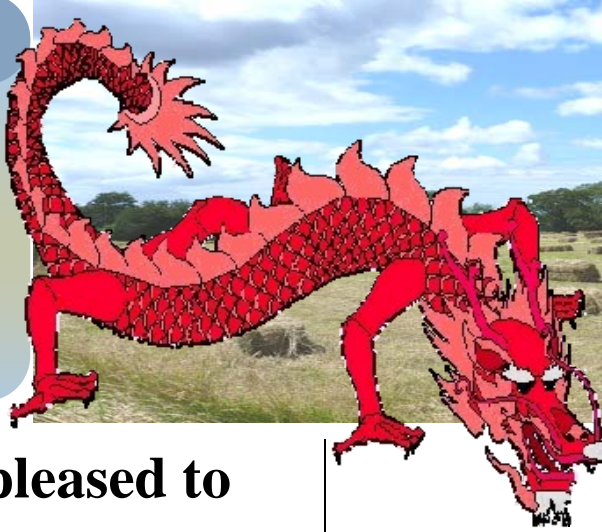


Welsh Bridge Union



We are, um, pleased to announce ...

The English Bridge Union has announced the demise of the Orange Book. The sad event took place on 1st August, and was accompanied by the simultaneous death of the Tangerine Book.

Happily, there is a new arrival to gladden our days. Behold the Blue Book.

Does any of this mean anything to you? If not, you are in good company.

The Orange Book used to contain all the conventions permitted in English, and hence (since we follow the EBU in these matters) Welsh, bridge. The Tangerine Book was an abbreviated version of the Orange Book. The Blue Book replaced them both on 1st August.



Photograph by Wendy Kershaw

You may think all of this is of little relevance to you, but you would be wrong. The Blue Book also contains some new announcing and alerting rules, to which every player in every bridge session in England and Wales will be expected to adhere.

My own view is that the new set of rules, summarised on pp.6-7, make club bridge more stressful than international bridge, to which the new (and indeed old) announcing rules do not apply. Am I the only one who will find it difficult to remember which bids to announce, which to alert and in respect of which to say and

do nothing (leaving visitors from Scotland, where the announcing rules have not been adopted, to scratch their heads and hope for the best)?

I should, of course, say straight away that not everyone agrees with me.

What is your view? Do you like announcing, or do you long for the old days when if a bid was artificial you alerted it and if it wasn't you didn't? Let us know what you think.

(PS For fans of colour-coding there is also the White Book, for the guidance of Tournament Directors; and, of course, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, which though amended from time to time remain largely the same and apply to duplicate bridge played at all levels everywhere in the world. The latter, in its most recent printed manifestation, had a blue cover, and, confusingly, was known as the Blue Book.)

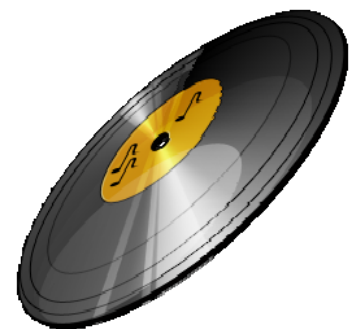
Is this a record?

At a recent 10-table session at West Shore (Llandudno) bridge club, one pair achieved a score of 86.11%!

The pair concerned, Brian Schofield and John Dow, usually do reasonably well at the club but in my 40 years of bridge I've never seen a score like this.

Out of 27 boards, Brian and John had 9 outright tops and not one score below average.

Can anyone better this?



*Graham Shaw
West Shore Bridge Club (Llandudno).*

100 below the line: Sheila Storer

by Steve Burgoyne

Sheila Storer celebrates her hundredth birthday in September. She will be joined by many bridge players in marking the event at the Porthcawl, Bridgend and Pencoed Clubs where she still plays six days a week and where she is an honorary member.

Born Sheila Clowes in Brighton and brought up in Weybridge, she learnt bridge at an early age from her parents, who played every night. Her mother was a particularly strong player who represented Surrey and who was responsible for Sheila's husband John's giving up bridge. "It's hopeless," he said, "she knows every single card in my hand". Sheila was a teacher and John an aeronautical engineer, but he decided to switch to teaching after the war, and that was how they came to live in Wales, when John became Headmaster of St. John's School in Porthcawl in 1956.

Surrey's loss was Wales's gain, for Sheila Crampton, as she then was, soon became a well known and successful bridge player locally and nationally. Despite having turned his back on the game John was highly supportive of Sheila's bridge career, so her heavy workload as the Head's wife in a boarding school, not to mention bringing up three daughters, two of whom still live in Porthcawl, was able to accommodate regular bridge. The Porthcawl club was aware that Sheila was liable to be running late during term time, especially if there was a crisis in the boarding house. Her husband's understanding extended to weekends as well, enabling Sheila to participate in tournaments and congresses and, ultimately, international events.

Sheila's favourite partner was Marjorie Williams, with whom she performed successfully in local and national competitions, winning the Spickett Bowl for West Wales and the Welsh Ladies' Championship on two occasions, leading to selection to represent Wales in the Lady Milne Home internationals. Sheila remembers little of the bridge during her four Lady Milne outings between 1977 and 1984 except that the team did not triumph in the competition; and also that on their first visit to England they came across bidding boxes for the first time, which threw them initially.



The Lady Milne was the only time that husband John voiced any concerns about Sheila's absence: one of her matches was to be played in Northern Ireland at the height of the troubles. She felt she had to go, nonetheless, and remembers the tense atmosphere on the road from the airport and being pulled over several times by armed police and soldiers. Once the bridge started, however, all was well. In her many years of bridge, Sheila has encountered all the top players, made many friends, and enjoyed herself considerably. She puts her success down to the thorough grounding she had from her parents.

The Cramptons' original plan had been to return to Surrey on retirement, but like many incomers to South Wales they made it their home, as did Sheila's mother Dodie, who came to live in Porthcawl after her husband's death. She, like Sheila, soon made her presence felt at the Porthcawl club. Sheila now lives in her mother's house in Newton, enjoying a lovely view across the common to the beautiful old church where she is a regular worshipper.

Sheila is a remarkably fit and active person for somebody of her advanced years, still driving and, as already noted, playing regular bridge at a good level. She does feel frustrated that she can no longer reach the very high standards she was capable of in her younger days, but there is no doubt that she is still a canny

opponent and will not readily present the opposition with an easy ride at the table.

Sheila is an independent-minded person with a down-to-earth, detached view of the vagaries of life. She seems to have few regrets, and regards the time she and her husband spent together at St. John's School as one of the happiest periods of their lives. The fact that only one of her daughters plays bridge, and that on an occasional, social basis, is a source of only mild disappointment, and she seems to have little nostalgia for the days of the dinner-jacketed player, fewer conventions and, supposedly, a kinder, gentler approach to competitive bridge.

Perhaps because she has adapted so well to change, Sheila is still able to enjoy the game which has always been a part of her life, and her approach at the table is model of the behaviour expected of all bridge players at whatever level they are playing. Her polite and courteous approach is not something from another era, but one that all bridge players should adopt every time they play.

Sheila is not one to push herself forward and blow her own trumpet, nor is she really sure she wants all the attention of being a hundred years old, but accepts it as an inevitability and with good grace. I think she would be reluctant to see herself as the role model I have suggested above, but I can think of no better person to exemplify how to grow old successfully, difficult and challenging though that is. She is a much appreciated member of three bridge clubs and we hope to be facing her across the table for many years to come. Congratulations, Sheila, on reaching this milestone, and thank you for the inspiration you have provided to those who hope to be able to remain active and competitive as the years advance.

National Tournament Organiser's Report

Jean Hand's report was inadvertently omitted from the April newsletter. This is an updated version.

The Commodore Hotel in Llandrindod Wells was the venue for the Mixed Pairs Final held in January. This was the first time that we had used the hotel and thankfully most players approved, and I am pleased to say that this year we reached our full 14 tables.

The Open Pairs Final again held at the Commodore, only managed 13 tables, as due to a misunderstanding, 2 pairs did not arrive.

In April we held the Webber Cup Final in Llanidloes Community Centre. Last year we had problems with the venue but since then the building has been improved tremendously and no complaints were heard! Unfortunately, again we had the problem of two teams not turning up to play and my thanks goes to Mike Amos for coping so well at short notice with 16 teams rather than the 18 that were expected. I cannot stress how much of a problem this causes, and if for any reason you are unable to play in any competition please let me or your Area ATO know immediately.

