8 7	♥ none
♦ A 5	♦ Q J 8 4 3
♣ K 6 2	♣ Q J 10 9 8 4

On this final hand, we saw another use for our featured call. East was the dealer at red, and unless you had an opening bid to show this type of hand you had to start with a pass. The opponents then proceeded 1♥-1♠-4♥-? Partner has not made an intermediate jump overcall, so will probably not have more than five spades and thus is likely to have at least 3 cards in one of the minors. 4NT to show a minor-suit take out was hence a popular choice. With the ♦K in the South hand, slam was makeable but most settled for 5♣ which was occasionally doubled. As East is a passed hand 4NT could clearly not be ace-asking, but if he was not a passed hand how do you and your partner play the sequence?

Hope to see you next year.

# SLAM BIDDING *by Simon Gottschalk*



The recent Lady Milne (won by Scotland) produced a number of slam swings. It is said that if you never bid a slam in your lifetime you will come out ahead, but of course failing to bid the making ones may cost you the match or tournament you're actually playing in.

## Match 3

### Board 26:

### Game All

### Dlr: East

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

This hand clearly caused problems. Here is a summary of the contracts reached at the 6 tables:

- 2 pairs in 7NT
- 2 pairs in 6NT
- 1 pair in 6♣
- 1 pair in 6♥ (one down).

Aida Aris and Linda Greenland, for Wales, were one of the two pairs who reached 7NT, gaining us 13 IMPs against Northern Ireland (the other was Anne Symons and Sheila Adamson, for Scotland). Having successfully arrived at 7NT herself, Aida was extremely curious as to how the hands *should* have been bid. This discussion lasted for two days and continued through the dinner on Sunday evening, prompting this article (I had the hand written out on the back of the dinner menu!).

Back to the possible bidding sequences:

East will usually open 1♥ (if the spade values were in the heart or club suits, a Strong 2 opening would be more appropriate). West will usually respond with 2♦, though there is a case for 3♦ if the partnership uses strong jump shifts (for some 3♦ would be either weak or a Bergen raise). So after 1♥ - 2♦, 3♣ is the obvious bid. This is now game forcing, and slam possibilities should float into West's head.

West's next bid divided opinion, mainly between 3♠ and 3♦. 3♠ would be "fourth suit

forcing" in the hope of discovering whether East held a spade stop for 3NT, or even a spade suit for 4♠. After a 3NT or 4♣ response, West would bid 4♦, setting the suit and clearly wanting to explore slam possibilities.

To recap, the bidding has started 1♥ - 2♦ - 3♣ - 3♠ - 4♣ - 4♦. So now we look at cue-bidding styles. Many experts bid either first or second round controls (Italian-style cue bids). A useful gadget to use in a cue bidding sequence is the GAROZZO 4NT. This shows an EVEN number of key cards (so if you bypass a 4NT bid while cue-bidding, you show an odd number of key cards). Using cue bids and this gadget the bidding could continue:

1♥ - 2♦ - 3♣ - 3♠ - 4♣ - 4♦ - 4♥ - 4♠ - 4NT (0/2/4 key cards with diamonds as trumps, but must be 2 after opener has reversed).

Now West knows that you hold all the key cards and have a minimum points total of 33 (since opener reversed), so now can look at a possible grand slam. With a potential diamond loser, no trumps may be a better grand slam, so we carry on cue bidding:

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
4♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>7</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>8</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>9</sup>	Pass
6♣ <sup>10</sup>	Pass	7NT <sup>11</sup>	All pass

- 1 Reverse, 16+
- 2 4th suit
- 3 Five clubs
- 4 Sets the suit
- 5,6 First or second round control
- 7 Even no. of key cards with ♦ as trumps
- 8,9 First or second round control
- 10 Confirms first and second round controls in clubs
- 11 7NT seems odds-on based on bidding



Looking at how the bidding may proceed after a different auction:

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>7</sup>	Pass	7♦ <sup>8</sup>	All pass

- 1 Game-forcing, so we can bid simply to get across that we have good ♦
- 2 Sign-off with spades stopped (partner could just have 9-10 count with ♦)
- 3 Advance cue bid, setting ♦ as trumps with slam interest
- 4 RKCB
- 5 0 or 3 keycards (RKCB 14-30)
- 6 Queen ask
- 7 ♦Q with no outside kings
- 8 Can count 6♦, 2♠, 1♥, 2♣ with lots of chances for setting-up extra trick

