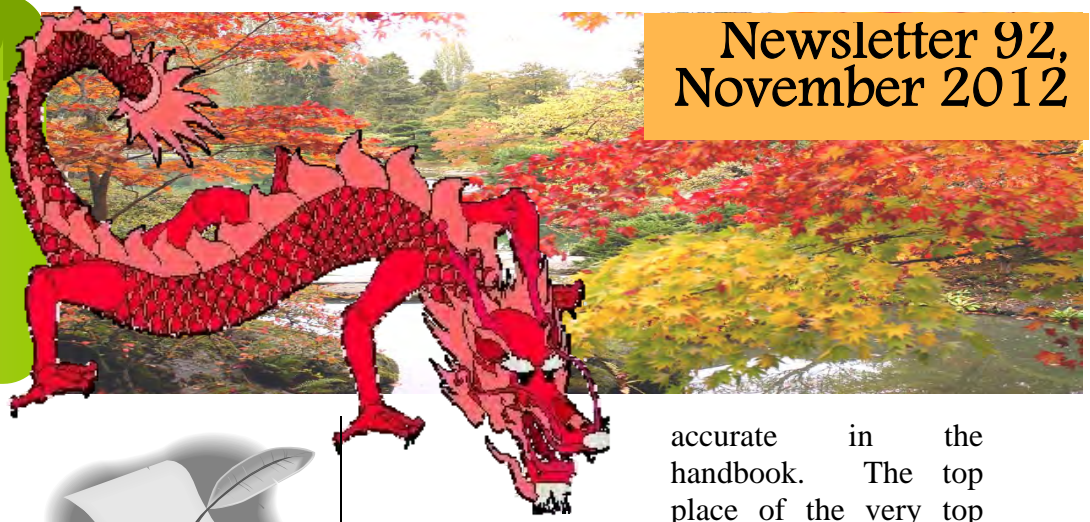


Welsh Bridge Union



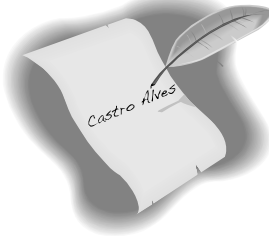
Jill's Quill

Hello, again. Long time no write, though I expect you haven't noticed, what with Olympics and the BBO coverage of so many events which are interesting to us – including the Welsh trials. Most interesting. If there *was* anyone out there wondering about the newsletter, I am truly sorry this is late.

It has been a year of great change. Linda and Ken went off to Kent after many years of service to Bridge, in their area and nationally. Their contribution has been invaluable. Noelle retired after twenty years as master point secretary, having been involved in upheaval and transition at both ends of her tenure as MPS. Although beavering away quietly and efficiently and addressing herself to all kinds of phone calls and letters (emails more recently) and always being helpful to those who contacted her, for whatever reason, Noelle's work has been part of the the hidden, but necessary, structure of the WBU rather than the more glamorous floodlit facade. Best wishes to Noelle for a long and happy retirement, and to Linda and Ken in their new life.

Much of the hard work will be eliminated, but we are still in transition. Half the WBU clubs are already using the new system, but it will be some time before everyone is. Phil Bowers, our new Masterpoint Secretary is saying hello in this newsletter, and giving us information about the changes. A warm welcome to Phil and to Fiona Noyce, our new treasurer. They are both young, or if not (cataract!) certainly young in spirit and energy. All the best to you. We wish you every success and enjoyment in your work.

A special mention of a dream fulfilled. The rankings for this year were not altogether WBU Newsletter Issue 92



accurate in the handbook. The top place of the very top players section was not up to date. Tony Ratcliff gained that prestigious position this year. I am sure it was a disappointment when he opened the handbook, to see the many years' incumbent still sitting there. Very special congratulations to Tony for having reached the top place in the master points rankings. **Well done, Tony.**

You're top of the heap – King of the Hill - so I am spreading the news. Watch out, though, it has been done before, then lost back to you know who. (see elsewhere in this publication).



Thank you to Dawn Herbert and David Stevenson for kindly allowing me to use their articles. Dawn writes about primary children getting involved in minibridge, and David offers very interesting observations on wasting time at the end of the auction and gives a timely warning. Thank you, also, to Bob Pitts who is always ready to share material and give advice. All three are members of Liverpool and Merseyside and two also belong to the Welsh Bridge Union

I hope you all have a great Christmas doing whatever makes Christmas happy for you. I send you my very best wishes for you and your bridge in 2013. Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda.

Jill

Polly64335@aol.com ☎: 01248 853033)

Greetings from Phil Bowers, New Master Point & Membership Secretary

At this year's AGM I was elected Honorary Master Point and Membership Secretary for the WBU. I am replacing Noelle Bond upon her retirement after twenty years of service in the role of Master Points Secretary and also relieving Margaret Richards of her temporary role (two years) as Membership Secretary.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a seafarer by profession, having served half of my



working life at sea working for a large oil company; the second half of my career was spent onshore working in an oil terminal in South Wales. Upon the closure of the refinery, I moved to

London with the same company to a position in the company's Marine Assurance division, combining my seagoing experience with the expertise gained in Oil Terminal Operations. Following this there was a short spell of consultancy work before taking early retirement and moving back to South Wales where I now live with my present wife, Dawn.

It was Dawn who got me interested in bridge some seven or eight years ago. She had begun classes in the local adult education centre and wanted to take me along, to learn with her. I agreed, reluctantly at first, but despite missing some of the key early lessons, I soon found myself being dragged into the whole addictive challenge of the bridge world. Having plucked up the courage to then start playing at a local club (Mid Glam) it wasn't long before I volunteered to represent the 'beginners' on the committee. I subsequently became more and more intrigued by the technical aspects of the game such as movements, scoring and the director's role. I also took a particular interest in the wireless scoring systems, eventually convincing the club to purchase a set of Bridgemates which after an initial learning curve for both the members and myself, I am happy to see are a resounding success.

My interest in the Bridgemates led me to take on the role of Club Master Point Secretary and when the direct upload facility was unveiled, I was keen to be a pioneer of its introduction to

the Welsh Bridge Union. I am hoping that my newly appointed role with the WBU will now allow me to assist in the further development and implementation of the direct upload system and database for it to become an integral part of the future of the WBU.

Master Point Administration Procedures

As you will be aware, the WBU has moved its Membership and Master Point Databases to an online secure facility. This has now become a single point for all Membership and Master Point records. Direct upload of Master Points is available for every club. About 50% of clubs are already taking advantage in preference to using the old, more labour-intensive methods of issuing Master Points.

The Management Committee have also considered and agreed some further changes to Master Point Management procedures.

Master Point Accounting Year

The Master Point accounting year will be changing to be a calendar year. This will be achieved in a step process for final implementation in 2014 as follows:

- The current MP year will close on February 28th 2013 (a 10 month year)
- The next MP year will be from March 1st until December 31st 2013 (10 months)
- The first full calendar year for MP accounting will be 2014
- Mandatory participation in the Direct Upload Scheme (it is hoped that this will be by the start of the 2014 MP accounting).

Paper Certificates

The issue of paper points will be an option up until the end of 2013 to coincide with the implementation of mandatory uploads.

- Clubs are able to claim a refund of monies paid for green slips that they have left over.
- Registration of paper certificates will be accepted for 12 months following final implementation of mandatory uploads, i.e. until December 31st 2014.

It is the WBU's objective to understand what challenges the online Master Point facility presents and to assist each club to achieve the proposed mandatory deadline for MP direct upload.

Master Point of Departure *by Noelle Bond, Masterpoint Secretary from 1992 to 2012*

Dear friends,

As most of you already know, I retired as Masterpoint Secretary at the WBU AGM in May, although as masterpoints were arriving until the end of April, I didn't actually complete all the year's work until early July.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being in contact with so many of you over these twenty years and looking after everyone's points, and I hope I will be forgiven for the times when I've had to write "not enough postage on your letter!" (I admit having to collect from the Post Office always annoyed me) or "I'm afraid my total of your points did not match yours" (but very occasionally someone had undervalued their points) or "sorry, you're in a long queue" (i.e. "you'll have to wait").

It always delighted me when I made the entries that led to someone being promoted, and I could send a new rank card, and include them in the Promotion Lists. I've been looking back in the records and found that, over the years I've registered 7383 promotions. I was tempted to make a list but it would take up too much space.

From time to time, I've been contacted by someone who had played years ago, and when they didn't appear in the computer records, I've had fun (really) in digging back through the paper archive of the WBU's early history to track them down. (**I think the oldest was 1969**). Looking back, I would see so many people remembered now only for their names on prizes and competitions, or who had long passed away. Now that the masterpoint system is online, I'm hoping that all these records, together with those from the computer system, will not be lost but will be put on the web site for everyone to look at.

The WBU Online Points system which allows clubs to upload their points on the Internet, was introduced in August 2011 and as various clubs began to upload their points, many people said to me "I suppose you've got far less work to do now?" If only they'd known! After some members were told by their clubs that they would not get paper points any more, they became worried they would not be credited with those squirreled

away over the years, so trawled through drawers, cupboards, pockets, wallets, handbags, found all the slips they hadn't bothered to send in before (some dating back to the year dot, and looking that way), and posted them off to me at once. At a time of year, when I expected to be quiet, I found myself overwhelmed with boxes of points, and a huge backlog. I had to appeal to clubs to tell their members to relax, paper points could be sent in as normal.

I had a great deal of extra work during my last year anyway, as I had to make sure that the records on the Masterpoint computer and those in the Online system were identical, for after I completed the year end, the Online system was to be the only one in use. I



admit I gave a certain sigh of relief when I pushed the button which in effect meant "End of year completed" and closed the computer system for the last time. But then again, I had rather a sad feeling, and almost couldn't believe my retirement had actually happened.

I don't suppose more than a dozen people in the WBU ever saw the computer system in operation, and I don't suppose many more know much about it, so now that masterpoints have passed into the mysterious world of the Internet I thought I should pay tribute to those responsible for its thirty-odd years of life.

The original computer program was designed and written especially for the WBU, by Peter Goodman. It was introduced in 1989, on a computer many people would scarcely recognise as one these days, and I always admired how the then Masterpoint Secretary, Barbara Cornish, (my predecessor) soon got to grips with its operation. I took over that program (and the old computer) in 1992. Eventually changes in computers meant the original program was getting out of date, and so Mike, my husband, rewrote it, putting in some extra features for me. His program remained in use from 2000 until I closed it in July. Somehow, my work seemed to grow over the years and Mike wrote many more

programs to make it easier (when I was coming up to my retirement, he also worked to make sure that all the computer masterpoint records of these past thirty years would remain available, sending copies to the Areas and others; he also scanned many pages of the old paper records which spanned the 1960s to 1989 - which I hope may also find a home on the web site).

I must say again that being Masterpoint Secretary has been great fun (even when the state of some points led me to handle them in rubber gloves) and I feel I have made innumerable new friends, and I know I will miss having members' letters in every post, especially those containing little stories (although some I didn't dare include in a Newsletter). I was careful to write "most people know I've retired" earlier, for since retiring I've received some letters with points which I've had to forward on (another arrived today). But this doesn't surprise me, old habits die hard and until three years ago, I received occasional letters which originally had been addressed to Barbara Cornish.