The Teams of Eight final was held in Llanidloes Community Centre on 23rd June.

We have a provisional date of the 28th September for the Ladies event to be held at the Commodore, and hopefully this year will get sufficient support to enable the competition to go ahead. Any women keen to play please contact either myself or Laura Woodruff.

At present the Graded Masters format is still under discussion.

Finally I wish to thank the members of the Management Committee for their support shown, in what for me, has been a difficult year. My thanks once again to Mike and Sarah Amos who have been an enormous help and to all competitors for their continued support.

4. LADY MILNE There were insufficient candidates to justify holding the preliminary trial at the end of January. In the trial held at Wrexham on 19/20th February the results were: 1st: Mrs. S. Crampton, Mrs. M. Williams (Porthcawl); 2nd Mrs M. Pierce, Mrs J. Casey (Cardiff); 3rd Mrs P. Davies, Mrs A. Hyatt (Port Talbot); 4th Mrs J. Newton, Miss J. Newton (Wrexham). The team to play in June in Northern Ireland has yet to be announced.

Extract from the WBU Newsletter, March 1983

A Cautionary Tale by *El Ex-Presidente*



As dummy its nice to get a bit of kip, leaving the taxing matter of making silly contracts to the expert CHO* you have selected for the day's events. At game all playing 5-card majors in a championship teams event you pick up ♠109865, ♥AKQ7, ♦85, ♣64 and pass as dealer. It proceeds:

You	RHO	CHO	LHO
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠			

and you sit back for a relaxing 5 minutes of zombification, but the fun's not over. It continues

You	RHO	CHO	LHO
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Dbl	Pass	4NT (take-out)
Pass	5♣	Dbl	5♦
Dbl	5♥	Dbl	All pass

Rats, so now we have to wake up. Partner leads the jack of hearts!

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

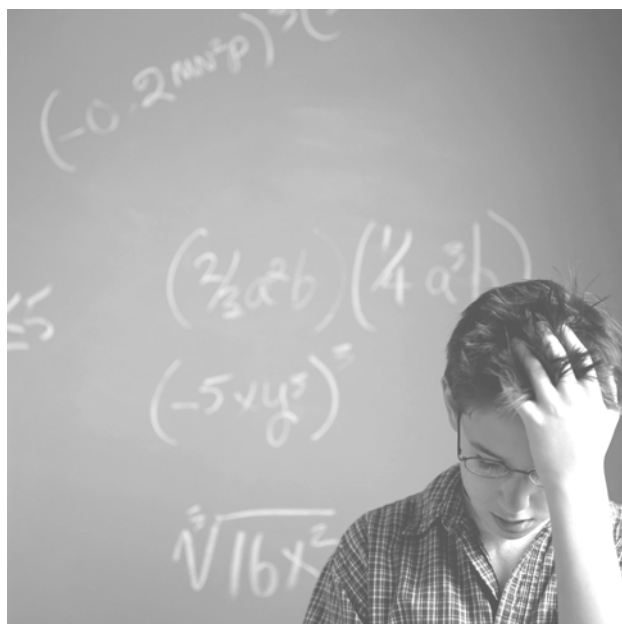
So now what?

Well the optimum defence is to overtake the ♥J and play 4 rounds of trumps. Then partner will get in with ♦A and cash five spades for minus 7 and +2000. This isn't what happened: declarer got away for 1400, but this was still – 13imps. The full hand:

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

So what is the cautionary lesson here? Don't make vulnerable take out doubles at the 4-level? Don't fall asleep in defence? Well the lesson here is to stay cool. West never batted an eyelid and didn't say anything to his partner. Not surprisingly their team won this qualifying round and went on to win the event.

* CHO = Centre-hand opponent



WANTED: EDUCATION OFFICER

The WBU is seeking a volunteer to act as Education Officer, to coordinate teaching and training activities (don't worry, you won't have to deliver any of them).

If you can spare a few hours a month to keep track of what is on offer in Wales, please contact Neville on 01597 850050 or 05602 941492 or email welshbridgeunion@deepvault.com

Meet the new President

Herbie Rowley took over from Paddy at the AGM on 8th June. Many members outside Mid Wales will never have met Herbie, so we asked him to tell us something about himself.

L: Tell us about your background. You don't sound as if you started life in Wales.

H: I was born in Southampton during the Battle of Britain and because of the intense bombing of the area my mother, brother and I were relocated to Lancashire, where I grew up on the Pennines in a remote village (Lanehead). We returned to Southampton in 1944, to find the street almost completely occupied by soldiers waiting for D-Day.

My father was a director of a small family business, which still exists today, and my mother was a housewife. My brother and I progressed to the local Grammar School (King Edward VI Southampton) where my brother excelled and I played games. He went on to University and I went to St Luke's College Exeter to continue the game-playing. I qualified as a teacher of Physical Education in 1965, having met and married my wife Beth, a very understanding (and long suffering) lady of whom I am very proud. We have three boys.

I started teaching in West Sussex in the village of Storrington before moving to Billericay, and then to Durrington on the Salisbury Plain, where I was head of Physical Education and later promoted to the position of Head of Creative Arts and Movement. My claim to fame? Despite its presence on several notice boards, no-one ever added an "F" to the title!

L: How did you come to move to Wales?

H: The arthritis in my back and knees enforced my early retirement in 1990, when we decided to move to Wales, my wife's home country. We lived for many years in Llangrannog in Ceredigion before moving to Felinwynt near Cardigan. I was fortunate to obtain a part-time post with Arthritis Care in Wales in a designated post, which I held for ten years. I enjoyed the job and the good friends I made. I left on 29th February 2012, and became fully retired.



L: What about your family? Did they follow you "down Wales"?

H: As a family we are widespread. My eldest son lives in Cheltenham, middle lad in Swansea and the youngest in Banbury. They all call home regularly. I have two lovely granddaughters, both of whom have recently graduated.

L: What led you to take up bridge? You're obviously very keen.

H: I had an early introduction to card games on Sunday evenings when as a family, father, mother, brother and I would sit down after tea on a Sunday and play whist. A friend in the sixth form at school had his parents teach me bridge so I could make up a four. I played in school and college, and then found work, wife and children too much to leave time for anything but the most physically active of games.

When I moved to Felinwynt I had the good fortune to see a notice advertising a Bridge School. I enrolled and had the pleasure of learning with John and Rosemary Davison who taught me not only how to play Duplicate, but gave me a love of the game. Their school was where my formal bridge education began. I progressed from the School to Cardigan Bridge Club, whose support has been so important to me. I play regularly in Cardigan, Aberaeron and Aberystwyth Clubs and often in Lampeter. I am also a member in Newtown. I play regularly three nights a week. My wife says it is more!

L: What are your interests outside bridge?

H: I have spent most of my life playing games. Not only did I teach them for a living but played them as hard as I could. I played Rugby, Soccer, Basketball, Golf, Cricket and Bridge. I have been Handicap Secretary of Newport Links Golf Club for the past ten years, giving up the post now because I need the time. I have also qualified as a golf referee.

It has been a great life! Beth has supported everything I have done whilst still finding time and energy to follow her interests in History (particularly Cardigan Castle) and gardening. We are involved with the Charity Meals on Wheels.

My interests continue to be my family, the sports. I have always followed and supported Southampton Football Club. I have recently become custodian of my son's collie. He takes me to the beach every day.

Our family holidays are varied. We have been on a couple of cruises, but more usually we visit our boys, or can be found travelling around Wales looking at castles, hill forts or gardens of interest.

L: What has been the best thing about bridge?

H: Without any doubt or pause for thought I can say that the crowning moment in my bridge career was when I became President. I am so proud to have been asked to take the post. I hope to be able to play in all the congresses and to visit as many clubs as I can during this year. I believe that we must do all that we can to support the clubs and help their development.

I have been very lucky in my family and in life. It is there to be enjoyed, and at its heart is bridge. It is a great game

Thank you, Herbie. We wish you an enjoyable year as President.



Heinkel He111 over Southampton, September 1940

EBU BLUE BOOK (changes in announcing and alerting rules)

From 1st August 2013 the new EBU Blue Book comes into force. This (automatically adopted by the WBU) replaces the 'Orange Book'. Also the 'Tangerine Book' has been discontinued (if you ever knew it existed).

