

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- NOVEMBER 6/8 LLANGOLLEN CONGRESS
14/15 CAMROSE TRIAL & JUNIOR CAMROSE TRIAL
15 Euro Simultaneous Pairs
20/22 LLANGOLLEN SWISS TEAMS
26 WBU SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS
28/29 INTERNATIONAL MASTERS PAIRS
- DECEMBER 2 BBL SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS
6 Area Finals - NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS
13 EXECUTIVE MEETING - HEREFORD
- 1988
- JANUARY 3 Area Final - NORTH - Mens & Ladies Pairs - Wxm
10 Area Finals - EAST & WEST - Mens & Ladies Pairs
16/17 CAMROSE v N. IRELAND - Away
17 Vallance Cup - NORTH - Mold (Individual Final)
20 Closing Date for entries for GRADED MASTERS
23/24 GRADED MASTERS - Porthcawl Pavilion
25/31 FLITCH (Clubs)
30/31 JUNIOR CAMROSE - LLANGOLLEN
30 Closing date - Lady Milne Trials
31 Laidlaw Murray Cup (Teams) - WEST
- FEBRUARY 6 Vince Bevan Trophy - WEST
13/14 CAMROSE v SCOTLAND - Away
21 Area Finals - MIXED PAIRS
27/28 Eastern Area Congress - Cwmbran
- MARCH 5 Area Teams of 8 Final - WEST
6 EXECUTIVE MEETING - HEREFORD
12/13 NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS FINAL - NORTH
19/20 CAMROSE v ENGLAND - CARDIFF
20 Closing Date - Portland Pairs
26/27 PORTLAND PAIRS - CWMBRAN

TELEVISION

A new series, entertaining and instructive, has just started on BBC 2 at 6.15 on Saturdays 'International Bridge Club'

THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION NEWSLETTER

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Editorial:

The European Championships at Brighton in August were staged at great credit to Great Britain. The organisation was excellent and the Brighton Conference Centre an ideal spacious venue.

It was a pity that the use of screens in the open room made it difficult for many spectators to watch at the table, but the Vu-Graph was a great success. With large screens relaying close-circuit TV showing the players in action, large clear hand diagrams and a team of commentators, it proved very popular.

In the 1985 Championships there had been a restriction on the use of 'forcing pass' systems, but this had been removed for the 1987 Championships and were being played, mainly by the Scandinavian teams. Since the BBL's tournament regulations follow in line with those of the European Bridge League these will now be allowed in BBL international matches, so we could see some in use in the Camrose series.

Sweden were convincing winners of the Open Series, but second place was in doubt until the last board, which made it an exciting finish as a number of teams including Great Britain were in contention. Great Britain won the silver on a split tie from Norway, and so qualified to compete for the Bermuda Bowl World Championship in Jamaica in October (see inside for result). Our Ladies Team finished third, unfortunately just failing to qualify to defend their World Championship Venice Cup title.

The first Ladies European Pairs Championship was won by a Bulgarian pair at their first Championship. It is proposed to introduce a European Mixed Teams event. Both are to encourage women players, since in some European countries few play competitive bridge. Friendly inter-club ladies matches between clubs in different countries were suggested. Anyone interested?

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER'S REPORT

1. The SAGA Pairs heat was won by Bill Williams and Connie Clancy of Bridgend who were 3 tops clear of runners-up Bill Davies and John Butler. These 2 pairs go through to the National Final in Birmingham. 20 pairs played in the Welsh heat.
2. The Welsh Foursomes was contested by 58 teams and won by P. Jourdain A Thomas A H Dalton and A C Eastgate. F Kurbalija's team was second.
3. Correction to WBU Journal 1987. The entry for the Arthur James Bowl under the Eastern Area Association should have read M Best P Felman J Glubb T Reddy. My apologies to this team for the error.
4. Would all Congress secretaries please note that a document produced by Max Powell on master-point awards is now available from me.
5. National Club Teams of 8. Areas will be arranging either a Knockout draw or holding a multiple team event to determine their representatives for the National Final to be held on Sunday, July 3rd, 1988 at a mid-Wales venue with a 1 p.m. start. Each affiliated club is entitled to enter a team, with clubs of over 70 members having the option of entering a B team also. Green points will be awarded at the National Final.

Will Area secretaries please let me have their total entry by December 31st so that I can determine their number of qualifiers for the final.
6. Entries for the International Masters must be in by 31st October: the Graded Masters by 20th January.
7. The Young Players Cup will be held in Cardiff on Saturday 31st October and the leading half of the field will qualify for the Regional Final (to be held at Bristol) of the Easter Guardian under-25 pairs.
8. The Men's Teams Championship was held for the first time this year and attracted an entry of 13 teams. The winners were M Hirst A Pierce A Casey and D Hamilton who have kindly agreed to donate a trophy for this event. Runners-up were G Martin D Hardie F Kurbalija and P Goodman.
9. The Ladies Welsh Cup attracted a record entry of 19 teams. The winners were Mrs M Dennison Mrs M Warburton Mrs S Webster and Mrs D Williams.

G Martin

PORTHCAWL CONGRESS RESULTS

Dewi Sant Teams	F Kurbalija J Salisbury D Hardie G Evans
Metropole Cup	D Woolley P Bugden
Prince of Wales	Mrs O Landeg E J Humphreys
Mens Pairs	J Salisbury A Thomas
Womens Pairs	Mrs R Keeble Mrs A Mayhew
Red Dragon (CP)	Miss E Pritchard Mrs G Curtis
Little Dragon	Mrs H Townsend J Robins
Mixed Pairs	Mrs G Mollart H J M Blackburn
Seagull Cup (MP)	J Bentley H J M Blackburn P Lindon Miss D Evans
Championship Teams	Mr & Mrs P Chimes Mrs P McCombie T Towers
Tusker Rock	Mrs G Knight A Russell Mrs H Townsend J Robins
Sker Trophy	R Caldwell G Gulbransen J Harris J Williams

BERMUDA BOWL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA

The British team - R Brock A Forrester J Flint R Sheehan J Armstrong G Kirby npc R A Friday - qualified for the finals in the round robin, beat Sweden in the semi-final to play in the final over 3 days and 176 boards against the United States, who had had an easier passage being seeded to the semi-final when they beat Taiwan. The British team were in close contention throughout the final. The match was close at the beginning and after 64 boards Britain led by 147-135, then the United States went into the lead, but the British reduced the lead to 296-282 with 16 boards to play, but lost ground in the final few boards to lose by 354-290. This was the best performance by a British Open Team for more than 30 years.

The United States completed the double by also winning the Venice Cup for the women's world title by beating France 251-219 in the final. Only 2 other countries have previously achieved the double. Italy in 1972 and Austria in 1937.

WBU COUNCIL DECISIONS

SMOKING - At all WBU Competition Finals, there will be a period of one hour after commencement of play when smoking will not be allowed.

CONVENTIONS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCES will be allowed in Welsh Cup, Cambria Cup, International Masters, but not in Pairs qualifying rounds and Area Finals.