Presently I'm enjoying not having any pressure of work, doing a little gardening (when weather permits), taking much longer lunches (extended by playing Bezique), or just, as my granddaughter says, "chilling out" (I think that's just a euphemism for doing nothing). Soon, though, I expect to get busy with many things I've been promising to do for years, or, as so many people have written to me as "Noelle Gordon" over the years, perhaps I'll get a job in Crossroads when they bring it back (keep your eyes open for me)!

In case you don't already know, the new Masterpoint Secretary is Phil Bowers, and as I said my annual report, I hope he enjoys life among the points as much as I and my predecessors did.

If you see me at congresses and other events I'd be very pleased if you still came to talk to me, even though I can't take your points any more.

With best wishes to you all, and thanks for many fond memories.

Sincerely,

Noelle

A TALE OF TWO TRIUMPHS

The Lady Milne, 2012

Those of you who buy the Sunday Times may have read about the good play of two members of the WBU team, in Sally Brock's Bridge column. Sally was the England NPC and, whether or not she paid special attention to the first match which was against the WBU team and which was a close run affair, she chose to write about a hand my partner, Joan, had played. The England declarer had one line of play and went down in her contract. Joan's line was one to bring the contract home. She had ♣Ax in one hand, and two small in the other. On the initial club lead, she went up with the ace and led her other club, eliminating her suit in the hope that she would be able, later, to end-play the opponent with the long clubs when she had no other cards left. This would force her opponent to give her a ruff and discard and was the only way to make the contract.



The second article, a few weeks later, was about Gilly's defensive lead and play which, this time, knocked the England contract, when



it was made our way. But I do remember that Gilly's lead was different from that of the English one when Wales declared, and it was, indeed, crucial to beat the contract and the defensive play showed a very

good analysis. In this instance, her partner, Lee, also had played her part.

Congratulations to both of you for good play, worthy of *The Times* bridge column. Sally Brock must have hoped that in the opening match against the Wales second team, England would get a good start to the weekend, but hands such as those described in *The Times* contributed substantially in keeping England to a narrow win.

Well played!

Ferry, Fishguard and Friendship: the Inaugural Celtic Congress

This article first appeared in the Irish Bridge Journal

29th June – 1st July 2012

In the days before the Good Friday Agreement changed the landscape of the Six Counties and the Republic rejoined the Camrose, a series of Friendly Internationals used to take place. These involved not only “real” international players but county and club teams, and jolly good fun they were too, often involving the consumption of large quantities of Guinness. (I played in one myself, in the early 1990s, at the Conyngham Arms in Slane. On the Sunday morning, while the religiously inclined were at mass and the rest of us sleeping off hangovers, some of the younger members of the party played football in a meadow by the Boyne, a hazardous undertaking since the field was also occupied by a herd of cattle. It gave a whole new meaning to the term “foul”.) After 1998, England continued to play Ireland for the *Corn Cairdis* - fielding County, Club and Officials’ teams – but Wales’s equivalent vanished somewhere between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire (I only put that in to show that I can spell it).

It is therefore pleasing to be able to report that Adrian Thomas, with the backing of West Wales Bridge Association, the CBAI and Bridge Overseas, has revived this most enjoyable of international events. It was held as part of the first Celtic Congress at the Fishguard Bay Hotel, which is conveniently just above the ferry terminal. The congress was very much about friendship, with “holiday bridge” available for those who like their pleasures stress-free, green-pointed events for those who are trying to climb the rankings, and the international matches to add a little glamour to the proceedings. The tone was set at the start of play, when Adrian asked us to remember that this was a FRIENDLY event, to play in a FRIENDLY spirit; and to be FRIENDLY to our opponents (decibels increasing in proportion to font size). No one found it hard to comply, possibly because their hearing had been so seriously damaged that they wouldn’t have been able to hear a Director’s ruling if they’d asked for one.

The European Championships had just taken place in Dublin, involving huge numbers of Irish bridge players as administrators and volunteers, so Ireland did very well to put a team together at all (at all). It had originally been planned to include Club, County and Officials as well as the Open and Women’s matches, but in the absence of a full complement only the Open teams contested throughout, with the Wales Women’s team playing against the Irish County team for one of the two days of the international match. The event was directed by the excellent Diarmuid Reddan, who possesses the right blend of efficiency, humour and equability.

Mike Close and I, with our team-mates David Birt and Mike Best, were roundly trounced in the first two sessions by an Ireland team of Bob and Maureen Pattinson, BJ O’Brien and, er, Peter Goodman (an Irishman by association), losing the first set of 24 boards 36-98 and the second set 27-49.



Bob and Maureen

Board 19	♠ K 9 2		
Vul: EW	♥ A Q 10 7 2		
Dlr: South	♦ 3		
	♣ 9 7 6 5		
♠ J 8 7 6		♠ A Q 5	
♥ K 6 4		♥ 8	
♦ K J 2		♦ A Q 10 9 7	
♣ A Q 8		♣ K J 10 3	
	♠ 10 4 3		
	♥ J 9 5 3		
	♦ 8 6 5 4		
	♣ 4 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mikey</i>	<i>Maureen</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Bob</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1NT ^a	Dbl ^b	?	

a 12-14

b Single suit (DONT: Disturbing Opps’ No Trump)

Now in Great Britain, where almost everyone plays Weak No Trump, *absolutely everyone* plays double of a Weak NT as penalties. Like everyone who plays Acol, we therefore have wriggles to escape the impending minus 1400, but we had never encountered this non-penalty double and had no idea what any of our subsequent bids meant. I didn't even know if transfers were still operational. If I'd been French I would have exclaimed "Zut alors!"

Eventually it occurred to me that I could pass, wait for some suit to be bid, and then use Lebensohl. Over 2♥, 3♥ from me would have shown four spades so I thought 4♥ would show a singleton heart and something in the minors. Oh, it's so easy when you can see your own hand; Mike, not surprisingly, was stumped. "I love torturing partner", I remarked, as he stared glumly at his flat 14-count and awful spades.

<i>Mikey</i>	<i>Maureen</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Bob</i>
1NT ^a	Db1 ^b	Pass ^c	2♣ ^d
Pass	2♥ ^e	4♥ ^f	Pass
4♠ ^g	Pass	?	

c Waiting

f Making it up as I go along

d Forced

g I've got 4 spades

e I've got hearts

I should just have given up at this point, but we are particularly fond of 6♦ (see below), so gave it another try with 5♦. Mike thought this *might* be a cue-bid but more likely evidence of madness; in desperation he temporised with 5♥. Now I couldn't think of anything sensible to do except sign off in 5♠. Mikey wrestled manfully for several minutes with the temptation to throw me off a cliff (by chance there was one conveniently just outside the window), then made the contract by taking the spade finesse, cashing the ace and throwing Maureen in with the king: she can take her ♥A or watch it disappear on my long minor cards. As it happens, both 6♣ and 6♦ make, but only by West; and I defy you to find a way to get there after this start to the auction.

Oh cruel fate! At the other table, BJ and Peter were playing Strong NT, so BJ as *West* opened 1♣ (2+). After a bit of fiddling about, they reached 6♣, which can't be defeated. Both tables played in 4-3 fits, with a perfectly good diamond fit available; a good hand for Strong Clubbers who can right-side a 6♦ contract.

Has this persuaded me to take up Strong NT, or indeed Strong Club? No, but we did spend the tea break working out a defence to DONT. Of course it never came up again.

On Saturday, Wales rallied a bit, assisted by *four* 6♦ contracts Mike and I reached (it became a bit of a joke). Not played in 6♦ but interesting nonetheless was Board 15, a salutary lesson in the dangers of Lucas:

North (me)	South (Mikey)
♠ A 9 3	♠ 8 4 2
♥ A Q J 9 5 4	♥ K 7 6
♦ K 7	♦ A 9 5 3
♣ J 2	♣ Q 8 5

4♥ is a sensible enough contract but looks pretty hopeless. They surely won't be kind enough to lead the ace and king of clubs, so you've got 2 spade losers and nowhere to park them. Bob led the ♣K and switched to ♠7.

If the spades are 4-3, you're dead, but if they're 5-2 or 6-1 and the shortage is in the hand with the ♣AK you can cut the defence off from its second spade trick. But how can you tell which round to take? If you duck the first and they are 6-1, your ♠A will be ruffed for one down. If you take the first spade, however, and they were 5-2, East will play a second round when he gets in with ♣A and West will take two tricks in the suit.

Well, Maureen had opened 2♠ Lucas, showing 5+ ♠ and 4+ other. The odds are now very much in favour of a 5-card spade suit, particularly since with 6-4 she might have chosen to open 2♦ Multi instead. So I ducked the first round, took the second, drew trumps and played the ♣J. Bob was helpless: he didn't have a spade to play, and couldn't stop me from getting to dummy to discard my spade loser on ♣Q. The full deal:

Board 15	♠ A 9 3	
Vul: NS	♥ A Q J 9 5 4	
Dlr: South	♦ K 7	
	♣ J 2	
♠ K Q J 10 6		♠ 7 5
♥ 2		♥ 10 8 3
♦ J 10 6		♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ 10 7 6 3		♣ A K 9 4
	♠ 8 4 2	
	♥ K 7 6	
	♦ A 9 5 3	
	♣ Q 8 5	

At the other table, Mike Best opened 2♦ Multi. I don't recommend opening a Weak 2 on a 5-card suit opposite an unpassed partner, but in this case it worked a treat. Peter Goodman couldn't duck the "singleton" spade lead, and duly went down.

(As an aside: Bob Pattinson led ♣K then ♠7. Many pairs have an agreement that king-and-a-switch shows a singleton in the switch suit. I asked Maureen if she and Bob had that agreement but they didn't, so I was none the wiser. With the K-switch agreement, you would lead the ♣A to deny a singleton ♠.)

I'm sorry not to have included any of the many examples of Irish skill, but it's always easier to remember your own. The Irish Open team will just have to be satisfied with their convincing victory. I understand from Adrian that plans are afoot for a re-match next year, at the 2nd Celtic Congress (Fishguard or Wexford).

LAURA

The End of the Auction

by David Stevenson

I was so impressed with it, David kindly agreed to let me print his article, written for the EBU magazine, and Mr Bridge gave his consent to let me use it. Everyone should read it.

The bidding ends, what happens next? In many cases players sweep the bidding cards into their boxes, the player on lead takes forever to find her pen and her glasses so she can write the contract down on her score-card, everyone else waits impatiently, and declarer decides he wants to know about the bids made by the defence. The trouble is, he cannot remember them so has to ask.

Now the lead is made, and dummy has got out his scorecard, so everyone waits again. I think players would be horrified if I suggested that what they are doing is both rude and illegal, yet it is!

Let us consider what should happen at the end of the auction. First, the bidding cards are left out. That is required by regulation, not to mention commonsense, so anyone with questions to ask can look at the whole sequence and consider it.

Next, the first thing the opening leader does, after asking any questions he wants to, is to choose a card and lead it. It is very impolite and totally unnecessary to write the contract down and make everyone wait: he can do that after the lead while dummy is being put down and considered. The same applies to the Bridgemate: if the opening leader is in charge of the Bridgemate, he leads before entering the contract in the Bridgemate.