Experienced Tournament Directors should download the new booklet from the EBU site, but for club directors a summary of the **major** implications is given below:

Announcing:

An opening 2NT should be announced as '**20 to 22**' (or whatever the range is).

Artificial 'short' 1♣ or 1♦ bids must be announced as '**may be x cards**', where x=0,1,2 (previously these were alerted). *This does not apply to Strong Club or Diamond bids (alertable, as before), nor to Better Minor which by definition contains 3+ cards (neither announced nor alerted, as before).*

Over 2NT, **simple Stayman** (2NT - 3♣) and **transfers** (2NT - 3♦, 2NT - 3♥) should be announced

Alerting:

Above 3NT, **artificial suit bids** on the **whole** of the first round of bidding should be alerted (i.e. the opening bid and the next three calls). One of the consequences is that responder's splinter bid must be alerted (e.g. 1♠-Pass-4♣ (splinter) - the 4♣ must be alerted).

Other Changes

Level 3 has been abandoned. Where clubs have the licensing level allowed at the club written into the constitution/standing orders, I would suggest replacing Level 3 with Level 4. (Level 4 does permit Multi, but Level 2 prohibits many bids and conventions currently used in most clubs.)

Holiday companies should also note this change (a few currently restrict their licensing to Level 3 – no longer valid).

Tony Haworth

FULL SUMMARY TABLE ON NEXT PAGE

ANNOUNCING AND ALERTING SUMMARY				
Opening Bid	Description	Announce	Alert	No Action
1♣ and 1♦	Could be on fewer than 3 cards	"May be X" where X is 0, 1 or 2		
	Natural, 3 or more			✓
	Other (strong, artificial)		✓	
1NT	Balanced	"12 to 14" (or appropriate range) and, if relevant, "may contain a singleton"		
2♣	Strong, Acol, (Benji Acol, etc)		✓	
	Precision	"Intermediate"		
2♦	Weak with diamonds	"Weak"		
	Strong with diamonds	"Strong, forcing" or "Strong non-forcing"		
	Other (Benji, Multi, etc)		✓	
2♥/♠	Weak with hearts/spades	"Weak"		
	Strong with hearts/spades	"Strong, forcing" or "Strong non-forcing"		
	Other (Lucas, Flannery, etc)		✓	
2NT	Balanced	"20 to 22" (or appropriate)		
RESPONSES TO 1NT OR 2NT OPENINGS				
1NT - 2♣ 2NT - 3♣	Simple Stayman (promissory or not) <i>[Note: 5-card Stayman is alerted].</i>	"Stayman"		
1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ 2NT - 3♣ - 3♦	Denies 4 card major			✓
1NT - 2♦ or ♥ 2NT - 3♦ or ♥	Transfer	"Hearts" or "Spades"		
1NT-2♦-2♥ 1NT-2♥-2♠ 2NT-3♦-3♥ 2NT-3♥-3♠	Completion of transfer			✓
BIDS ABOVE 3NT				
Bids above 3NT	Artificial suit bids on 1st round of auction (for this purpose the first round of the bidding is the opening bid and three subsequent calls)		✓	
	Other bids			✓
ACTION OVER OPPONENTS' CALLS UP TO 3NT				
Opponents' call	Meaning of their call	If your double is ...	Alert	No action
A suit at any level	Natural	Take-out		✓
		Anything else	✓	
Does not show the suit (i.e. conventional or not natural)		Showing the suit doubled		✓
		Anything else	✓	
A suit opening	Prepared, Phoney, Short or Nebulous 1♣ or 1♦ opening	Take-out		✓
		Anything else	✓	
No trumps at any level	Natural or conventional	Penalty		✓
		Anything else	✓	
Opponents' call	Meaning of their call	If your Redouble is ...	Alert	No action
Double	Any meaning	for business, shows strength: partner is expected to pass		✓
		Partner is expected to remove	✓	
ACTION OVER OPPONENTS' CALLS ABOVE 3NT				
Opponents' call	Meaning of their call	Other actions ...	Alert	No action
Above 3NT	Any meaning	Lead directing pass	✓	
		Lead directing X or XX for a different suit from the one doubled or redoubled	✓	
		Lightner double of, say 6NT, calling for a specific lead	✓	
		Any other pass, double or redouble		✓

AREA NEWS

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



EAST WALES

Congratulations to the East Wales teams who won the Perry Shield and President's Cup on 8th and 9th June.

EWBA COMPETITIONS

Arthur James Pairs (21st April).

1 st	Geoff Evans, Isabel Evans	58.89%
2 nd	Mick Green, Noelle Bond	58.33%
3 rd	Gwynn Davis, Sue Ingham	58.06%

WBU/EWBA Green Point Events
(YMCA Newport 3rd–4th August)

Swiss Pairs

1 st	David Southcombe, Carmen Ruiz-Castell	118 VP
2 nd	Simon Gottschalk, Aida Aris	104 VP
3 rd	Cathy Smith, Andrew Smith	98 VP

Swiss Teams

1 st	Mark Westley, Richard Harris, Philip Felman, David Birt	99 VP
2 ⁼	Warner Solomon, Robert Baker, Jette Bailey, Alan Bailey	97 VP
2 ⁼	Paul Darby, Steve Dannell, Simon Gottschalk, Chris Rochelle	97 VP

NEW CONGRESS VENUE

From February next year we have a new venue for our congress events, the Lysaghts Institute, Newport. Details are on the EWBA web site.



MID WALES

No information provided.

NORTH WALES

No information provided.

WEST WALES

No information provided.

NOTICE

From the WBU Laws & Ethics Committee

ADMONISHMENT

An exchange of e-mails between two members was referred by the previous WBU President to the WBU Laws & Ethics Committee for consideration under paragraph 19.2.1.3 of the WBU Constitution.

The findings of the L&E were:

- That the initial e-mail, critical of a venue, was not an offence.
- That the reply was an offence.
- That the offensive e-mail fell within the jurisdiction of the WBU L&E as defined by para 19.2.1.2
- That mitigating factors were an apology by the offender, and service to bridge of the offender.
- In the light of the mitigating factors the Committee decided on admonishment without naming the individual publicly.

Patrick Jourdain
Chairman, WBU Laws & Ethics Committee

MARY MOORE

8th July 1940 – 6th July 2013

Mary Moore died on 6th July, two days short of her 73rd birthday. Only a few weeks earlier she had won the Webber Cup by the largest margin ever recorded.



Mary was a Cardiff girl, born in Fairwater. She was the child of her father's second marriage, his first wife having died giving birth to Mary's half-brother. Mary's own mother died when she was seven; she said that she had missed her every single day of her life.

She went to Heathfield House School, leaving at 16, and married in 1961. Her son Paul was born in 1964, and her daughter Karen in 1967.

Mary did part-time youth work in St Peter's church youth club until 1972 when she became a part time worker at Trelai Youth Centre, Ely. Her full-time career resumed in 1974 when she became an Avon Manager. She later became a sales advisor selling new houses. She was a brilliant saleswoman, and once won a trip on the QE2 for selling more houses than anyone else in the country. She eventually took early retirement in 1992 because the evening viewings were interfering with her bridge.

Mary met John in 1972, when he was her boss for the first and, she said, the last time. They married in 1974, and would have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary next year.

Mary started learning bridge in about 1980 because the children were now teenagers, John

was working three or four evenings a week and she was bored. She didn't do boredom. She took to bridge instantly and with her competitive spirit she progressed steadily. She played for Wales on a number of occasions. The highlight was representing Wales in the Seniors Team in the Mind Sports Olympiad which followed the Olympics in 2008. She spent three weeks in Beijing taking on the world.

Mary started teaching bridge in Cowbridge in 2004. Her many students (she had over a hundred at the peak) were often the target of her wicked humour. John often wondered why they paid good money to be insulted. John assisted her, describing himself as a bridge teacher's labourer. He was not immune to her sharp wit: she usually told her students not to take the slightest notice of anything he said, because it was bound to be wrong. Because of her lovely personality many of her students also became friends.

In about 1994 she began to organise holidays abroad with a bridge holiday company. There were some 18 of these, from Montenegro to Slovenia, from Turkey to Italy, from Spain to the Canary Isles. The bridge was secondary, the fun paramount. Many a European restaurant saw a crowd of Welsh hooligans singing the Welsh National Anthem and urging other bewildered diners to join in. Tables were moved, dancing began and a quiet evening meal became a carnival.