One of the problems this hand illustrates is knowing when 4NT is Blackwood and when it is something else. Both East and West have strong hands, so it is unclear who is Captain of (i.e. controlling) the auction. As a general rule, the stronger hand should be the Captain (easy to say after a Strong 2 opening), but what if both hands are strong? In a relay system it is very clear who the Captain is in all game forcing auctions. So if you just happen to be playing VIKING PRECISION, the bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
2♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass
3NT <sup>8</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>9</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>10</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>11</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>12</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>13</sup>	Pass
6♣ <sup>14</sup>	Pass	7NT <sup>15</sup>	All pass

- 1 Any hand with 16+ hcp
- 2 A hand with 5 or more diamonds and 8+ high-card points
- 3 Relay asking for shape
- 4 4 spades
- 5 Relay asking for HCP & further distribution

- 6 12+ points, 7-4 or 6-4 shape
- 7 Relay asking for further distribution
- 8 2♥ and 1♣
- 9 CRASH asking for aces (14-30, 2 of same colour, 2 of same rank, 2 odd)
- 10 2 odd aces (♠+♦ or ♥+♣)
- 11 CRASH asking for kings
- 12 1 king
- 13 CRASH asking for queens
- 14 0 or 3 queens (with 12+ points it must be 3 because you hold all the jacks!)
- 15 You can count 13 tricks. Whether partner has the ♦K or ♥K, the suit will provide 5 or 6 tricks to go with 3 spades, 4 clubs and the other red ace.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you don't like the idea of a 15-bid auction, you may enjoy this one, also from the Lady Milne and featuring one of our pairs against Scotland. Sue Ingham and Laura Woodruff finished the event at the top of the Butler\* rankings, and this hand illustrates why:

**Match 2**  
**Board 24:**  
**Love All**  
**Dir: West**

♠ 10 5	♠ A K J 9 7 6 2
♥ A K 8 5	♥ Q J 8 4
♦ A 8 5 3	♦ none
♣ A J 5	♣ Q 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Sue</i>	<i>Fiona</i>	<i>Laura</i>	<i>Yvonne</i>
1♥	Pass	5♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	7♥	All pass

- 1 Exclusion Keycard Blackwood, asking for keycards excluding the ♦A
- 2 0 or 3

How do you get across the strength of this spade suit without giving partner the impression you haven't got 4-card ♥ support? Playing a natural system it's more or less impossible, even though Sue and Laura play that unfashionable but useful Acol gadget, strong jump shifts. Suppose the auction begins 1♥-2♠; now West bids 2NT and, presumably, East follows up with 3♥. Does this not sound like 3-card support? There is then a serious risk of reaching the wrong grand slam. Or if in your system it shows 4-card support, partner

is unlikely to guess that your ♠ are this good.

Slow auctions are often a good way to reach a slam, but occasionally it's better to avoid unnecessary rounds of bidding. Laura realised that the spade suit would provide 6 or 7 tricks 98% of the time (i.e. unless Sue held 3 small and South Qxx), so she took direct action. The critical cards on this hand are the ace and king of trumps and the ♣A (the ♠Q would be useful but probably not essential). Blackwood won't help because if partner shows 3 keycards, they may include the ♦A.

There are not many circumstances where you would need a jump to 5♦ to be natural after partner has opened a major (and if you do, you can always start with 2♦). For Sue and Laura, 5♦ meant "Please tell me how many keycards you've got, not counting the ace of diamonds in which I am void". On the response of 5♥ - 0 or 3 - Laura could be confident that the grand slam was odds-on†. It's true that if trumps break 5-0 the grand slam will not make, but it's pretty good on any other split. As it happens, the ♠Q came down in 2.

At the other table, Scotland had a gentler auction, beginning 1♥ - 3♠ - 3NT - 4♥, and were unable to reach the grand slam: 11 IMPs to Wales. Sadly, we lost the match and hence the trophy, but it was closer than it's been for some years.