He must lead face down, of course, for two very good reasons. First, if he has made a mistake and is not on lead, no harm is done: he just puts the card back in his hand. Second, this is the moment when his partner can ask questions. Note the cards are still there to remind him what the bidding was. If he has no questions (or no more questions) he says "No questions". Only then may partner turn the lead face-up. Note that it is also impolite to sit there saying nothing when partner has led face down.

Once the opening lead has been turned face-up, *and not before*, the players put their bidding cards away. This is important, and it is easy to get into a good habit. Don't spoil it for other people by bundling your cards away too early.

How about dummy? Well, if the opening leader takes a long time to lead, then it is fine if he writes the contract down, and puts it in the Bridgemate while the leader is thinking. But once the lead is made, his job, after putting his bidding cards away, is to put dummy down now. He will have plenty of time after that to enter the contract into scorecard and Bridgemate.

Of course, for the other two players, it is easy for them to enter the contract into their scorecard and Bridgemate while the opening lead is made and dummy put down. But they must also leave their bidding cards until the lead is faced.

Certainly this game needs tolerance, but it is easy to get into good habits, so remember: putting the bidding cards away before the opening lead is faced is illegal and rude, and easy to get right. It is the same with entering contracts into scorecards and Bridgemates.

© Mr Bridge 2012

Competition Round-up

Competition Information from the NTO

At the time of writing this article the 2012/2013 competition season has begun with at least two matches of the Welsh Cup being played.

The next major competition is the qualifier of the Mixed Pairs on 2nd December which this year will be run as Simultaneous pairs in each Area with the top 28 pairs overall qualifying for the final which will be held on the weekend of 23/24th February in the Commodore Hotel in Llandrindod Wells.

The hotel has offered special rates for accommodation for those wishing to stay as follows: £35 per person per night for Dinner/Bed/Breakfast based on two people sharing and £45 per person D/B/B for single occupancy. If you wish to take advantage of these rates please quote Bridge Event when booking. Their telephone number is 01597 822288.

The Open Pairs Area qualifier will be held on the 20th January, again as Simultaneous Pairs with the same qualifying number as the Mixed Pairs. The Final on 9/10th March will also be held in the Commodore Hotel with the same accommodation rates being offered as for the Mixed Pairs. There will be further information for both of these competitions available on the Website in the near future.

Good luck and best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Jean Hand

North Wales Swiss Pairs 2012

This was held at the Holiday Inn, Northop, on Sunday 14th November, directed by Mike & Sarah Amos.

1 st	Bill Hirst & John Holland	108
2 nd	Peter Kaufmann & Christopher Pope	103
3 rd	Frank Wright & Mary Lee	99
4 th	Ted Reveley & Bill Niccol	96
5 th	Bryan Clarkson & Marie Topp	95

Congratulations to the winners, John Holland and Bill Hirst

August Green Point Events 2012

Held at Newport YMCA on 4th -5th August.

Swiss Pairs

1 st	Sue O'Hara & Nelson Stephens	107
2 nd	Murat Ata & David Bakhshi	103
3 rd	Jason Hackett & Alex Hydes	102
4 th =	Peter Goodman & Pat Quinn	99
4 th =	David Southcombe, Carmen Ruiz-Castel	99



Swiss Teams

1 st =	Jason Hackett, Alex Hydes, Daniel McIntosh, Tony Hill	103
1 st =	Patrick Shields, Keith Stanley, Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija	103
3 rd	Miles Cowling, David S Jones, Rob Lawy, Tony Ratcliff	100
4 th	David Stevenson, Liz Commins, John Rudolf, Pauline Rudolf	93
5 th	Tony Disley, Roger Penton, Laura Woodruff, Michael Close	90

Welsh Foursomes 2012

Held in Newport on 1-2 September, directed by Ted Hill and Ian Mitchell.

1 st	Jeremy Rickard, Irene Robinson, Aidan Schofield, Mike Huggins	191
2 nd	Mike Best, Mark Roderick, David Birt, Trevor Towers	180
3 rd	Diane Kurbalija, Aoife MacHale, Peter Goodman, Mike Pownall	178
4 th	Martin Jones, James Thrower, Degsy Williams, Croz Crosswell	177
5 th	Gilly Clench, Andrew Woodcock, Adrian Thomas, Catherine Draper	172

CLUBS QUESTIONNAIRE

Background

When Adrian began his two-year quest to visit all bridge clubs in Wales, he gave out questionnaires for club members to fill in. The questions ranged from factual details about members and clubs, to personal views about the WBU's efforts on their behalf and what the members would like to see improved or introduced.

Having embarked on his visits and spoken with many people, he soon got a fair idea of what interested club members, and he distributed questionnaires at every club he visited. Later, he felt that he could have spent more time devising the questionnaire, but what it lacked in professionalism it made up for in response. Many people were keen to make a contribution. Actually, Adrian presented the Management Committee with views he had heard on his travels, long before his round of visits and the questionnaire were completed, so that the Committee could begin to address responses as quickly as possible.

Club members

The number of years of playing ranged from 2 years to 78 years and the average number of years played was 28. The average number of nights played per week was two. *Since we all*



know that the vast majority of members are over sixty, this means that many of our members started playing late in clubs, indeed a 96-year-old from Wrexham was among those who had played for a few years only

Most clubs played only Pairs, using only one method of scoring, and the majority of those who answered the questionnaire collected masterpoints. *It should be noted, however, that more and more clubs are now including WBU membership in their annual club fee (no option given.) So the figures could be inflated.* The majority of members do not play online bridge.

Some clubs do not have a web site, usually because they are too small. Some of these clubs do not have anyone able to use

electronic recording of the masterpoints system. This is worrying for them.

Most people had confidence in their club director, though over half indicated that movements were messed up occasionally, particularly in one area. Members wanted classes for club directors. *Classes have been available and advertised during the past three years. If areas could guarantee a reasonable take-up, another could be arranged.*

The two most common reasons for playing bridge were the social aspect and the mental stimulation. *Obviously, there are members who don't attend clubs and who did not, therefore, answer the question. They might well have given mental stimulation and seeking to improve standard as their reasons.*

WBU

Members were pleased, and reassured, that the WBU are taking an interest in people who are not international players but ordinary, 'run-of-the-mill' club members. Some were less positive and felt that the WBU needed to consider its customer care. One member wrote: 'I pay the WBU for masterpoints. That's all it means to me.' A more specific criticism was that there was not enough money spent on seminars for the club players and for the club directors.

The majority of club members did not go to congresses. The general opinion of those people was that they were too expensive and the prizes 'miserly'. Socially-orientated events seem to have disappeared or been lost in soulless venues.

The two greatest concerns expressed by many are (1) the dearth of young people taking up the game. Bridge clubs who have any young members are scarce indeed; (2) bad behaviour (also a universal concern).

Young people

The comments received on the subject of young people are quite varied. They suggest more publicity, trying again in schools. *There was an initiative some years ago that resulted in some young people in the West learning to play, and an academy was formed in Monmouth school. But we haven't enough young people to make up teams for the Home International Juniors and Peggy Bayer teams.*

One person says that we should spend money in attracting young people into clubs. Someone talks of a charity that promotes chess and they say that there is a lot of interest among 10-12-year-olds. Most comments advocate school bridge, some suggesting linking the subject to IT lessons. One says that he believes bridge is popular in Scandinavian schools. *In Italy it is on the primary school curriculum – Get them young. It is, therefore, no surprise that Italy have been champions so many time and Norway have been riding the wave for several years.*

Bad behaviour

The subject of bad behaviour received a strong response. At club level complaints ranged from an amused response 'It's good gossip material' to 'I know of even directors who don't say hello when they come to the table.' People who play at more than one club notice a difference in behaviour between clubs, one saying that s/he was rarely put off at his/her club but was, at another club.

'Oddly enough', says one person when declaring that some experienced players are the worst.



Some people find it difficult to report bad behaviour to the director for fear of causing 'more aggro'. Some people sit at a certain polarity so that they don't have to play against a bad-mannered person, and someone commented that 'That's the reason my wife stopped playing'. Some players are perceived to be intolerant of others yet expect to be tolerated themselves when they require it. Some players of a high standard, who can't even be bothered to stop discussing the previous hand to greet a new EW pair, are perceived by one person to be doing it deliberately to put them off. This kind of gamesmanship is suspected by more than one: 'Bridge is a game and supposed to be enjoyed', says a responder. 'Bad table manners and players who intimidate should not be tolerated', which is echoed by someone who added 'Are there no rules about bad behaviour/decorum?' Several people pointed

out that the good players needed the 'rabbits' to beat, so they should show more gratitude by being polite.

A Senior Master wrote, however, 'I have learned to cope with bad manners and accept it is a part of competitive bridge.' Someone else said, 'I am the culprit, apparently'. A particular complaint, and a very valid one, was about people eating at the table. Regular advice was 'call the director', and another one, just as practical was 'Don't answer back. It'll only make it worse', though I am not sure whether s/he meant the director or the rude person but, in any case, both are relevant.

A final contribution to this subject is interesting: 'I regard Tenby as a happy club and entirely satisfactory.' Were they trying to pre-empt any complaints? Let's accept it at face value and believe that among all these boors mentioned above, at least one club is free of them or the rest of the people in the club are tolerant. An interesting comment was 'Golf brings out the best in people and bridge brings out the worst.' *The two pieces of advice above are of vital importance. Calling the director at the first sign of dispute, and not entering into an argument would cut out a lot of unpleasantness. The director should stop any discussion and allow the players so speak only when asked to. This is why directors should be firm but polite. Calling the director at the earliest opportunity should become a habit. Below is an extract from the EBU's 'Best Behaviour' policy. There are, indeed, ways of dealing with anti-social behaviour. In fact, the section is a very long one. The WBU's policy is under examination, but will be on the same lines as that of the EBU.*

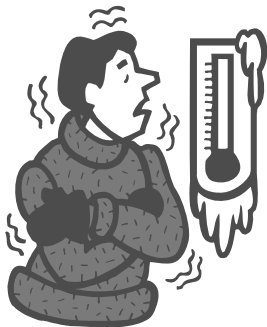
Congresses and competitions

A great deal of the questionnaire concerned non-club bridge. There has been a huge drop in numbers taking part in National competitions, reflecting a similar drop in club numbers. The fact that WBU *membership* has not reflected this is because new clubs have been including WBU membership in their annual club subscription, and some older clubs have been urging members to join the WBU. Another reason is that people *have* been teaching bridge in order to increase membership, but most of the learners are retired people looking to extend their social activities and keep their brains active. Many join via the U3A (*University of the Third Age*) where

teachers are paid; others join classes of a voluntary teacher, but they, too, tend to be retired.

Most of these learners have no interest in bridge outside the club. There are exceptions, and these are the ones who need competitions to ease themselves into the extended bridge world. The response to the questionnaire shows that people new to competition feel that some competitions outside their club should be separate from the all-comers ones, so that they can ease themselves gently into the bigger scene. Suggestions were: inter-club events for inexperienced players; simultaneous pairs for a similar stratum; separate events at congresses, too. *Even before the questionnaire was devised, there had been a lot of discussion at area level and at the WBU Council, and all areas had already begun organising such events which seemed to have been successful. In at least one area, players who had attended their separate event were encouraged to join the main event afterwards, and many did.*

One huge problem is that people are reluctant to travel. The reasons are threefold: cost, distance and venue. Bearing these issues in mind, our previous National Tournament



Organiser made deals with good venues and these met with approval, but the deals were somewhat temporary because the numbers of people attending and staying at the venue were not as anticipated, and the prohibitive cost became a problem once more.