Mary was presented with her Grand Master certificate at the Celtic Congress on June 16th, three weeks before she died. She was too ill to play for most of that weekend, but was at dinner on Friday 14th June to celebrate John's 90th birthday. Her last ever bridge session was with John, that weekend.

Mary's family and countless friends were heartbroken, but she faced death with fortitude and humour, even planning her own funeral from her hospital bed. She is survived by John, Paul and Karen, and her grandchildren Emma, 18, Luke, 16 and Cerys, 7.

She was the love of John's life and the light of his life. The love will go on but the light has gone out forever.

Mikey's Musings: No convention without comprehension

I don't play that many conventions, preferring to have good, solid agreements with my partner about style and principles. My objections are that to play a convention, you must i) know what all the continuations mean and ii) play those continuations. Not playing a convention fully is one of my pet hates

Take the ubiquitous Multi. If you haven't come across this before, an opening of 2♦ shows one of several possible hands:

- a weak hand with 6 hearts or 6 spades,
- a strong balanced hand (usually 20-22)
- and possibly another strong hand, an Acol Strong 2 opener in a minor
- (and in the olden days a strong 4-4-4-1 was possible)

It would take two more articles to go into the various responses. If you are interested, a book called "The Mysterious Multi" by Horton and van Cleef has just been published.

What I object to is some of the better players' using it in the clubs for the purpose of confusing club players who have no defence to it. The Multi is rightly not allowed in Level 2 (No Fear) competitions for this very reason. And if a partner wants to use it in a casual game, I want to know what all the continuations mean.

Most players don't play it properly. Take this hand:

♠ 5 3
♥ K 10 2
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ A 9 6 5

Partner opens 2♦ Multi. Now the correct response here is 2♠ (whether the next hand passes or doubles). The message is "If you have spades, I want to play there, if you have hearts we can play at the 3-level because we have nine trumps". But I have seen players bid 2♥ on this hand. Excuses range from "I wanted to keep the bidding low" (i.e. you thought you might buy the contract at the 2-level) via "You might have a good hand" (90% of the time they will have a Weak 2) to "I wanted to see what you've got" (a clear error - against good players you won't get to see).

Against club players, this might work, but if you are playing against decent players they

will bid. So if fourth seat bids 3♣, for example, you will not know which suit partner has *unless you started by responding 2♠*, which allows partner to compete by bidding 3♥ if he has hearts, and pass if he has spades.

You have a duty to your team-mates to make the right bid in a match against good opposition. Here is another hand:

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

Partner opens 2♦ Multi, and the next hand doubles. What bid should you make?



The only bid is 4♦: "Partner I want to preempt at the 4 level in your suit." If you do not get the bidding high as soon as possible, you let down your team-mates, particularly if their opposition are playing Weak 2s. Their auction has just gone 2♥-X-4♥ or 2♠-X-4♠. Bidding only 2♥ "to see what partner has got" or "in case partner has a good hand" is not good enough.

If partner has one of the good hands she will cope. With 20-22 she will bid 4♥ or 4♠ if she holds a 4-card major and 4NT to play if she doesn't. Look what actually happened when this hand made a "waiting bid":

	West	North	East	South
	2♦ ¹	Dbl	2♥ ²	Pass
	2♠ ³	Dbl ⁴	4♠ ⁵	5♦
1	Multi			
2	"Waiting bid"			
3	Spades, weak			
4	Extra values, still takeout			
5	Too late, too late!			

South had a weak hand with diamonds. Note that the lack of an immediate pre-empt allowed his partner to make a second take-out double at a comfortable level and reach the making game. At the other table, North's hand was not good enough to double again after the start 2♠ (weak) – X – 4♠ - Pass – Pass, and 4♠ drifted only one off for an 11-IMP gain.

Nowadays 2NT is never natural, except with a dinosaur like me. But as I said, I don't play that many conventions: I like to have lots of agreements, such as "if it sounds natural, it is". One of those conventions I have so far avoided is the "Good-Bad 2NT convention". I have never seen a detailed explanation of how this is played, but I have seen a few players use it (and miss games). I never understood the "good" part of it, until our esteemed editor kindly explained that it is played in competitive auctions and 2NT is either "Bad in my suit, or Good in yours".

So 2NT is still natural with me, although I understand that good players claim that it never comes up. It also helps if you remember you still have that particular club in the bag, so here is a tale of egg on face for Mikey:

Playing in the Webber final, I hold:

♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ Q 7 6
♦ K 10 6
♣ K 4 2

The auction starts:

Mikey	North	Laura	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
?			

And it's my go. So what did I bid?

Pass looks a bit feeble, but luckily I still have a natural 2NT available. Those who do not will have to make a "competitive" double, just to show cards. Which, unfortunately, is what I did.

The auction continues:

Mikey	North	Laura	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Dbl (oops)	3♠	4♠*	Pass

4♠ from partner was "pick a minor". She has realised that my competitive double doesn't

just show cards, it promises at least one minor, and perhaps both, because with the hand above, I can bid 2NT. Since her hand is ♠3, ♥KJ95, ♦AJ97, ♣AJ87 she knows we must have a fit, and because I haven't bid 2NT I've probably got nothing much in spades. Er ...

Oh joy, I have to pick a minor.

To cut a long story short, I played in 5♣ minus 4 when we can make ten tricks in no trumps. Luckily the opponents thought we knew what we were doing and were kind enough not to double. Even more luckily the other table went two off in 3NT, so the loss was only 3 IMPs.

A week later, and Laura and I are at the Spring Foursomes in Stratford, the English Bridge Union's premier teams event, full of good teams who know what they are doing. And guess what? I pick up:

♠ J 9 6 5
♥ A J 6 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ Q 7

The auction starts:

Mikey	MLHO	Laura	MRHO
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♥
2NT	[yay, I remembered]		

I figured that 2NT was the most descriptive bid I could make, so that's what I bid.

And the bidding stopped ...

My left hand opponent looked at Laura. My right hand opponent looked at Laura. Laura looked at MLHO, wondering why the bidding had stopped. MLHO looked again at my 2NT bid, lying on the table. Finally, surmising that if she remained silent we would be there all day, Laura said "I'm not alerting it because the bid is natural".

MLHO, a little flustered, eventually bid 3♥, and Laura leapt to 5♣. She made this, they missed game at the other table, and that was 11 IMPs in.

I didn't realise that the natural bid of 2NT would cause so much confusion. It seems that no-one at the top level plays it any more. They are all playing Good-Bad.

Mikey

Celtic Connections

by Geoff Evans

A recent issue of the Newsletter (92) mentioned ex-Welsh international Gerry Needham. I first met him in the Autumn of 1979, playing rubber bridge at the old South Glamorgan Club in Cardiff.

That summer, I had finished a three-year stint farming in Saudi Arabia, and took an extended holiday making my way back to Wales. One of my stops was to watch the two-week European Bridge Championships at Lausanne in Switzerland. I believe these were the first championships to use screens in the Closed Room; these were operated by a team from the Young Chelsea bridge club, enjoying a working holiday.

The Viewgraph commentators were Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro.

Being patriotic, I started kibitzing the Great Britain team, but soon changed to the Irish team who were more receptive towards supporters - so much so that after a few matches, I was asked to stand in a few times as NPC for the Irish Ladies, as they had no captain, and the Open captain couldn't be in two places at once. As I remember, my only duties consisted of recording the hands.

The pair that I watched the most were Peter Pigot and Joe MacHale, who were always happy to discuss the set that they'd just played, whether good or bad. The Irish Open team achieved their highest ever finish, winning the Bronze medal, and the team were kind enough to invite me to their table for the presentation banquet, where much celebrating took place.

Some weeks later, I met Gerry. He had not played bridge for several years but was coming back into the fold. Whilst playing, I mentioned the European Bridge and Ireland's success. Gerry was immediately interested, and asked me who was in the Irish team. This was Monty Rosenberg and Rex Anderson; Adam Mesbur and Nick Fitzgibbon; and Joe and Peter.