## Conclusion

You don't need to play a complicated relay system to bid grand slams, but you do need a suitable slam bidding toolkit. If you don't already use them in your partnership, take a look at CRASH, Roman Keycard Blackwood, Italian Cue Bids, Garozzo 4NT and Exclusion.

\* *Butler rankings are a way of working out which pair scored highest in a teams competition. Every result is subtracted from a datum (average or median) and converted to IMPs. It can also be used for pairs scoring, eliminating most of the effect of overtricks and encouraging players to take a safe line to make the contract, rather than making a risky play for an overtrick.*

† *There is, admittedly, a slight risk that partner has no keycards, but with 4 small hearts and e.g. ♦AKQx, Sue might have found a different opening bid.*

## Conventions you might need to know

Suppose your auction has begun 1♥ - 3♥. Do you know what 5♥ means? Or suppose you want to bid a slam but the opponents have meanly overcalled and you don't know whether you've got two losers in the suit?

There is a standard set of meanings for a jump to 5 of the agreed (major) trump suit (obviously in a minor it's different because you have to bid 5 to get to game). These are as follows:

You have bid and agreed a major, and no other suits have been mentioned, e.g.:

1♥ - 3♥      Now 5♥ means "Bid 6 if you've got good trumps"\*

You have mentioned three suits en route to major agreement, e.g.:

1♥-2♦-3♣-3♥      Now 5♥ means "Bid 6 if you can stop 2 losers in ♠ (or whatever the unbid suit is)?"

The opponents have intervened, e.g.:

1♥-(2♣)-3♥      Now 5♥ means "Bid 6 if you can stop 2 losers in the enemy suit?"

Obviously you don't *have* to use these meanings - you can make the bid mean anything you and your partner like - but it's quite useful to have some agreement about it.

\**What, you may ask, are "good" trumps? It depends on the context, but a sensible guideline is:*

*Pass if you feel there are 2 trump losers  
Bid 6 if you've only got 1 trump loser  
Bid 7 if your trumps are solid*

**WARNING: If partner has pre-empted in a competitive auction, a raise to 5 of his major is not a slam try, but an "advance sacrifice".**



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

<b>John Hockey Trophy</b> ( <i>Most points registered in one year) as at 25<sup>th</sup> April</i> )	
Roger Penton	260
Peter Goodman	198
Liz Commins	194
Tony Disley	160
Mary Moore	139
Eric Hartland	139
Patrick Jourdain	134
Tony Ratcliff	124
Filip Kurbalija	115
Dai Hayes	114
Beth Wennell	111
Barry Wennell	109
Gwynn Davis	104
Susan Ingham	103
Adrian Thomas	103
John Beard	97
John Salisbury	95
Mike Tedd	94
Kate Walker	93
Peter Milewski	92



### TD Courses

#### Part 1 & 2

Cardiff BC, 2nd and 3rd June

3 places still available (first come first served).

*Course Leader: Tony Haworth*

#### Part 3: Laws and Judgements

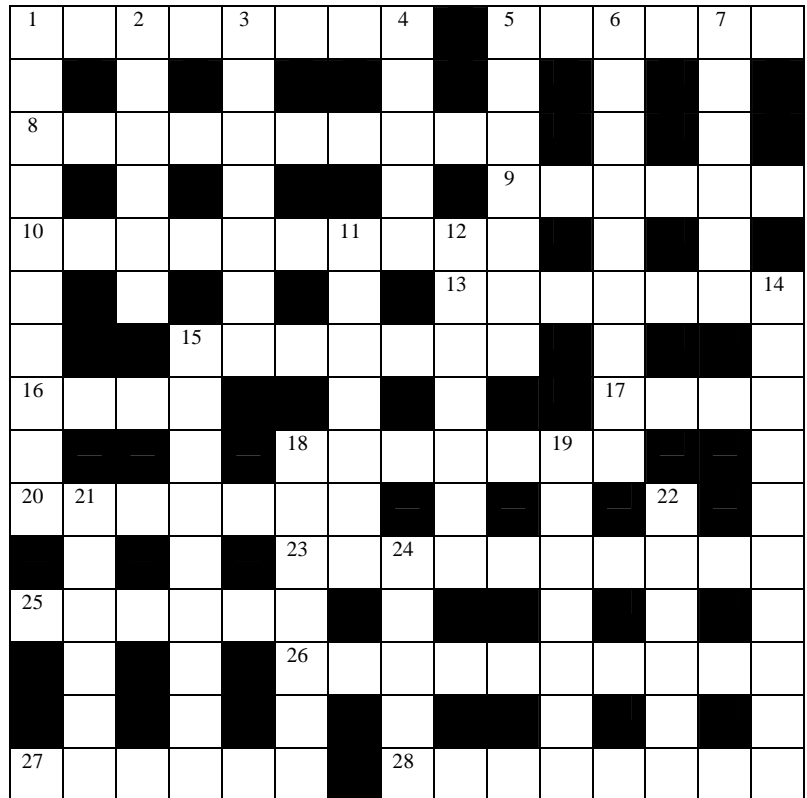
To be arranged near Swansea 2nd or 3rd June if sufficient interest.