Cheaper venues received the usual criticism, again. With regards to travel distance, the bridge population, having driven the length and breadth of Wales (before it was centralised in the Mid) are spent and exhausted.

Travelling to the final, in more recent years, I met many of the higher-ranked players complaining that the standard was so varied that the weekend event was a lottery rather than a bone fide competition. An area which had managed to get a very large percentage of members taking part at club level received a commensurately high percentage of places

in the final so it was, indeed, a lottery. The working party that reviewed our competitions came up with the idea of holding some qualifiers as one-day simultaneous pairs. This was to sort out, as fairly as possible, the qualifiers from each area.

Simultaneous events for various ability levels was suggested, and the MC took up Tony Haworth's offer to organise sims for small clubs. *Two have already been run successfully, and it is hoped more will follow.* Someone suggested a national grading system based on current performance. It seems that opinions are almost equally divided about holding 'No Fear' events, but the majority of those who attend them enjoy them.

People are divided about what they want in congresses. To some, a good venue and social activities are a priority, while others are more interested in an efficiently run, no frills, Congress. A majority of people expressed a preference for cash and wine as prizes. The response to catering was varied. It seems that it is impossible to please everybody.

The majority of people new to congresses feel that they are too expensive. *However, where else can you play bridge all day and meet many new people, for less than £20 a day (not including food and accommodation)? You can spend £60+ for a theatre ticket in London and get three hours' entertainment. This is why Best Behaviour is urged at congresses. No one wants to pay for unpleasantness*

Finance

The majority of people were happy for players to be funded in Home Internationals and in International events, provided they showed promise and had the potential to do well. They were not happy about wasting money on teams that were likely to linger at the bottom.

Wales has always taken part in the Camrose and the Lady Milne Home International and will continue to do so. With regard to the European championships (every two years) the WBU Council, aware of the limited budget provided by the International Fund, recommended that we should normally only fund only one team (Open, Women's or Seniors), and only when we are able to send a team of a reasonable standard. This funding does not come from the normal WBU funds. The MC and selectors are implementing this recommendation, sending two teams to the

2012 European only because Wales had won both the Camrose and Senior Camrose in 2011.

Conclusion

The biggest concerns among bridge players are falling numbers, and the problem of bad behaviour. A huge majority of people never play in a local congress. There is a general apathy towards competitive events.

An interesting aspect, for me, is that people come up with ideas of what should be done but few people seem to know what **is** going on or **who** the WBU is. This, I believe, is one of the major problems and I take a moment to reflect on this.

Your bridge club is you; your area is you; the WBU is you. None of these exists except for you and people like you. In your club, does



everyone know what's going on? Who does what? Does everybody help with the preparation of the tables? Are you happy with your Director or do you think a refresher course would

help? Are you happy with your club representative. Does s/he keep you all up to date? Have you volunteered to go on a director course or do a stint as an officer in the club or a representative of the club? Remember, **you are your club**. If everyone else was just like you would it be better, the same, or would it fold through apathy? This last is certainly not **you**, or you would have tossed this newsletter aside by now.

Does your club representative attend area meetings? If not, how do you know about new decisions and important changes. At your area meeting, are all clubs represented, most clubs, half the clubs or just three or four? The Area Council is where club representatives can make an input and look after the interests of their club.

One thing that stands out when considering people's attitudes to the WBU is the way it is referred to as 'They'. Who are 'They'? 'They' should be you. As it is, people in clubs do not always promote the efforts of their area by attending at least one of their congresses. You want seminars? Do you know about the ones in your area? How do

you think the area associations are funded? Not through your area subscription (do you know how much you pay to your area?) but through proceeds from area congresses run by volunteers. Such a lot of hard work, often for the benefit of players travelling from England who find our congresses cheaper and more friendly.

On a national basis your area has two representatives on the National Council, and one nominee on the Management Committee who meet once a month (online, to save your money) and discuss important issues. Do you know what changes they have made and new things they have introduced? The nominee from your area on the Management Committee is committed to looking at the big picture, but able to use knowledge of his/her area in a constructive way towards reaching decisions.

The MC meetings are minuted and can be accessed online. They are brief and informative. They can be found by clicking on 'publications.' For those who don't have a computer, do you have someone who can tell you? They are actually worth printing out and putting on your notice board so that everyone can read them.

I end with thanks from all of you who filled in the questionnaire and made such pertinent and constructive comments, some even making suggestions as to **how** improvements could be made. Thank you to Adrian, and thank you to all the people who work as volunteers to promote bridge in Wales, including the host of club members who make life better for their fellow players. Particular thanks to those who give back to the game by tutoring and delivering seminars, organising and winning events for the rest of us.

Appendix

Extract from the EBU White Book

91.8 Best Behaviour at bridge – "BB@B" – Code

The code for BB@B says:

Bridge is an extremely enjoyable game. Courteous behaviour is an exceptionally important part of that enjoyment. This guide serves as a brief reminder of how to behave at the bridge table. We are sure that all players naturally follow this code of conduct, but there are times when concentration and pressure can take their toll and it is for these situations that we issue this as a reminder.

- * *Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.*
- * *Be a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.*
- * *Make your system card [i.e. convention card] readily available to your opponents and fill it in completely.*
- * *Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.*
- * *Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.*
- * *Take care of your personal grooming.*
- * *Ensure your mobile phone is turned off.*
- * *Enjoy the company as well as the game.*

Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results or object to a call for the Tournament Director or to dispute or argue about a Director's ruling.

As in all games that are governed by rules and regulations, bad behaviour will be penalised.

Please call the Director if you think you may have been affected by bad behaviour. You will be helping others as well as yourselves.

91.9 Best Behaviour at bridge - "BB@B" - Action

Breaches of BB@B are dealt with:

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner the Director should be called immediately. Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the Director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. This can include immediate disciplinary board penalties, and if a future violation is incurred at the same event, disqualification from future competition in that event. Any further violations may result in a disciplinary hearing where the player's future participation in tournaments will be considered.

White Book 2012 – Chapter X

These are just guidelines, not Rules, but beneath them are penalties that the Director is authorised to use. Admittedly, the context is a tournament, but the rules are still relevant at club level.

Borrowed from the EBU web site

The following piece from Bid Boldly, Play Safe by **Rixi Markus** (first published in 1966) seems to go a long way towards explaining the various rules - they are not complicated, but if you know them you will be able to relax and enjoy your bridge far more. The list originally had ten points but John Pain has modified it to take account of such modern inventions as stop and alert cards and bidding boxes.

1. Don't look at partner or your opponents during the bidding or the play of the hand.
2. When you are dummy, keep silent; don't touch a card unless your partner names it and don't look at your opponents' hands.
3. Don't say anything about a hand while it is being bid or played.
4. Avoid looking at any other player's hand, no matter how carelessly he exposes it.
5. Using bidding boxes, make every call in the same smooth way, and take as long to make a simple bid as you need to make a difficult one. Don't let your hand hover over the box.
6. When you alert your partner's call make sure your opponents see the alert card.
7. When you use the STOP card, leave it on the table while you count to 10. Don't forget to pick it up when you get to 10.
8. At the end of the auction leave the bidding cards on the table until the opening lead has been faced.
9. When your partner takes longer than usual to pass don't make any positive bid unless it is more than justified by your own holding.
10. When you are defending, take the same length of time over the play of each card.
11. When your partner takes a long time to double an opponent's contract, don't remove the double unless your reason for doing so would have been demonstrably compelling even if partner had doubled immediately with evident glee!
12. Don't expect an inexperienced player or opponent to observe all these rules but be particularly punctilious about refraining from taking advantage of his lapses.
13. If you are not good at making a quick assessment of your hand, say so before you pick up your cards and then take your time. If you find yourself taking longer than usual to decide not to make an opening bid, pretend you didn't realise it was your turn!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: DOUBLE TROUBLE by Tony Haworth

'Director!!...'

'How can I help you?'

'South has doubled out of turn'

'Well that's fairly straightforward, don't need the book, Law 32 if I remember: - "West can accept the double; - if not it is cancelled, the bidding reverts to the correct player; North (offender's partner) is silent for the remainder of the auction;" call me back if you still have problems'

A competent attempt at resolving the situation? I think not.

The second mistake by the Director is that he didn't use the Law book. In all but the most common simple situations, a good Director should use the book: it gives the players a feeling of confidence in the ruling. In particular, in situations involving a call out of turn, there are so many variations – call/bid/double, offender/partner penalised*, one round/whole of auction etc. – why try to remember when they can easily be read from the book? Also this Director actually forgot to advise that there may also be lead penalties.

The first mistake was in the Director's not fully understanding or interpreting the situation.

Has South doubled in situation (a) or (b)?

a)	West	North	East	South
	1♥			Double
b)	West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠		Double

(In a) neither North nor East has called; in b) East hasn't called)

What's the difference? Quite a lot.

The Director was partially correct in quoting Law 32, but he had obviously never read the preamble to the nitty-gritty, which refers to an *inadmissible* double.

Directors (and more experienced players) should recognise that there are two sorts of double: *admissible* and *inadmissible*. The distinction is made in Law 19, which says, in summary, that a double is only admissible if

you are doubling the opponents, and calls other than pass must not have intervened.

So in situation a) above the double is *admissible* (i.e. legal), whereas in situation b) the double is *inadmissible* (i.e. illegal).

Yes - both doubles are out of turn, but are dealt with under different Laws.

In situation a), our hapless Director is basically correct. Law 32A applies: West can accept; if not, the bidding reverts to North, who must pass throughout; there are possible lead penalties if North is on lead (West as declarer can prohibit North from leading any specific suit as long as he retains the initial lead).

In situation b), however, Law 36B4 applies. The important difference is that West *cannot accept the inadmissible double*. The rest of the ruling is basically the same as a), but the whole of the lead penalty Law 26 applies. If West attempts to correct (i.e. before the Director is called), the Laws basically give up – the inadmissible double and the subsequent call(s) are all cancelled; the auction reverts to the correct player, and then proceeds as normal (no penalties, no lead restrictions).

(NOTE: Law 23 can also apply. If it was a deliberate infringement forcing partner to pass, you are in trouble)

* A generalisation is that with calls out of turn, if the call is a *pass* the offender is penalised, whereas if it is a *bid* or *double* the offender's partner is penalised).



A Proper Mix-up by El Presidente

Having played in the Hubert Philips and the Cambria cup over a period of about 5 days, it was apparent that slams have a great deal of influence in these events as they affect the aggregate scoring to a much greater extent than at IMPs. Our match in the Hubert Phillips could have been decided in the last set by this freaky (non-computer) deal:

Love All ♠ K Q 9 8 7
Dlr: North ♥ J 6 5 2

♦ 2
 ♣ J 6 5

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

♠ 6 3
 ♥ K Q 10 9
 ♦ 3 4
 ♣ K Q 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠!	2♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All pass

The early bidding was fairly sedate with West choosing to bid 1♦ instead of the 6 card spade suit, which proved crucial as did North's unfortunate spade overcall, which helped East re-evaluate his hand to some extent over 5♦. In the other room the bidding went 1♣-1♠ and East was unable to judge the power of the spade void when diamonds were agreed and the bidding eventually petered out in 5♦. The grand slam is laydown and I'm sure some scientists would bid it, but I'm not that confident we all would.