"Joe MacHale once saved my life", said Gerry. I wasn't expecting that! This had happened almost thirty years previously. Joe and Gerry were very friendly, having represented their countries at both bridge and tennis. In March 1950 Gerry had flown out to Dublin to watch

the Welsh Rugby team win their eighth Triple Crown in the Five Nations Championship. After the game, Joe took Gerry to a poker game which went on all night, causing Gerry to oversleep and miss his flight home. The plane was a charter flight, and approaching Llandow Aerodrome at 3.05 pm on Sunday March 12th, the plane stalled and crashed. Only three people survived; 75 passengers and 5 crew were killed. At the time, it was the world's worst aviation disaster.

The plane was a British Avro Tudor V, which was banned from public service on Britain's publicly owned international airlines because there had been 54 previous casualties. Abercarn and Llanharan rugby clubs both lost six members and Risca three. The disaster is recorded on the Llanharan club badge by a propeller, and on the Abercarn club badge by a black cross. A memorial plaque records the crash site. The plane's owners were later fined £50 and ordered to pay £100 costs for breaching the airworthiness certificate for the plane.

Gerry and Joe are no longer with us, but the Celtic connection lives on through Joe's daughter Aiofe, who has been Peter Goodman's significant other for some years.



The match was at Ravenhill Park, Belfast. Wales won 6-3. On 25 March in the final game against France at Cardiff Arms Park, the crowd stood in silence while five buglers sounded a Last Post tribute to the memory of the supporters who had died in the plane crash. Wales won that match 21-0, to add the Grand Slam to the Triple Crown we had taken at Ravenhill.



COMPETITION ROUND-UP

RESULTS

Webber Cup

(Llanidloes, 27th-28th April)

1 st	Mary Moore, Kevin Maddox, Steve Webb, Tim Barsby	245 VP
2 nd =	Tony Disley, Roger Penton, Laura Woodruff, Mike Close	187 VP
2 nd =	Gwynn Davis, Sue Ingham, Simon Gottschalk, Chris Rochelle	187 VP

Perry, Spickett & President's Cup

(Prestatyn, 8th-9th June)

Perry Shield

1 st	East Wales	156 VP
2 nd	Mid Wales	133 VP
3 rd	North Wales	128 VP
4 th	West Wales	122 VP

Spickett Bowl

1 st	North Wales	146 VP
2 nd	East Wales	138 VP
3 rd	West Wales	137 VP
4 th	Mid Wales	119 VP

President's Cup

1 st	East Wales	174 VP
2 nd	West Wales	144 VP
3 rd	North Wales	125 VP
4 th	Mid Wales	91 VP

Teams of Eight Final

(Llanidloes, 16th June)

1 st	LLANDUDNO: Sheila Shea, Wyn Williams, Mike Clare, Richard Stedman, Beth Wennell, Barry Wennell, Andrea Martin, Brian Schofield	90 VP
2 nd	WELSHPOOL: Paul Gagne, Diana Harris, Alan Screen, George Novak, Keith Shuttleworth, Brian Nicholls, Roger Bowles, John Waller	90 VP
3 rd	SWANSEA: Denys Maddock, Eleanor Price, Colin Thomas, Lavinia Thomas, Anne Davies, Keith Davison, Ian Grove, Martin Ley	89 VP

Cambria Cup

(Final played on 11th June)

Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Paul
Denning, Patrick Shields

beat

Jean Hand, Peter Hand, Julian Merrill, Joan
Murray

Welsh Cup

(Final played on 7th July)

Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Paul
Denning, Patrick Shields, Tony Ratcliff,
David Jones

beat

Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Patrick Jourdain,
David McAndrew, Gary Jones, Tim Rees



David Southcombe and Carmen Ruiz-Castell,
winners of the East Wales Swiss Pairs

CALENDAR

Sept 2013

2 nd -6 th	WBU Autumn Sim	Clubs
7 th -8 th	Invitation Pairs	St Mellons
21 st -22 nd	International training	N & S Wales

Oct 2013

5 th -6 th	Open Trial I	East Wales
13 th	1-day GP Swiss Pairs	Northop
19 th -20 th	Open Trial II	East Wales

Nov 2013

15 th -17 th	Porthcawl Congress	Seabank
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Nov 2013

30 th -1 st	WBU Swiss Teams	Llangollen
8 th	Nat Mixed Qualifiers	Areas

A beautiful spot

The photograph on p.22 of the April issue generated the following letter (forwarded to me by Neville) from a sharp-eyed reader:

Hi Neville

Do you know anything about the photo on Page 22 of the Newsletter? It looks very much to me like High Force in Upper Teesdale, North Pennines – an area I know very well (see photos taken by me 4 years ago). I believe it is the highest waterfall in England, it certainly has a large volume of water coming over the Great Whin Sill which is a geological feature going across the North of England. The Sill is a volcanic intrusion into the sedimentary bedrock – hope you're impressed by my knowledge! I'm actually a frustrated geologist who was not allowed, by restrictive practices in Girls' Grammar Schools of the 1950's, to pursue a career I really cared about. Apparently Geology was for boys!

However, there is an upside to all of this, had I pursued that career you and I would probably not have met – how we would both have missed out!

Regards, Sylvia (*Hilton, of Rhayader BC*)

Hi Sylvia

It is indeed High Force. It's a pun on the preceding article. Val Kennewell once told me she and Steve enjoyed working out the connection between the photo and the article, so I try to oblige.

Regards, Laura

Hi Laura

Thanks for your comment. I just feel the photo would have had more relevance if you had put a tag line on it saying what the name of the waterfall was. Most people in Wales will not know of it. Incidentally, "Force" is a variation/corruption of the Norse word "foss", a legacy of the Viking presence in that part of Britain. On the North Yorkshire Moors there are waterfalls with the name "foss" attached to them, also in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as in "Janet's Foss" near Malham.



Thoroughly enjoyed the Newsletter and am acting on several things mentioned therein.
Regards, Sylvia

Hi Sylvia

It would defeat the object if I put in a caption - just think how much fun you've had identifying it.

I looked up waterfalls on Wikipedia and it appears Cautley Spout is 180 metres high (though maybe it doesn't count, being a cascade?), compared with the mere 21.5 metres of High Force. We were taken as children to see Hardraw Force, which is also higher. Wikipedia says there are at least five waterfalls in England called High Force.

I think *foss* must be related to the Latin *fossa*: it seems too far-fetched to think that a Norse word meaning waterfall is unrelated to a Latin word meaning ditch or trench. I suppose they have the same Indo-European root.

Anyway, I'm glad you enjoyed the newsletter. Perhaps I'll put a piece in the next one about High Force, quoting your emails. A bit of non-bridge leavening pleases the readers.

Regards, Laura

I hope readers found the geology as interesting as I did. And it's nice to know that at least one reader was paying attention. L

Ah, Psyche from the regions

Tony Haworth's article on psychs (or psyches, if you prefer) on pp.17-18 shows the difference it makes if the Director knows someone has psyched before.

Few of us report psychs, so few habitual psychers come to the notice of directors. If we all start putting them in the Psych Book (well, it's actually a form, copies of which should be available at every club or tournament), habitual psychers will have to be more careful. To report a psych is not to accuse the opponents of malpractice, it's simply protecting future opponents, who would otherwise have no reason to know that psyching has become a habit with a particular pair.

WBU Club Teams of Eight Final 2013 *by Simon Gottschalk*



The final this year was held in Llanidloes which is in Mid Wales (unless you live in South Wales and then it is, of course, in North Wales). The venue itself was good with lots of space, and the WBU laid on tea, coffee and sandwiches. The final proved to be a very close-run event with six of the nine teams in contention and only 10 VPs separating them. Congratulations to the joint winners from Welshpool and Llandudno. This is an excellent event for bridge clubs across Wales and I hope we can encourage more clubs to enter teams into the many local heats.

I played in the Gwent Bridge Academy team and remember this hand because our teammates were surprised I had made the 6♦ slam which had gone off when they defended it:

Vul: NS ♠ A Q 5 2

Dlr: East ♥ A 10

♦ J 9 8

♣ A K 9 3

♠ 8 6

♥ KQJ98743

♦ none

♣ 8 7 2

♠ K J 10 4 3

♥ 6

♦ 6 5 3

♣ Q 10 5 4

♠ 9 7

♥ 5 2

♦ A K Q 10 7 4 2

♣ J 6

East may have an obvious pass, but if you are playing 2-suited openings (e.g. Lucas), a 2♠ opening is possible and could work here by getting West off to a winning spade lead against 6♦. Many Easts will, however, pass. The South hand does have an opening bid. Which would you choose? Gambling 3NT works well here and North will have no problem bidding the slam. I did not have Gambling 3NT as an option (I use this to show a good pre-empt in a major), so my choices were between 1♦, 3♦, 4♦ and 5♦!