(For those who have already completed Part 1 & 2 or experienced Club Directors seeking a Refresher)

*Course Leader: Mike Amos*

**Contact Neville:**

**wbu@deepvault.biz**



#### Across

- 1 Pessimist undertakes return pilgrimage around a lake (8)
- 5 Aces confused us in actions (6)
- 8 See rodent turn, eaten by bloodless snake in florid style (10)
- 9 Nervous fibre rejuvenated Greenwood, we hear (6)
- 10 A science degree is the promised land, but it's cut short (10)
- 13 Sacrificing height for speed in car can result in blister (7)
- 15 Dogs' dinner played by Davis (7)
- 16 Am up struggling with predator (4)
- 17 Declarer's RHO, like in Alien (4)
- 18 Turkey boards ship sailing around small island in dire circumstances (7)
- 20 Home counties French town in Spain (7)
- 23 Director can review - it cost turn (8,2)
- 25 I hear flattery - call me a cab! (6)
- 26 Vaguely hinted government plan about warning to avoid transport accident (4,3,3)
- 27 One of many at bridge club, for each grabs a side suit (6)
- 28 Ollie's partner, never first one at tin producer (8)

#### Down

- 1 Impudent servant of Her Majesty garbles paeans (10)
- 2 Engineer 3 17s' quiet enjoyment (6)
- 3 North-East division accepts alternative frozen deposit (7)
- 4 60 minutes? Top to tail for temptress (5)
- 5 Scent shrouds North in 18ac (7)
- 6 Careless turn lures Sin Sisters (9)
- 7 Sign up for half of em before revolution (6)
- 11 Make more acceptable first calls on 3, 4, 2, 6, 10 (7)
- 12 End-change decree produces ham (7)
- 14 City cat buys golden inn to start year owning 18d body (10)
- 15 Eastern bodyguard for bird wounded by Southern rain-storm (9)
- 18 South replaces Ray's lead with loser (7)
- 19 Fortify burgh to imprison grand ambassador (7)
- 21 English insurer left cover with glass (6)
- 22 Dump-dweller gains degree mark (6)
- 24 Hollow wreck of headless ruin boards ship (5)