A key deal in the Cambria was this slam board in our match against the eventual winners

Game All, Dlr: West

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

Glossing over the over-bidding, West was declarer in 6♠ and got the lead of a diamond. Declarer failed to make this slam, however one other declarer who was in 4♠ brought home 12 tricks in a fairly routine manner. Cashing the A♣ and ruffing a club brings down the Q♣ from south, the finesse of the Q♥ fails and North now leads another diamond which you ruff in hand leaving this position.

♠ K 10 8	♠ A J
♥ A	♥ J 10 8 3
♦ None	♦ J 8
♣ K 10 9 7	♣ None

North's continuation of diamonds rather than forcing dummy with a club might let you to conclude that the Q♣ was a true card and from this you can infer clubs are 4-2. From this you could now assume North has the Q♠. Thus you ruff a club with the J♠ cash the A♠ and return to your hand with the A♥, draw trumps dropping the Q♠ and claiming; easy game this bridge innit!

The full hand:

Game All ♠ Q 7
Dlr: West ♥ K 9 7
 ♦ Q 9 6 3
 ♣ J 8 6 2

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

♠ 6 5 2
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ A K 10 7 5
 ♣ Q 4

Many congratulations to the worthy winners of the Cambria Cup, Eleanor Price, John Jamieson, Bob Alderdice and Denys Maddock.



OPEN TRIALS & SELECTION OF TEAM

The Welsh Open Trials took place over two weekends. The first was in Cardiff where nine pairs took part. They were competing for one of six places for the second weekend. The results were:

	VPs
1 st F Kurbalija and P Shields	163
2 nd G Jones and T Rees	156
3 rd M Close and L Woodruff	145
4 th J Salisbury and M Tedd	141
5 th P Goodman and M Pownall	140
6 th B Wennell and B Wennell	133
7 th P Denning and A Stephenson	126
8 th M Roderick and T Towers	119
9 th J Hand and P Hand	117

Beth and Barry Wennell dropped out, so their place was taken by Paul Denning and Alan Stevenson in the second trial which took place at Gwent Academy. The final results were:

1 st Peter Goodman & Mike Pownall	97
2 nd Filip Kurbalija & Patrick Shields	86
3 rd Gary Jones & Tim Rees	82
4 th Mike Close & Laura Woodruff	71
5 th Paul Denning & Alan Stephenson	63
6 th John Salisbury & Mike Tedd	50

How many tales, comic and tragic, are hiding behind those scores! The full results can be seen on the web site.

The team selected for the first weekend of the Camrose, on 5th and 6th January is Peter Goodman and Mike Pownall, Filip Kurbalija & Patrick Shields, Gary Jones and Tim Rees (NPC Alan Stephenson). Reserves Laura Woodruff and Mike Close

Don't forget, the event will be on BBO where you can watch the play and keep track of the scores. The three matches I watched on the Sunday of the second trial were of a very high standard of bidding and play, and we can hope to see good results from the team. We wish them all the best. Cymru am byth!

Welsh Invitation Pairs 2012

This prestigious event was held at the St Mellons Golf Club on 8th – 9th September, directed by Alex Reid.

1	David Burn & Nick Sandqvist	499
2	Gay Keaveney & Peter Goodman	478
3	Dan McIntosh & Pat Shields	454
4	Thor Erik Hoftaniska & Waseem Naqvi	436
5	Gary Jones & Tim Rees	406
6	Michael & Pdraig O'Briain	404
7	Trevor Towers & Mark Roderick	389
8	Artur Malinowski & Janet de Botton	371
9	Mike Tedd & John Salisbury	357
10	Filip & Diane Kurbalija	357
11	Rex Anderson & David Greenwood	344
12	John Murdoch & Ian Sime	340
13	David Birt & Mike Best	326
14	Paul Denning & Alan Stephenson	322
15	Mike Baker & Steve Jarvis	271
16	Beth & Barry Wennell	246



The winners, David Burn and Nick Sandqvist, collecting the cup from the organiser, Patrick Jourdain



Peter Goodman and Gay Keaveney, runners-up

Minibridge Masters *by Dawn Herbert*

Heswall Hall looked resplendent in all its new-found glory, awaiting its next challenge which soon arrived; they came in two by two proudly wearing their team colours, the Reds and the Yellows. Today was their day; some were happy, some nervous and some excited but they were not the usual Reds and Yellows: they were the Hawks, the Hippos, the Hornets, the Heroes, the Aces and the Chocoholics. This was to be their final effort of the season – to win a medal in the Heswall primary schools' minibridge challenge of 2012.

The director called for silence and the six teams, aged eight to ten seated themselves eyeing the pre-dealt boards placed in front of them. The dealer, as declarer, counted his/her own and partner's points, decided after looking at their hands and joint longest suit, what contract to play in. After four boards it was break-time they demolished refreshments at a fantastic rate whilst edging up to where the scores were being compiled.

Twenty minutes later it was back to serious bridge – four more boards against different opponents. There was a slam hand:

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

Two declarers managed to contract for the slam, others settled in five. How would you have bid it? (North Dealer)

The morning ended with drinks (orangeade) and more food and then the moment arrived: the scorer stood up, silence reigned and they waited with bated breath while the results were announced and the medals awarded: 4th 5th and 6th together, then the bronze medal, silver medal and finally the gold medal and the trophy for the Hawks who had won for the second year running! The winners were a Red team and the runners-up a Yellow team.

Everyone cheered as the teams received their medals amid great excitement.

All good things come to an end and so it was back to school; back to mathematics where perhaps some of the lessons learnt in minibridge may be of some help

(If you are interested in teaching minibridge to children and wish to get some advice on how to go about it contact Peter Wright on 0151-342-8156).

Our game will not survive if we do not encourage more people to take it up, especially youngsters. So if you have any interest in teaching the game, this could be a good starting point.

* * * * *

Calendar



DECEMBER

4th pf "O k z g f 'Rck tu'S w r k l g t 'lp'ct gcu
5th f '8 y j "E g n k e 'U k o w r c p g q w u 'Rck tu'P G Y +

JANUARY 2013

4th – 6th Camrose (Northern Ireland)
7th – 11th British Simultaneous Pairs
26th – 27th Lady Milne Trial

FEBRUARY

2nd – 3rd Teams of 8 Area Finals
16th – 17th East Wales Congress
23rd – 24th Mixed Pairs Final
25th - St David's Day Simultaneous

MARCH

- 1st St David's Day Simultaneous
2nd – 3rd Camrose (Republic of Ireland)
9th – 10th Open Pairs Final
16th – 17th Senior Camrose Trial
24th Portland Pairs

APRIL

6th – 7th NWBA Swiss Teams Congress
8th – 12th British Simultaneous Pairs
12th – 14th Lady Milne (Edinburgh)
21st – 25th Celtic Simultaneous
27th – 28th Webber Cup Final

Summer Highlights of the WBU *by Paul Gagne*



In early July 2012, the WBU staged two of its finest congresses, those being the NWBA Swiss pairs and the MWBA Swiss teams.

The first attracted a field of 94 pairs, which is not bad considering the current economic climate and competition from other events. The venue is probably the best of all the Welsh congresses being on the promenade in Llandudno in a very nice building with ideal playing conditions. The organisation was as good as always, except for a slight blip in the allocation of opponents half way through. The director insisted that it was a computer glitch – but I have my doubts.

The second was the annual teams event run by Mid Wales Bridge Association. This is a better event than others of the same ilk as it offers the less able players a chance to win cash prizes, rather than just being cannon fodder. The venue, although very central and with excellent parking, does not have such pleasant playing conditions as in Llandudno. Another drawback of this event is the lunch on Sunday: it is part of the hotel's conditions that all players should partake, but it increases the price by £10 per person - an expensive weekend if you have to travel and stay.

Unfortunately the trip to Llandudno, though brilliant on the social side, did not shine as far as the bridge was concerned. There were some notable wins and some ignominious losses, but I do not remember any hands.

The Mid Wales Teams, however, was sprinkled with interesting hands, the first coming in Match 1:

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

At our table the contract was 6NT played by South. The contract was reached after several

control-asking bids, and although knowing that they had all the top controls and a 6-card spade suit they did not venture any further. After the lead of the ♦ 9 by West, it was easy for East to discard her diamonds and keep three hearts which held the contract to 12 tricks. At the other table, however, our team-mates reached 7NT which should not make, but luckily with the help of the opponents it did, 11 IMPs to the good guys. Thirteen tricks can be made in spades as East will have to discard a club in order to retain three hearts when declarer runs 5 spades and 2 diamonds. The ruffing finesse against the ♣Q, pinning East's 10, will provide the 13th trick.

Also in Match 1 there was the following hand.

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

At our table we were allowed to play in 5♠ after a well contested auction. It was difficult for South to show full distribution and North did not get the message. The lead of the ace of diamonds was not good and although they switched to hearts, the damage was done and they only made the two red aces: 650 to East-West. At the other table a similar auction must have taken place, except North now doubled 5♠. He then compounded the error with the same lead and then failed to find the heart switch: 1050 to the bad guys.

Unfortunately 6♥ or 6♦ makes for North-South, a swing of approximately 2500.

After winning our first three matches we went off to tea thinking all was well with the world. A big mistake. We lost our next two, and with

a dispirited air we went off to play Match 6. The following hand was to be our downfall.

<p>♠ J 10 ♥ J 10 7 6 5 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ Q 9 6</p> <p>♠ A 5 ♥ A Q 4 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ A K J 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>♠ Q 3 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ A K J 10 4 ♣ 7 5 3</p>
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After an auction in which neither minor was mentioned we arrived in 6NT played by West. It looks a good contract with 11 top tricks and only one extra to find. If the ♣Q or ♠K are on the right side it is easy. However as neither was the case and North found the magical lead of the ♠J, I was doomed to failure. On a non-spade lead, even though the ♣Q is wrong, they break 3/2 thus twelve tricks are available.

I do not know the auction at the other table, but the same contract was reached. This time, though, North led the ♥J – 14 imps to the bad guys – game set and match, our third consecutive defeat.

This hand has some interesting points. 6NT can be made with East as the declarer, and 6♣ and 7♦ can be made by either hand.

- In 6NT with South on lead a spade lead would allow East to make the ♠Q and 12 tricks; and any other lead gives declarer time to take the losing club finesse without losing a spade.
- In 6♣ by West, with the same spade lead, the contract can be made by winning the ♠A, cashing ace and king of clubs followed by 4 rounds of diamonds, discarding West's losing spade. If North ruffs, declarer's hand is high.
- In 7♦ by West, with the same spade lead, the clubs have to be set up. This can be done by playing 3 rounds of hearts discarding a small club on the 3rd round, followed by ace and king of clubs and a club ruff (high). Trumps must now be drawn ending in the long club hand, as the ♦Q is the only entry left. The winning

clubs are now cashed, discarding the losing spades.

The question to be asked is why at teams did everyone want to play in No Trumps?

The last match of the day proved to be a success, and we went home feeling slightly better.