As it happens all routes should lead to the slam, but maybe I chose the hardest. (Note that only Gambling 3NT enables North to become declarer, protecting the ♠K and making the slam 100%.) I opened 1♦ (Precision 11-15, with at least two diamonds), West overcalled 4♥ and my partner doubled.

This was not an outright penalty double, but just says “we have the balance of points; can you do something sensible?”.

There is a strong inference that partner holds four spades. If I had held a balanced hand I would have passed the double, but it was now easy to bid 5♦ which partner raised to 6. Another option for North (but not on this actual layout) would be 4NT which says I have two places to play.

So how to play 6♦ after the ♥K lead? I won with the ace and East followed. If the ♠K is onside there is no problem, but it is always worth postponing finesses until you have exhausted all the other options.

It looks as if East has only one heart, so it may be possible to endplay East, or even West if he started with a singleton spade. West did not, however, lead a spade (the great Italian player Garozzo advises that if you have a singleton you should lead it). I decided to play a few rounds of trumps to put the defenders under pressure and try to get a count of the hand. Two of West’s early discards were clubs. It is usually wrong to throw away cards in suits declarer holds, so West should have thrown hearts at every opportunity. I played six rounds of diamonds (discarding two spades and a heart from dummy), and then a club to the ace. When West showed up with a third club I had a fairly good count of the hand. It was a certainty that East held the ♣Q, so I exited with a small club to the queen and East was end-played to lead from ♣10x into my K9 or ♠Kx into my AQ.

So we return to those enterprising Easts who opened 2♠ (it does usually pay to get into the bidding early) and their partners who led the ♠8. Taking the 8 as top of a doubleton, declarer can see a possible squeeze against East, but without rectifying the count by losing a trick early on it is impossible to get to the correct end position. There is a squeeze against West if he holds a club guard, but again this is not the case here. So the slam fails on a spade lead if played by South.

Another slam example from the same event:

South: "Director!!..."

Director: "How can I help you?"

South: "East-West have just played in INT for 120, but everyone else was in 2♦ for 110. Look at what East has opened INT with! Surely we're due an adjusted score?"

The Director asks East-West to table their hands

♠ K75	♠ 843
♥ K32	♥ 74
♦ KJ76	♦ AQ86532
♣ J86	♣ 9

Director: "Well it's obvious that East has in fact psyched, and it's such a major distortion that it's a red psych. I'll award North-South an Average Plus, and East-West an Average Minus ... [to East] When I'm directing I won't let players get away with bids like that, so please don't do it again."

How did the Director do? Not very well. He made three decisions, two of which were incorrect; and one statement, also incorrect. He is obviously not fully aware of the rules that apply when a player's hand doesn't fit his bid (according to his system).

The Investigation

When a Director is called to the table in this situation, he should first look at the hand of the alleged psycher.

A hand that doesn't fit the description given by the bid can be classified as one of three kinds:

Psych: defined as a *deliberate* and *gross* misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length. Usually deployed to confuse opponents.

Deviation: defined as a *deliberate* but *minor* misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length.

Misbid (or mistaken call): defined as an *inadvertent* misstatement of honour strength and/or length. Usually the result of a player's forgetting his system, or not seeing a previous bid (this is not the same as a *misexplanation*, which is covered by a different Law).

Differentiating between a psych and a deviation is subjective, but being one point adrift from the agreed range, for example; or pre-empting with a six-card suit when systemically it should be seven; would usually

only be a deviation. Usually this distinction doesn't matter, since the resolution is often the same - see below.)

NB: opening INT with 4-4-4-1 is normally classed as a psych unless it's on your convention card. Even then, there are rules about what the singleton can be.

The Charge

Psyching is not illegal*: "A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents." (Law 40 C 1).

* *The ban on psyching a Game Force was rescinded some time ago. The ban on psyching Multi 2♦ at Level 3 has now also gone, because Level 3 has gone.*

What matters is how the psycher's partner responds. Whether Player A has psyched, deviated or misbid, it is his *partner*, *Player B's*, *response* which is classified as **red**, **amber**, or **green**, according to the extent to which he has made allowances for the possibility that Player A *may* have psyched or deviated or misbid. This is known as 'fielding'. Fielding is more likely if Player A habitually psyches or if Players A and B have undisclosed partnership understandings:

"Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system" (more of Law 40C1).

A player's response to his partner's psych or misbid is:

- **red** if the only rational explanation for Player B's action is that Player B thought Player A had psyched or deviated or misbid, *and this was not obvious from the opponents' subsequent actions*.
- **amber** if Player B has been conservative or chosen (from among alternatives) an action which allows for the possibility that partner has psyched or deviated or misbid.
- **green** if his bidding is perfectly normal (he hasn't fielded the infringement).

*There is another classification: a **blue** psych – an apparent intent to field a psych when in fact partner hasn't actually psyched - but there is no official recognition of this in the current regulations.*

The categories **red**, **amber** and **green** apply equally to psychs, deviations, and misbids, but since deviations and misbids are not primarily intended to deceive the opponents, Director's rulings tend to be somewhat less draconian: **red** status is much more rarely accorded.

The verdict

In the situation above:

1. The Director has correctly determined that East has psyched. The divergence is too extreme to be classed as a deviation.
2. The Director was wrong to classify East's bid as a **red** psych. It is *West's response* that makes East's action either **red**, **amber** or **green**. To decide whether the psych is **red**, **amber** or **green** he therefore needs to look at *West's* hand and listen to *West's* explanation). What would be the normal thing for West to do after East opens 1NT?

Many players would bid 2♠ or 2NT showing an 11 count, but West could reasonably argue that the unsupported ♣J, the poor intermediates and the flatness of the hand should allow him to devalue it.

There is therefore some doubt. I would classify this as an **amber** psyche.

If West held ♠K75 ♥K3 ♦K1074 ♣K862 instead he would have no excuse and the psych and field would be classified as **red**.

If West held ♠K75 ♥K32 ♦J974 ♣K86 he has acted perfectly normally and his action would be classified as **green**.

3. The Director's warning to East was wrong. The Laws do not prohibit psyching, so he should not threaten East in this way.

Clubs or Associations are allowed to have their own supplementary regulations banning certain psychic calls, but few do. The problem with such bans is that the Director would forever be settling arguments as to whether a bid was a psych (banned) or a deviation (allowed).

The sentence

How should the Director have punished the offenders?

Red psychs

The Director is right to adjust the score to Average+/Average- (unless the actual score was better for the non-offenders). But there is also a mandatory disciplinary penalty of at least 10%. The most the offending side should be able to score on the board is 30%.

Amber or green psychs

The score stands, at least for the time being.

BUT once a psych has been classified as **amber**, any further psychs will result in both the second and the original psych's being reclassified as **red**. This is because there is now reasonable proof that the players have an undisclosed partnership understanding.

The same penalty structure applies to deviations and misbids. The only difference is that the 10% Disciplinary Penalty is not normally applied in these situations.

There is a case for amending the definitions of the three types of 'not having your bid'.

For example, partner opens 1♦; you hold ♠KQ ♥A63 ♦AQ843 ♣763. What forcing bid can you make? Many would make a 'waiting bid' of 2♣, which is a deviation if it's not on the system card. But I've seen 3♥ bid when systemically this is a splinter. Most Directors would still classify it as a deviation, ignoring the word '*minor*' in the definition. It would be harsh to classify it as a psych - there is no intent to deceive the opponents (but deception is not part of the definition). Although the penalties are almost the same, players don't want the stigma of being a 'psychic'.

The solution is surely to expand the definition of a psych to include '*... with the primary intention of deceiving the opponents*'. The word '*minor*' should also be removed from the definition of deviation and replaced with '*... without any intention of deceiving the opponents*'. Law makers please note.

Alternatively, a new category of '*temporising bid*' could be introduced. Bids are already often described as 'temporising' but without any legal backing.

Around the Ash Bucket



The unwonted spell of Mediterranean weather has brought with it some strange phenomena. I am to be found chopping wood, admittedly using an electric table saw rather than an axe, in our sun-trap courtyard; or strimming the nettles which have grown unchecked for the past three damp and dismal summers; or even occupying a deckchair in the front garden, reading a book. It takes a temperature hovering around the 80s (in old money) and very still air to get me outside, away from the gas fire.