# 143 promotions: 4<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012







<b>Local Master</b>		Gladys Irvine	T	Glan James	L
Charles Biggin	LET	Anne Hilary Jones	SU	Julie Milewski	H
Susan Biggin	LET	Derek Jones	W	Vera Ross	CN
Susan Blake	GA	Jenny Langley	GA	Joyce Sprake	F
Keith Butler	C	Stella Miller	MG	Herrick Westcott	GA
Patsy Cohen	PN	Vernon Pearn	PN	Joan Westcott	GA
James Doores	BEN	Ann Scott	PR	Gay Young	BEN
Jim Elder	PN	Kay Taylor	K	<b>One Star Master</b>	
Glyn Evans	LDB	Sue Wright	LP	Keith H Butt	S
Judith Ganz	S	<b>District Master</b>		Lorna Davey	WS
Tony Harris	GA	Derek Adams	C	Margaret Evans	Y
Edwina Jones	S	Jane Beale	GA	Ellen Gwynne-John	CBY
Maureen Jones	GA	Mike Beale	GA	Nicky Hancock	T
Margaret Price	MG	Roberta Budd	GA	David M Jones	BEN
Annie Ravenhill-Johnson	LP	Clive Case	GA	Eric Joseph	R
Graham Thomas	GA	Marie Craddock	LDB	Ann Kelly	GA
Pearl Thomas	GA	Hazel Craig	PN	Tony Mason	WS
Barbara Walsh	GA	Peter Craig	PN	Rita Potter	BEN
Kenneth Walsh	GA	Ann Crosland	CAS	Janet Richards	P
<b>Club Master</b>		Hilary Davis	MER	Margaret Van de Weyer	GA
Mary Atkins	GA	Sam Fellows	PN	Gary Williams	P
Tiffany Rose Beard	BR	William Fleming	S	<b>Two Star Master</b>	
Louise Edwards	MG	David Hill	GA	Martin Green	GA
Julia Evans	MG	Richard James	CAR	Noel Griffiths	GA
Ryvan Evans	MG	Alun Jennings	LDB	Hennie Jenkins	CD
Barbara Exton	PC	Daphne Jones	LDB	Olwen Mitchell	GA
Andy Fryer	RY	George Kinchington	LP	Lona Thomas	BRE
Martin Joseph	C	Ian Milton	BRE	Audrey Tinkler	P
Pam Lloyd	MG	Sidney Nam	GA	<b>Three Star Master</b>	
Betty Longley	P	Sue Norris	VOG	Roy Dickinson	WS
Betty Loyn	A	Sandra Recke	S	Mike Miles	AG
George Mandow	D	David Richards	PT	<b>Four Star Master</b>	
Steve Martin	GA	Lynne Roberts	CAR	Cathy Barlow	WS
Vanessa Mason	GA	Cecilia Rossiter	H	Gordon Berrey	OH
Chris Morgan	MG	<b>County Master</b>		Graham Norris	VOG
Fran Morgan	MG	Susan Anthony	P	Leighton Williams	AG
Anna O'Brien	C	Luba Ashworth	OH	<b>Tournament Master</b>	
Peter Pendry	C	Angela John	H	Terry Reilly	VOG
Joy Seculer	PN	Peter Knott	LP	<b>Regional Master</b>	
James Simpson	LP	Alan Lightbody	PN	Martin Thorne	M
Tony Taylor	K	Joan Williams	BEN	<b>Premier Regional Master</b>	
Ann Thomas	MG	<b>Master</b>		Anne Edwards	CN
<b>Area Master</b>		Barbara Burden	MG	Vida Halford	PC
Murat Atac	BRE	Roger Davey	WS	Chris Overton	H
Roger Boyle	A	Gwenda Davies	LP	<b>National Master</b>	
Cherry Cadwallader	MG	David Foot	CAR	Gwynne Maddox	MG
John Cobby	P	Ann Gimblett	AG	<b>Premier National Master</b>	
Carol Cochlin	PN	Marion Higton	CBY	Margaret Barnes	LD
Jacob Collins	GA	Norma Newman	BR	<b>Life Master</b>	
David Croker	PN	A Spencer Williams	W	David M Evans	LD
Pat Day	BEN	Shirley Williams	MG		
Phil Edwards	MG	<b>Advanced Master</b>			
Hilary Evans	LDB	Mike Cohen	LDB		
Michael Gwynne-John	CBY	Alan Gray	MG		
Margaret Harrop	C	Phyllis Howells	P		



## The Lady Milne - Another Splendid Result for Wales

Wales hosted the Lady Milne on 13-15 April in the Metropole. The main Welsh team finished a close second to the strong Scots, with a score that would have won in each of the previous three years, and were a full match ahead of Ireland and England.

See Jill Knight's write-up on Page 14.

		S	W	I	E	NI	WBU	Total
<b>Scotland</b>			18	21	16	24	25	<b>104</b>
<b>Wales</b>		12		18	21	25	20	<b>96</b>
<b>Ireland</b>		9	12		15	16	19	<b>71</b>
<b>England</b>		14	9	15		14	17	<b>69</b>
<b>N Ireland</b>		6	4	14	16		25	<b>65</b>
<b>WBU</b>		1	10	11	13	3		<b>38</b>



**The 2012 Lady Milne team: Aida Aris, Laura Woodruff, Linda Greenland, Sue Ingham, Adrian Thomas NPC, Jill Casey, Diane Kurbalija**