Sunday dawns, and we make our way to the arena to face another six matches. Match 1 is lost by one IMP – what a dreadful way to start. Match 2, however, is much better and we win by 27 IMPs, so up the ladder we go. Maybe it is not going to be a bad day after all, as we go to lunch (the one that's not really required) with another win under our belt. After lunch we are back up amongst the high fliers and we have the pleasure of playing against Patrick Jourdain and his partner. The following hand seals our fate:

<p>♠ Q 6 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ Q ♣ A K Q 10 6 3</p> <p>♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 ♣ None</p> <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ J 8 ♦ 10 4 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 5 4 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A K J 5 ♣ J 4</p>
---	--

At our table the auction goes:

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♣	All pass	

We are vulnerable, what should East-West do? East does not like the two small doubletons, and is not sure that she will defeat the contract, and when it came back to West ... well, with no apparent tricks, pass seems to be correct. Many will say that 5♠ is automatic and if we were non-vulnerable versus vulnerable I would agree. However this went two off for 100.

At our other table East-West were playing a Strong Club system and made their way to 4♠, North then overcalled and the auction spiralled with East-West ending in 6♠, for 1430 and the match to the bad guys.

The penultimate match was a swingy affair but we came out on top with a 17-IMP victory,

and so to the last. Again we are playing a team in the top four although we are way behind. Unfortunately this is what happens when there are not enough teams for a 13-round competition; it ends up with all the top teams playing sides much lower than themselves and it becomes pot luck. In this situation it would be much more sensible to play the Danish system, where teams can play each other more than once.

This match depended on two boards, the first (below) depends on good declarer play.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 ♥ J 10 5 4 3 ♦ K 6 5 2 ♣ 8 4 2</p> <p>♠ K J 10 8 7 5 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 7 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 6 ♥ Q 8 7 6 ♦ J 7 ♣ Q J 5 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 3 2 ♥ K ♦ A Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ A K 9</p>
--	--

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

1. Multi
2. to play in either major at the 3 level opposite a weak 2

After West's bid of 4♠, North bid 5♦. Whether this was meant as a sacrifice or not we will never know.

The lead was a small spade from West, won by East who switched to the ♣J. Declarer took this and drew trumps in 2 rounds ending in dummy. He then led a small heart to the king. West took it and returned the ♣10, South won and ruffed a spade back to dummy and took the ruffing finesse in hearts, generating a discard for his losing club – well played.

At the other table our pair played in 4 diamonds just making, 10 IMPs away.

The final hand of any note showed a lack of ambition on my partner's behalf – this was teams wasn't it?

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
Double	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All pass

West has shown a NT style hand with at least 18-19 points (the 1NT bid after a double shows extra values). Now the question is, whether with six hearts and a singleton the bid should be 2♥ or 3♥?

South led the ♣Q, and the play went rather smoothly, setting up the king of diamonds for a club discard – 10 tricks made. 11 can be made if you believe the ♥Q is a singleton. However if you take the finesse after dropping the queen and it happens to be QJ doubleton then the clubs can be cleared before the diamond discard is set up. At the other table 4♥ was bid and made, another 11 IMPs away and also the match.

So there it was: another of the WBU's major congresses over for another year. It was organised and run superbly well by Jean Cufley - she is a credit to MWBA and the WBU. The monies from this congress help to fund both the WBU and MWBA, and it is such a shame when the turn out is so low.

I must, however, end this account on a sour note. This year saw the European Championships being held in Dublin, and we sent only two teams, an Open and a Seniors. It was deemed that there was not enough money to send a Ladies' team. The fact that they had not shone in recent years in their international sections is not at odds here, anyone can have a bad week!!!!

What is at question is their willingness to support the WBU. This year both teams were fully funded, thus the costs to send them to

Dublin (including entry fees) was somewhere approaching £15000. I have played in both of the above congresses, and how many out of the fourteen people who went to Dublin did I see? In the NWBA Swiss Pairs event in Llandudno there was one - that's right only one out of the fourteen, and in Llandrindod there was a grand total of three. Now, as two of those were senior members of the MWBA committee, that means there was really only one here as well.

Where are the Others???

We have been selected to represent Wales in the prestigious Chairman's Cup in Orebro (it's somewhere in Sweden) and the Swedish Bridge Federation have offered Wales free entry, and 7 days free accommodation (bed and breakfast) in two double rooms. We have however to get there under our own steam with no financial help from the WBU at all. All we can say is that our other pair and ourselves were at both congresses.

*****_

“Purely Elementary my dear Watson”

I was recently in Canada on holiday and came across an interesting article written by Steve Becker, in the morning paper:

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

The bidding

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♠
All pass			

Lead: ♣4

“Holmes” said Dr Watson as he showed the famous detective the accompanying hand, “here is a further example of the ill fortune that has recently plagued me. I contracted for six spades, and West led a club. I ruffed, drew trumps, played AKQ of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy, then led a diamond to the ace and a diamond back.”

“Alas, East showed out, and West took 2 diamond tricks to put me one down. I had expected East to have the king of diamonds, in view of his vulnerable three club bid, but to my dismay, defeat suddenly became my potion”

“My dear Watson,” Holmes replied as he refilled his pipe, “things are not always what they seem. Just as many enthusiasts who love the game dearly, but who fail to make full use of their deductive powers, you neglected to utilize clues you could have exploited”



“It was eminently correct to ruff the club, draw trumps and cash three hearts, but you should then have ruffed the six of hearts in dummy, and the jack of clubs in your hand. In so doing you would have learned that East had started with precisely two spades and four hearts. East's vulnerable three-club overcall would have suggested that he had at least six, hence he could not have been dealt more than one diamond”

“Accordingly, you would next have played a low diamond from your hand and a low diamond from dummy! You could then sit back and reap the rewards of your astute analysis. Whoever took the trick would be forced to yield the slam”

“A marvellous diagnosis, by Jove” said Watson admiringly.

“Purely elementary my dear Watson” the great detective replied.

Thank you, Bob Alderdice, for sharing this with us.

Promoting Memories


Below is part of a newsletter from 1998. The entire newsletter is on one folded sheet of A4. How times change! Many of you will remember the editor, Jessie Newton, especially people in North Wales, where she lived and worked tirelessly to promote the area and represent North Wales' interests on the Council. Jessie was President of the WBU three times. You will see the name of Barbara Cornish, who also worked very hard as Masterpoint Secretary and was always so helpful and charming. I still have one of her lovely little notes that she was wont to send to people. She was President of the WBU in 1985-6. Gary Martin is there, too. He did a great job as Tournament organiser and was President in 1995-6. Who can tell me where Gary is now and whether his is still playing Bridge? Both he and Jessie played in international events.

In the second extract more memories for me, especially poignant ones being the late Alan Pierce, Maggie's husband, an esteemed international player who was always so friendly with his opponents and put less experienced players at their ease. I remember, too, the late Gerry Needham who used to partner the black-haired John Salisbury at Llangollen. Gerry was another

delightful person and would drive around Llangollen in an old flivver, hood down in November! his scarf flapping and a big smile on his face, waving to bridge players as he passed by. He brought glamour and old-fashioned gallantry to Llangollen town.

I smile when I look at the Junior team, especially when I think of Simon Edwards who has since lost hair and gained a tongue-stud but remains a player of enormous talent. Another of the junior team is Tony Ratcliff who, I thought, was the first to topple Patrick from the top spot. The apology below proves me wrong. However, I note that Patrick regained his top spot and retained it ... until this year! (see promotions).

Thank you to Mike Tedd for finding this information in his archive. Many of you will enjoy trawling back numbers of the newsletter and take delightful trip down Memory Lane. Newer members can track changes such as the terminology. An example is in the above newsletter under 'Results' where women players are still identified by their 'status'. You will find them by clicking on 'Publications' in the red list on the left of the Home Page, though I am sure you all know that!

<u>THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION NEWSLETTER</u>	
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	Tournament Organiser: G Martin, 83 Fir Capel Llanelli, Dyfed SA14 8SR Tel: 0554 758021
	Masterpoint Secretary: Mrs B Cornish, 76 Beach Rd Newton, Porthcawl Tel: 292
	No 214 Winter 1998

RESULTS

LLANGOLLEN CONGRESS

Ladies Pairs Mrs J M Boxwell Mrs W E Hullock
Mens Pairs B Crawford F McAleavy
Mixed Teams S R Richards Mrs E Atkinson A Thomas
D Renson
Championship Pairs Mr & Mrs D N P Woodcock
Consolation Pairs Mr & Mrs I L Blakey
Championship Teams J Salisbury G Needham Mrs M Pitts
D Debbage
Consolation Teams A Casey A Pierce Mr & Mrs F Kurbalija

LLANGOLLEN SWISS TEAMS

1st E Martin J Mason R Bentley M Ferguson
2nd J D Baker D F Huggett S M Preston D L Parry
3rd M Robinson J A Smith Mrs P Lang M Hunphrey

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

CAMROSE MATCH v N. IRELAND - 16th/17th January in N. Ireland

The following team has been selected to represent Wales:-

P D Jourdain A Thomas
M Hirst A Pierce
G Evans Mrs D Kurbalija
npc D M Powell

JUNIOR CAMROSE MATCH - 30/31 January at the Hand Hotel LLANGOLLEN

The following team has been selected to represent Wales:-

A Ratcliff M Downey
A Maddocks S Edwards
S Daniel A Hogg
npc P Goodman

CORRECTION - WBU JOURNAL

Re - GRAND MASTER RANKING LIST

1st M N HIRST 2440
2nd P D JOURDAIN 2370

Sincere apologies and congratulations to Mr Hirst

B M C

Confessions of a Vugraph Operator



From Laura at the European Championships in Dublin, June 2012

For reasons best not dwelt upon, I found myself in Ireland not as a player but as a dogsbody (not that anyone treated me as one, but it's best to know one's place). I had been hoping to enjoy a bit of a holiday on my days off, perhaps sitting in the sun with a book, or doing a spot of Irish sightseeing (I'm told this often takes place at night), but the relentless rain forced me to spend much of my free time in shopping malls instead.

From my perch on the BBO operator's high chair, whose back-rest was irritatingly at exactly the right height to catch the top of my belt when I tried to lean forward, I watched some very good and some not-so-good bridge. As with cricket scoring (with a name like Laura one is obviously destined to be a scorer) where the need to watch every ball makes the whole match much more interesting, having to watch every card played kept boredom to a minimum. The only point at which I had to entertain myself by chatting to BBO kibitzers was during Tuesday's Round 17 match between Spain and Norway, when a lot of "tanking" went on. I rather unwisely entered into an argument about a) whether not-so-good teams should be playing in the event at all (presumably some would favour a mini-tournament between Italy and Monaco); and b) whether the present European Bridge League Eligibility Code is fit for purpose*. This generated a further argument about c) whether BBO operators should be allowed to express opinions at all (since most of us had had to fork out money for the privilege of working 9 hours a day, on the whole I think we should be allowed to say more or less what we please, as long as it's not libellous and doesn't upset the horses).

It was an important match for Norway, who were playing for the last qualifying place in Group A; less so for the Spanish whose qualification hopes had died some time before. A lot of BBO chat was generated by Board 6, where Boye Brogeland (a Norwegian playing for Norway) found a way to make an impossible 4♠ contract. "It will take a miracle for this to make", remarked one of the kibitzers, cleverly noting the four top losers.