Visiting my little sister in Devon, to which she has recently moved from Los Angeles, I spent half a day on Charmouth beach while my nieces hunted for fossils. By the time we left I had a fairly deep tan; unfortunately I had forgotten to roll up my cropped jeans so was left with a horizontal divide across my shins, brown below the line, whitish above. So no skirts for me until the tan has faded.

One unfortunate result of the soaring temperatures has been the switching-on of the air conditioning, an invention I regard as the work of the devil. Admittedly I am unusually nesh*, but we do not live in Madras (now known as Chennai, as all good cricket fans know) or Equatorial Guinea, or even Los Angeles, so seldom experience the kind of heat that kills people. At the Mid Wales Congress, where the Metropole's air conditioning was blasting out an arctic gale, poor Sarah Amos spent much of her time switching the machine on and off in response to the complaints of those who were (on the one hand) shivering with cold or (on the other) claiming to be fainting with heat. One opponent asked me why I hadn't brought a cardigan, to which I rather testily replied that I didn't see why I should dress for winter when it was 85° outside. How do those who can't tolerate our very moderate hot weather think road labourers or athletes cope? Or indeed people who live in Equatorial Guinea?

To return to the unusual phenomena, the mulberry tree we planted in 2003 has lurched into sudden growth, and is now noticeably taller than it was this time last year, and very leafy so we have had to protect it from the

goat. Mulberries are notoriously slow-growing, so we do not expect it to resemble a proper tree until about 2043. I suppose one of us might still be around to enjoy it. It shelters the mortal remains of Monkey the cat, who died in May 2003, aged 18.



A mulberry tree not much resembling ours

The strangest thing, though, happened one night at the beginning of August. The bats who live in the roof (migrating in summer from the South-facing front roof to the tree-sheltered side roof) suddenly flocked en masse into the creeper that grows around our bedroom window. The cats, who had been sleeping as cats do most of the time, sprang into action, hurling themselves against the window and trying to climb up the glazing bars to get at these tempting morsels, who after all appear to a cat (not to mention to Strauss) to be flying mice.

Not long after we first moved in, TomTom dived out of the open bathroom window and caught a bat in mid-air. His realisation that he couldn't dive back in again was one of those cartoon moments.

Laura

* *Unusually susceptible to cold weather; English dialect (Staffordshire, East Midlands, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Shropshire). From Old English hnesce meaning feeble, weak, or infirm; cognate with 16th century Dutch nesch meaning damp or foolish. Some readers may feel that these are apt descriptions.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' WELSH CUP

The oldest Welsh competition is being revived. This year it will be held as a 1-day event on **SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER**, in Llandrindod Wells. Entries to Jean Hand by 21st September.

If you would like to play but cannot find a partner or team-mates, please contact Laura, who is keeping a list of expressions of interest, on 01656 741748 or laura@lauradora.eu

North Wales Autumn GP Swiss Pairs Holiday Inn, Northop, near Chester 13th October 2013

Entries: Jean Hand
Tel: 01244 830246 Mobile: 07947 161224
email jeanhand15cc@talktalk.net
Closing date 5th October



Porthcawl Congress Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl 15th – 17th November 2013

Entries: Irene Thomas
Tel: 01446 407734 Mob: 07870815464
email: r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com



WBU Llangollen Congress Bryn Howel Hotel, Trevor, Llangollen 30th November & 1st December 2013

Entries: Neville Richards
Tel. 05602 941492, email wbu@deepvault.biz



AROUND THE CONGRESSES

2ND CELTIC CONGRESS (14th - 16th June)

Friendly International Matches

	Open	Ladies	Club	TOTAL
WBU	96	81	122	299
CBAI	84	99	53	236

Swiss Pairs

1 st	Jennifer Wardell, Chris Morley	130 VP
2 nd	Diana Jones, Adrian Thomas	125 VP
3 rd =	Liz Commins, Davis Stevenson	124 VP
3 rd =	Martin David, Alan Heath	124 VP

Men's Pairs

1 st	Adrian Thomas, Simon Richards	65.6%
2 nd	Glyn Williams, Glan James	55.2%
3 rd	John Jamieson, Bob Alderdice	53.8%

Ladies' Pairs

1 st	Roz Bavin, Jennifer Wardell	59.4%
2 nd	Colette Davies, Binnie Job	52.1%
3 rd	Irene Delahunty, Lee Collier	50.4%

Mixed Pairs

1 st =	Liz Commins, David Stevenson	65.5%
1 st =	Diana Jones, Kevin Maddox	65.5%
3 rd	Judith Graham-Jones, Gareth Jones	60.0%

Teams

1 st	Dai Hayes, Andrew Phillips, Gill Howells, Keith Bellamy	147 VP
2 nd	Liz Commins, David Stevenson, John Jamieson, Bob Alderdice	143 VP
3 rd	Jennifer Wardell, Horia Maior, Adrian Micusan, Chris Morley	141 VP

WBU SWISS PAIRS (6th – 7th July)

1 st	Ron Davis, Alan Oddie	176 VP
2 nd	Paddy Murphy, Liz Commins	165 VP
3 rd	John Sansom, Pam Pierce	164 VP

MID WALES CONGRESS (13th-14th July)

1st	Cheryl Duddell, Dave Duddell, Diana Avis, Colin Wilson	175 VP
2nd	Diane Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija, David S Jones, Tony Ratcliff	163 VP
3rd	Trevor Towers, Mark Roderick, John Salisbury, Mike Tedd	162 VP

Consolation Events

A	Dave Keen, Jean Keen, Peter Hand, Jean Hand	41 VP
B	Kath Moore, Marlene Carter, Fiona Noyce, Kaye Bennett	41 VP
C	Pete Cole, Jan Cole, Julie Hodgson, Mike Morrall	48 VP

Bridge Tutor Partnerships

What being a Tutor in partnership with the WBU means

As a Bridge Tutor/Teacher you will receive a substantial level of support from the WBU.

The WBU will provide you with a hosted website with a sub domain name of your own choosing and associated email address if required. You won't have to be a website expert to use it! You will be able to upload all your own details including course details, club details, pictures and club news. It will come with a customer enquiry form to service your course dates. There will be no cost attached to the website. All websites may be browsed individually or through the master website.

- Professional help with advertising copy for tutors/teachers. This is for your use when advertising in the local press or even to use for flyers to give out in your neighbourhood.
- The WBU ACOL Teaching Course is divided into 6 sets of 10 lessons. Each Lesson consists of:

- Teachers' Notes (a summary of lesson content, not for issue to learners)
- Examples of the points covered for use on an overhead or blackboard, or as cards on the tables)
- Hands to play (a selection of hands you can make up in advance to use as practice)
- Handout(s) for the learners to keep, summarising the lesson content.
- A quiz to use as Homework

This professional material gives the tutor/teacher a unique selling point when compared with non-affiliated teachers and is provided by the WBU free of any charge (available by download or on disk).

- The Partner Club may issue Master Points free of charge for supervised play sessions of 12-16 boards. Students will love collecting Master Points. They give an independent record of achievement from the governing body of the game very early on. It inspires confidence and a continuing sense of achievement. Because they are playing in their own protected environment

they can achieve the early ranks quite quickly.

- WBU membership to students for the first year of tuition at a reduced fee of £1.00 with a 50% reduction off the then current rate in the second year. This means that the students are looked after by the WBU and the tutor/teacher.
- Start-up sets of tables, cloths, bidding boxes and boards at a discounted price.
- A full set of Power Point slides and notes is also available at no cost.
- An initial stock of decks of cards (24) at no cost.
- Special National Simultaneous Pairs Events open only to students.
- Protection under the insurance policies held by the WBU (details on request).
- Free DBS checks (formerly known as CRB checks) if eligibility requirements are met.

Contact Neville for further details.

TONY CASEY

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Tony Casey on 8th July, after a long illness. He was 64.



Tony represented Wales in 12 Camrose matches, playing with the late Alan Pierce, and had also been Non-Playing Captain of the Camrose team. He won many trophies at national and club level.

Tony is survived by his wife Jill and son Aidan.