Board 6
Vul: EW
Dir: East

♠ K 6 5 3
♥ J 2
♦ A K 8
♣ 10 7 5

♠ 10 2
♥ A K 10 7
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ K J 9

♠ A Q J 7 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 6 4

♠ 9 8
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ J 6 3
♣ A 8 3 2

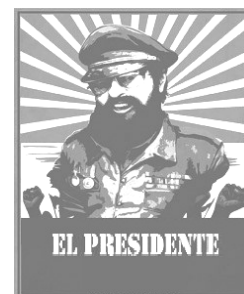
Once Brogeland had opened his flat 11-count there was little chance of staying out of 4♠, which is doomed. Even if the defence don't find their AK AK at tricks 1-4, they can't really avoid taking them later.

South got Spain off to a good start with ♥5, North taking the king and ace and switching to a trump. There is a useful lesson here for those who simply look at dummy and claim one down. Brogeland calmly won the ♠Q, drew a second round of trumps with the jack and cashed the ♥Q discarding a diamond from dummy. The ace and king of diamonds followed, then a seemingly unnecessary third round of trumps taken with the ace in hand. Now declarer played the ♦Q and a club to the ten and jack. North, believing himself endplayed, exited with his fourth diamond for a ruff and discard and 12 IMPS to Norway.

During the next 14 boards I was asked quite often whether the score was correct, could I check, surely some mistake, as they say in *Private Eye*. I did check, at the end of the match, and there was no mistake. You have to feel some sympathy for North: it is true that he might have counted the hand better, but Brogeland is a recent World Champion so it wasn't unreasonable to assume he'd done something clever (which, of course, he had, just not *that particular* clever thing). It just goes to show, it's never over till the fat lady sings, or until Geoff Hurst scores a hat-trick.

**The Open Championship was won by Monaco, consisting of two Italians and two Norwegians (all former World Champions for their own countries), a Frenchman and a (Swiss) sponsor. They didn't appear to have learnt the words to the Monegasque national anthem.*

Ruff and Fluff! *by El Presidente*



Our semi-final of the Welsh cup was a bit of a one sided affair, Filip Kurbalija's team running away with the match in some style; but there were many interesting boards and plenty of opportunities for players to shine, for example this excellently played hand by Tony Ratcliff

Love all, Dlr: West

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

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

North led the ♦A and followed up with a second diamond to the king, on which Tony discarded a spade then played a heart from dummy to the ten, noting the fall of the nine from North. With the hearts likely to be breaking 4-1 he next played the A♠ and then the jack. This was not covered and he discarded the diamond jack. With South following to this trick he can be pretty sure his shape is 2-4-6-1, so he now led the ♠3 and ruffed with the ♥5. South overruffed, led the ♥A and another heart leaving this known position. On cashing the ♥8, North is squeezed and has to relinquish either the ♠K or control of the club suit if the queen is not singleton with South

	♠ K	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ ????	
♠ Q 6		♠ -
♥ 8		♥ -
♦ -		♦ -
♣ K 3		♣ A J 8 6 2
	♠ -	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 10 3	
	♣ ?	

Well played Tony, however both North and South had the beating of the contract as the omnipotent Deep Finesse will point out that a club lead beats the contract at trick one, as does not overruffing the at trick 6. See if you can work it out!

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

Opponents in Need (of inspiration)

Board 1 ♠ K J 2
Love all ♥ J 10
Dlr: North ♦ A K 10 9 7 6
 ♣ A J

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

Some of you will recognise this hand from the Children in Need simultaneous. The commentary said East would play in 3♣; Patrick Jourdain found himself in 3NT as North (don't ask). On the king of clubs lead, this should make three tricks (♣A and ♦AK), after which the defence will clean up for 6 down. Unfortunately Patrick's East didn't know which major to throw on the third round of diamonds so discarded a club instead. Not only did this reduce the defence's tricks by one, it also left West with no clue as to the right switch. He guessed wrong, switching to a small spade.

Knowing that if East held the ace he could cash five club tricks, Patrick rose with the king and played three more rounds of diamonds, on which the hapless West discarded three hearts. Now when declarer exited with the ♥J, East put up the king, crashing his partner's ace. Worse was to follow: West in desperation cashed the ace of spades, felling his partner's queen and allowing Patrick to make 10 tricks for what will probably be a global top. **L.**

Signals & Discards *by Peter Goodman*

This is an area where we can all improve as long as we don't get hung-up on the need for every card to have a meaning. In this short presentation we will only consider discards, as signals is a much bigger topic.

The Purpose of a Discard

1. To keep winners and throw away losers (not as easy as it sounds)
2. To tell partner, only when he needs to know. But NOT to help the opponents how to develop a suit.
3. (slightly digressing) With signals you often need to give partner the true count when there is an entry-less dummy but be very careful when declarer has KQ10x or K10xx or Q10xx and leads the suit early, he is trying to fool you into showing your shape. Similarly avoid discarding this suit when you hold xxx as it will only assist declarer.
4. When you know you will have to make two discards the second of which will be uncomfortable make the uncomfortable discard first. Don't routinely throw from your 5-card suit before your 3 or 4-card suit when two discards are required.
5. When defending a slam try to throw from the suit you want partner to keep, if they start to run a long suit. If you also know declarer is out of a suit, often it is useful to throw yours away early so partner also becomes aware of this.
6. Discards as Count / Attitude / Suit preference ?
 - a) Partner is running a long suit and will need to make a 'non-obvious' switch next.
If you will only have the chance to make one discard make this an attitude in the suit you want, but if you can make two discards, make them two negative signals in the suits you don't want.
 - b) Sometimes you are known to hold length in a suit but no strength, then you can use this suit to generate a suit preference signal for one of the other suits.

- c) You have spare length in partner's first suit and declarer is running a long suit. Get rids of those cards first, showing length so partner can discard better.
- d) Partner is about to win a trick when you have no cards left in the suit. Generally length will be of interest as bidding will often have indicated if there is an obvious switch
- e) All discards are guidelines to partner and "smoke signals" to declarer, against the better players avoid being predictable.

Figure 1: 1NT by South

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

On partner's fourth diamond you, East, will have to guide partner. With standard methods you can try the ♣10 as a come-on signal but playing reverse attitude you will need an extra method.

Consider developing a similar approach to this:

- Trick 1 play ♦3: I have 3 or 5 diamonds
- Tricks 2 & 3 play ♦5 and 7: playing your cards after your first discard asks partner to consider the lower of the two remaining suits (playing ♦7 then 5 at tricks 2 and 3 asks him to consider the higher of the two remaining suits).
- Trick 4 Discard ♥3 advising partner to discount the heart suit too.
- Hey presto! Partner switches to a club from J53.

Figure 2: INT by South

♠ Q J 10 6
♥ Q 2
♦ J 7 5
♣ Q 7 4 2

But what if you held this hand instead. Now play ♦7 and then 5 at tricks 2 and 3 and make a value judgement as to what to throw between ♥2 and ♣2 as both would now imply a spade is advised. Probably a heart.

Note: The main reason people play reverse attitude is because you can more often afford to discard a low card than a high card.

Now let's look at a recent, much more difficult example.

Figure 3: 4♥ by North

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ A Q 10 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ 7 6

♠ 5
♥ 8 7
♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ A Q 5 4 3 2

♠ A K 9 8 6 3
♥ J 9 5
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ None

♠ 7 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ K J 2
♣ K J 10 9 8

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

All pass

After East had opened 2♠, North balanced with 2NT (15-18) and then showed five hearts before arriving in 4♥.

West carefully discarded the two of clubs on the ♠K, very pleased that they were playing reverse attitude discards as he only has small cards. He felt very upset when his partner played a 3rd spade looking for a trump promotion. The moral is don't let a discarding system become more important than listening to the bidding. West should clearly ruff his partners top spade and play ace and another club which will beat the contract whenever it is beatable.

Figure 4: 4♥ by North

♠ 5
♥ J 7
♦ A 5 4 3 2
♣ 9 8 7 5

♠ A K 9 8 6 3
♥ 10 9 6
♦ Q 6
♣ 4 3

Remember to listen to the bidding all the time before planning your defence.

Now if East-West held these hands, West should simply encourage in diamonds in case East has a singleton; but East should store this information and still play for a trump promotion as the most likely way of defeating the contract after North's 2NT bid.

Vera Jean McAndrew 1930-2012

Vera McAndrew, who has died aged 82, represented Wales in the Women's Home Internationals for the Lady Milne in 1978 partnering Maggie Pierce and in 1980 partnering Mrs McCloskey. Her name is on several national trophies.

Vera was a founding member of the South Glamorgan Bridge Club, now called Cardiff Bridge Club and, having moved from Whitchurch to Caerleon 25 years ago, became a long time member of the Gwent Bridge Academy.



After working as Secretary at Cardiff University Maths Department she joined British Steel and became PA to the late Peter Allen, Managing Director of the Strip Mills Division.

Her interests outside bridge included her local church, her family and bowls.

Vera's first marriage produced two children and eight grand children. Her second was to David McAndrew, a leading Welsh bridge international.

PDJ

WELSH CUP 2011/2012

In the final, played on 31/8/12 in Newport, the holders (Filip Kurbalija, Dan McIntosh, Tony Ratcliff and David Jones) beat Adrian Thomas's team by 50+ IMPs.

Round 2 (32 boards)	Semi-final (48 boards)	Final (64 boards)	WINNER
Paddy Murphy , Simon Edwards, Chris Pope, David Stevenson, Peter Kaufman, Andrew Prothero	Murphy		KURBALIJA
Bob Pitts , Barry Jones, David Keen, Jean Kean		Kurbalija	
Filip Kurbalija , D Macintosh, Tony Ratcliff, David Jones	Kurbalija		
Alan Screen , George Novak, P Gagne, Di Harris, Andrew Young, Chris Blackman		Thomas	
Adrian Thomas , Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Jill Casey, Diane Kurbalija, Peter Goodman	Thomas		
Jennifer Wardell , Adrian Micusan, Colin Nash, Graham Fifield, Horia Maior, Chris Morley		Thomas	
John Jamieson , Bob Alderdice, Denys Maddock, Eleanor Price			
Mike Tedd , John Salisbury, Patrick Jourdain, David McAndrew, Gary Jones, Dafydd Jones	Tedd		

WBU CAMBRIA CUP FINAL WEEKEND 2012

The four-team all-play-all final of the Cambria Cup was held at Crossgates village hall on May 26-27, directed by Adrian Thomas.

- Team A Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Dan McIntosh, Paul Denning, Patrick Shields
 Team B Paddy Murphy, Barry Jones, Liz Commins, David Stevenson
 Team C Gwynn Davis, Sue Ingham, Linda Greenland, Ken Richardson
 Team D John Jamieson, Bob Alderdice, Denys Maddock, Eleanor Price

Versus							
TEAM	NAMES	A	B	C	D	Matches won	Posn
A	Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Dan MacIntosh, Paul Denning, Patrick Shields)		-320	-650	3130	1	4
B	Paddy Murphy, Barry Jones, Liz Commins, David Stevenson	320		1030	-340	2	2
C	Gwynn Davis, Sue Ingham, Linda Greenland, Ken Richardson	650	-1030		-1320	1	3
D	John Jamieson, Bob Alderdice, Denys Maddock, Eleanor Price	-3130	340	1320		2	1

Congratulations to the winners:



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

Item	Page	Details
Journal		No Journal corrections so far.
Calendar		See Page 17 for forthcoming events

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

Crossword Solution (Newsletter 91)

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



Club and Area Secretaries

Please make sure you inform your Area Secretary of any changes of Officer, venue and/or changes in club meetings and times, as soon as possible after your AGM . Remember to inform of any changes during the year, also. Similarly, will Area Secretaries do the same and inform the person in charge of the Journal as soon as possible, to avoid errors.

Caption Competition

Suggestions for this photo of Jim Luck with Carol-Ann Cummins of Ireland to Jill by 31st December.



Carol-Ann Cummins with Welsh player

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

Noelle's last stand: Promotions from 20th April 2012 to 18th May 2012

Local Master		Dylan Rees	BEN
Mostyn Bancroft	MG	Master	
Valerie Bright	GA	Judy Collins	PN
Steven Daniel	S	Maureen Eccles	CRI
Ann Dassen	T	Angela Gilbert	C
Bob Drinkall	C	Julia Griffiths	L
William Elsdon	H	Clwyd Jones	C
Lesley Fletcher	M	Elen Pierce	S
Bill Hegarty	S	Huw Thomas	BV
Tim Hellis	PN	Jeff Thomas	A
David Hutchinson	S	Advanced Master	
Ruth Lewis	BRE	Mary Fletcher	PT
Eryl Mainwaring	GA	Charlotte Jones	MON
James Mangles	MG	David Lovering	R
Alison Morgan-Jones	GA	One Star Master	
Christopher Randles	M	Jane Bancroft	WS
Club Master		Ian Dunglinson	OH
Charles Biggin	LET	Phil Roberts	NP
Susan Biggin	LET	Avis Sowels	SU
Valerie Blake	MER	David Stevens	CN
Patsy Cohen	PN	Pat Sullivan	C
Ian Evans	C	Two Star Master	
Howard Goss	S	Yvonne Brooks	PW
Margaret MacDonald	BEN	Sue Coffin	C
Lynda Thomas	BEN	Picton Davies	L
Area Master		Derek Earle	MER
Richard Caley	T	Pat Evans	SU
James Doores	BEN	John Owen	BEN
Jim Kelly	PR	Robin Thomas	WS
Nancy Kneale	OH	Three Star Master	
Carla Morgan	S	Reg Mealings	WS
Brian Quinlan	C	Five Star Master	
District Master		Margaret O Davies	L
Lucinda Brooker	T	Marcia Rogers	MB
Jennifer Crooks	MB	Christina Wiseman	PN
John Crooks	MB	Tournament Master	
Hilary Evans	LDB	Barbara Easterbrook	OH
Paul Green	GA	Gaynor Shenton	MB
Charlotte Ingham	C	Premier Master	
Elaine Robins	MG	Wendy Jenkins	WS
Fred Stokes	M	Regional Master	
Jane Thomas	S	George Novak	CAS
Nesta Thomas	R	Mike Reed	CAR
County Master		National Master	
John Coghlin	S	Aida Aris	GA
Pam Evans	T	Premier National Master	
Richard James	CAR	John B Jamieson	S
Fiona Noyce	NT	Wendy Thornton	H
		Life Master	
		Peter Milewski	H

Senior Life Master

Ifor Davies	S
Steve Webb	C
Beth Wennell	LD

* * * * *

Things you've never noticed

Most bridge scorecards tell you in the first column (after the board number) who's vulnerable.

Deal	Hand No	Versus	Final Contract	By	Land	Tricks	SCORE		MATCH POINTS
							PLUS	MINUS	
	N 21/NS								
	E 22/EW								
	S 23/ALL								
	W 24/-								
	N 25/EW								
	E 26/ALL								
	S 27/-								
	W 28/NS								
	N 29/ALL								
	E 30/-								
	S 31/NS								
	W 32/EW								
	N 33/-								
	E 34/NS								

A black circle flashes 8 seconds and 1 second before the film reel changes in a cinema..

In bridge articles, all auctions start with West (put dashes in if someone else is dealer)

Telephone keypads are numbered the opposite way from computer keypads.



Latest Promotions (May to September 2012)

Local Master			Club Master		
Gillian Ames	S	Steven Daniel	Steven Daniel	S	
Marian Arnold	MG	Gwyneth Davies	Gwyneth Davies	A	
Peter Balchin	GA	Jo Davies	Jo Davies	T	
Steven Bartlett	S	Barbara Dawe	Barbara Dawe	K	
Frank Beale	S	Jim Elder	Jim Elder	PN	
Peter Beynon	CRI	William Elsdon	William Elsdon	H	
James S Brown	M	Glyn Evans	Glyn Evans	LDB	
Brian Casson	CBY	Sheila Giles	Sheila Giles	BRE	
Pete Cole	D	Barbara Goodwin	Barbara Goodwin	NP	
Richard Cole	W	Alan Grant	Alan Grant	BR	
John Davies	S	Bill Hegarty	Bill Hegarty	S	
Michele Davies	CAS	Tim Hellis	Tim Hellis	PN	
Jeannie Dimyan	BRE	Mary Hill	Mary Hill	K	
Wafik Dimyan	BRE	Dot Isaac	Dot Isaac	MG	
Stan Evans	NT	Peter Jackson	Peter Jackson	AA	
Kathleen Ferguson	PC	Gary Jones	Gary Jones	DM	
Vivian Ginn	MG	Peter Kaufman	Peter Kaufman	W	
Susan Greenwood	CBY	Roderick Lay	Roderick Lay	S	
Moreen Harrison	WS	Aoife MacHale	Aoife MacHale	BEN	
Vince Haskins	GA	Eryl Mainwaring	Eryl Mainwaring	GA	
Julie Hodgson	D	James Mangles	James Mangles	MG	
Gillian Hutchinson	S	Rory McKinley	Rory McKinley	BEN	
David James	PN	Howard Mence	Howard Mence	CBY	
David James	S	John Miller	John Miller	MG	
Jean James	PN	Tom Mills	Tom Mills	A	
Penny Jarvis	OH	Alison Morgan-Jones	Alison Morgan-Jones	GA	
Mary Jones	A	Mike Morrall	Mike Morrall	D	
Lyn Lawson	T	Sadie Morton	Sadie Morton	RY	
Bryan Lewis	P	Rosie Preece	Rosie Preece	S	
Sue Lyden	S	Margaret Price	Margaret Price	MG	
Sally Manousis	GA	Sandy Smith	Sandy Smith	MG	
Barry Marsh	C	Sue Thompson	Sue Thompson	K	
David Nehemiah	S	Barry Thorne	Barry Thorne	T	
Ann Owens	PR	Bob Tilley	Bob Tilley	AA	
Sarah Penny	C	Liz Tomlinson	Liz Tomlinson	A	
Robert G Pringle	CAS	Maureen Treverton-Jones	Maureen Treverton-Jones	GA	
Patricia Roper	P				
Veronica Walsh	GA				



Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy 2011-2012

Tony Ratcliff	343
Roger Penton	282
Liz Commins	215
Peter Goodman	214
Tony Disley	177
Mike Best	165
Susan Ingham	158
Liam Sheridan	155
Mary Moore	150
Wyn Williams	147
Patrick Jourdain	146
Eric Hartland	145
Beth Wennell	143
Barry Wennell	143
Sheila Shea	139
Filip Kurbalija	128
John Salisbury	122
David M Evans	122
Glyn Williams	120
Mike Tedd	119

John Hockey Top 20 latest

Patrick Murphy	180.29
Terry Evans	104.29
Liz Commins	97.39
Barry Lloyd Jones	83.76
Mike Best	77.41
Filip Kurbalija	73.18
Tony Ratcliff	69.48
Muriel Richardson	63.26
Margaret Barnes	58.39
Eleanor Price	55.89
Dylan Raw-Rees	50.89
Mike Jones	50.88
Allan Lewis	47.87
Gwynn Davis	47.54
Patrick Jourdain	46.72
Roger Penton	44.98
Susan Ingham	44.68
Linda Pinnock	44.28
Murat Ataç	42.49
Bill Turner	42.39

Latest Promotions (May to September 2012) continued

Area Master			County Master			Five Star Master		
Patsy	Cohen	PN	Murat	Ataç	BRE	Alan	Heath	PC
Gail	Davis	NP	Geoff	Catley	GA	Tournament Master		
Bob	Drinkall	C	Eifion	Evans	PW	Michael	Rogers	MG
Liz	Fowler	WS	Anna	Levi	CN	Premier Master		
Andy	Fryer	RY	Mary	Palin	W	David	Batterley	AA
Annette	Halstead	CBY	Debbie	Rosevear	OH	Gill	Howells	CD
Barry	Halstead	CBY	Cecilia	Rossiter	H	Ian G	Metcalfe	LD
Martin	Joseph	C	Arnold	Sandrey	MG	Herbie	Rowley	CD
Betty	Longley	P	Master			Regional Master		
George	Madow	D	Margaret	Ball	CBY	Morag	Clare	LD
Joan	Marray	BEN	Heather	Cummins	CAS	Kath	Moore	CAS
Bob	Morgan	PT	Jeremy	Dawes	CAS	Pat	Williams	NT
Ros	Morgan	PT	Angela	John	H	Premier Regional Master		
John	Morris	CAS	David	Newman	BR	John	Valentine	A
Joseph	Mullally	CN	Ashleigh	Scrimshaw	MER	National Master		
Ann	Sayer	LET	P	Sutcliffe	LD	Peter	Millar	PN
Marilyn	Scott	NP	Nigel	Symons Jones	LP	Life Master		
Joy	Seculer	PN	Roger	Tod	CRI	Gwen	Hurst	W
John	Wilson	A	Advanced Master			Diane	Knight	W
Marilyn	Woozley	S	Rod	Baker	S	Denys	Maddock	S
District Master			David	Bonello	MG	Eleanor	Price	S
Viv	Brown	MG	Helen	Caldicott	CRI	Grand Master		
Veronica	Burrows	C	Gwenda	Davies	LP	Liz	Commins	W
Jacob	Collins	GA	David	Everett	Y			
Kevin	Collins	K	Elen	Pierce	S			
Christine	Davis	SU	Glenys	Thompson	WS			
Stone	Gareth	SU	One Star Master					
Yvonne	Greenleaf	S	Rosemarie	Barr	LET			
Sylvia	Hilton	RY	Ann. G	Davies	PW			
Beryl	Jenkins	AG	Robert	Hellier	GA			
Ron	Jones	A	Caroline	Vincent	S			
Jim	Kelly	PR	Keith	Vincent	S			
Jack	Lott	K	Joan	Westcott	GA			
Eileen	Mahoney	MG	Two Star Master					
Annette	Phillips	W	Teresa	Goss	C			
Tony	Phillips	W	Lynne	Jones	WS			
Brian	Quinlan	C	Jupp	Korsten	D			
Ann	Scott	PR	Three Star Master					
David	Stevenson	W	Marie	Hartland	P			
Richard	Stevenson		Dave	Thomas	BV			
June	Thomas	A	Four Star Master					
Kath	Williams	F	David	Nicholls	WS			
Sue	Wright	LP	Teri	Pollard	MG			
Ellen	Wyn-Jones	PW						



Congratulations to Liz on a fine achievement