Masterpoint Promotions, March – July 2013

Congratulations to Tony Disley and Linda Greenland on their promotion to Grand Master

Local Master								
Nayland J	Anderson	R	Richard	Cole	W	Alan	Grant	BR
Margaret	Barnes	CR	Sandra	Collin	MG	Susan	Greenwood	CBY
Vanessa	Beacham	MG	Peter	Coode	S	Anne	Harley	CD
Jean	Board	C	Bryn	Davies	NT	Vince	Haskins	GA
Margaret	Bolwell	C	Julie	Davies	NT	Anne	Hilary-Jones	SU
David	Bowen	BR	Keith	Edwards	GA	Mary	Hill	K
Diane	Coates	PN	Dorothy	Evans	R	Eira	Jones	BRE
Kath	Coates	PN	Eira	Evans	CD	Dave	Lea	MG
Clive	Cripps	W	Martin	Gregson	S	Debbie	Lea	MG
Ian	Finlay	A	Gareth	Humphreys	CN	Vanessa	Mason	GA
Jo	Glynn	GA	David	James	PN	Arthur	Matheson	C
Ken	Hannah	BV	Jean	James	PN	Mike	Morrall	D
Val	Hartrey	MG	Ann	Johnson	NT	Freda	Owens	MER
Brian	Hatcher	MG	Doreen	Jones	W	Peter	Pendry	C
Brenda	Hobbs	R	Valerie	King	W	Rosie	Preece	S
Mary	Hugh	CD	Donald	Lovett	R	Hywel	Probert	T
Irene	Jones	R	Tulsi	Mahanty	C	Jean	Richards	CR
Janet	Kerwin-Davey	NT	Sally	Manousis	GA	Barbara	Sainsbury	C
Mary	Lougher	VOG	Gwen	Morgan	K	John	Spottiswoode	R
Rod	McKerlich	C	Yvonne	Mort	R	Selwyn	Sugarman	R
Gwilym (Jim)	Moody	R	Pauline	Onions	K	Anne	Thomas	MG
David	Mort	R	David M	Potter	BRE	Barry	Thorne	T
Norma	Phinnemore	MG	Dave	Reed	BV	Maureen	Treverton-Jones	GA
Henry	Roberts	R	Brian	Richardson	CN	Derek	Wadeson	PR
Madhu	Saigal	R	Jeffrey	Ridd	PT	Jeff	Williams	R
Allan	Snelgrove	GA	Brenda	Roberts	R	District Master		
Enid	Snelgrove	GA	Rae	Roberts	PT	Mary	Barrett	R
Rita	Trew	S	Gordon	Rothwell	R	David	Crocker	PN
Sharon	Webster	PR	Sudir	Saigal	R	Peter	Davies	C
Eileen	Wofle	R	Daphne	Simpson	LET	Gail	Davis	NP
Rob	Worthington	CD	David	Stringer	NP	Liz	Fowler	WS
Mike	Yeo	A	Barbara	Walsh	GA	Andy	Fryer	RY
Club Master			Kenneth	Walsh	GA	Kathleen	Grossey	P
Gillian	Ames	S	Sarah	Wilcox	C	Margaret	Macdonald	BEN
			Area Master			Molly	MacDonald	GA
Philip	Ansell	C	David	Bolwell	C	Joan	Murray	DEE
Brenda	Badham	T	David	Bowen	WS	Barry	Marsh	C
Carol	Baron	MG	Brian	Casson	CBY	John	Morris	CAS
Bert	Bates	MG	Betty	Corby	R	Sadie	Morton	RY
Gwyneth	Bates	MG	Ann	Dassen	T	Pamela	Richards	T
Leslie	Blincow	PN	Peter	Dutton	C	Chris	Roberts	R
Brian	Chadwick	S	Julia	Evans	MG	Lynda	Thomas	BEN
Mike	Clarke	GA	Howard	Goss	S	E Clyde	Turner	R

John Wilson A	Dennis Lansing R	Premier Master
Derek Adams C	Jean Pollard MER	Doreen Anthony A
County Master	Keith Richards S	Sarah Hurst W
Kevin Collins K	Valerie Stoyle R	Kim Morgan L
Douglas Colmer Y	Jeff Thomas A	Alun Richards A
Peter Craig PN	Gillian Young WS	David Stevens CN
Hilary Davis MER	One Star Master	Barrie Waite MG
Graham Good C	Elwin Ackon BEN	Regional Master
Charlotte Ingham C	Peter Blackwell SU	K Allan James PR
Martin Joseph C	Norman Clewer R	Graham Shaw WS
Judy Lewis T	Francine Douglas PN	National Master
William J Loughlin LLF	Roger Goodwin NP	Chris Blackman CAS
Gillian O'Keefe R	Marnie Sumner-Dickson PR	Yvonne Evans F
Pam Stacey R	Two Star Master	Patrick Mullally CN
Brian Thomas CD	Anne Cunningham S	Life Master
Dorothy Wise GA	Sheila Dickinson L	Jane Brook BV
Berwyn Woolnough RY	Jean Hughes P	Sheila Pike LD
Jane Young BRE	Three Star Master	Senior Life Master
Master	Alan Jones BV	Barry Wennell LD
Susan Anthony P	Angela Roberts WS	Grand Master
Roger Draper PT	Five Star Master	Tony Disley BR
David Dunn LET	Herrick Westcott GA	Linda Greenland HLM
Jennifer King AG	Tournament Master	and the late Mary Moore BR
Advanced Master	Anthony Mitchell NP	
Rory Gibbons PT	Joan Westcott GA	

John Hockey Top 20 (most Masterpoints registered in a season)

1. Tony Ratcliff	127.45	11. Mike Best	44.96
2. Kevin Maddox	121.93	12. Tony Haworth	43.66
3. Churchill Al Temimi	109.00	13. Barry Wennell	37.80
4. Liz Commins	95.05	14. Laura Woodruff	37.35
5. Paddy Murphy	72.55	15. Julian Pottage	36.74
6. Susan Ingham	63.25	16. Mike Tedd	36.44
7. Gwynn Davis	57.93	17. Simon Gottschalk	36.26
8. Tony Disley	53.64	18. Sheila Shea	35.97
9. Roger Penton	53.01	19. Beth Wennell	35.69
10. Filip Kurbalija	50.79	20. Lavinia Thomas	35.37

REMINDER: DIRECT UPLOADING OF MASTERPOINTS

The WBU is moving towards Direct Upload of all Masterpoint Awards by the end of 2013. The vast majority of clubs are already participating and all Area, National and Simultaneous Events are Directly Uploaded.

All clubs must be Directly Uploading before the 1st January 2014 and paper certificates (printed or green) will not be accepted with an issue date after 31st December 2013. All paper certificates must be sent for registration to the Masterpoint Secretary by the 31st December 2014 and none will be accepted for registration after this date, regardless of the validity date printed on them.

INFORMATION *(Please mark changes and corrections in your copy of the current Yearbook!)*

Item	Page	Details
East Wales Area Competitions	3	The <i>Victor Ludorum</i> was won jointly by Gwynn Davis and Sue Ingham
Llandudno Bridge Club	12	Club no longer plays on Wednesdays
Haverfordwest Bridge Club	15	Email address should read hwbc@gmx.co.uk
Aberystwyth Congress photograph	42	Photograph is of the runners-up, Monica Scott and Ralph Evers, not the winners. Correct photograph now in online version of Yearbook.

The 6th man

The item on page 6 of the April 2013 issue reported that the Silver Plate had been won by a team including Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Tony Ratcliff, Roger Penton and Tony Disley. The missing name was that of Patrick Jourdain. The reason for this was that the item was a copy of Patrick's report in the Daily Telegraph, where, contrary to popular belief, Patrick usually omits his own name from a winning team..

Patrick apparently doing a crossword during a Senior Camrose match against Scotland ⇒



Contact Neville: Neville Richards, Chief Executive, Welsh Bridge Union
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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 Phil Bowers as soon as possible, to avoid errors. Email: wbu_mpmemsec@sixwells.net

All contributions to Laura Woodruff at laura@lauradora.eu (or by post to Hall Farm, Hall Drive, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR). My telephone number is 01656 741748, but not before 11 a.m. please.

← CAPTION COMPETITION

Geoff Evans, with Bernard Teltcher and Tony Friday in the background, at the Senior Camrose (I am assured it was taken at the presentation dinner, not at the bridge table).

Suggestions to Laura by 14th November.