

Forthcoming Events

APRIL

17th Council Meeting (Ludlow).
24/25th National Pairs Final (Marchwiell).

MAY

1st/2nd Webber Cup Final (Pavilion, Porthcawl).
12th BBL Simultaneous Pairs (Clubs).
14/16th Rhos-on-sea Congress
22/23rd Perry Shield, Spickett Bowl
(and AGM) at South Glamorgan B.C. Cardiff

JUNE

5/6th Lady Milne (Peebles)
13th Council Meeting

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THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION NEWSLETTER



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No. 3 Mar 1982

Editorial

The Contract Bridge Association of Ireland sets a high standard in the celebration of its Jubilee in the last weekend of March. The origins of Contract Bridge are accredited by Encyclopedia to American, Harry Vanderbilt on cruise aboard the steamship Finland from Los Angeles to Havana in 1925. He introduced to Auction Bridge the main elements of scoring associated with Contract Bridge - the concept of a game, with vulnerability, rubber and slam bonuses. The first national championship for Contract was held in America in 1929 for the Vanderbilt Cup. The game spread quickly through Europe and the death this year of Theodore Lightner is a reminder of the famous Schwab Cup match between America and Britain staged at Selfridges in 1933, which was front page news in the national press of the time. So Ireland must have been quick off the mark to found its Association in 1932 and celebrate in such style in Dublin 1982, with twelve invited teams competing for the Britton Trophy.

The first reference of organised bridge in Wales bears the date of 1933 when it is supposed that Jack Carter, Laidlaw Murray, and others in the South met in Cardiff to form an association of interested clubs. The Welsh Bridge Union is a post-war creation as for some time North Wales was associated with North-West England. Dates, personalities, and other facts about the early history of bridge in Wales are thin on the ground. Those with long memories and those in touch with the original participants are invited to do their homework now and set the record down. Please write to the Editor with any details you can supply about the period from 1932 to 1951 up to and including the formation of the Welsh Bridge Union.

Tournament Organiser's Report

1. **GOLD CUP** The team to go through from the Welsh section to the last 32 in Britain was the North Wales/Lancashire combination of Mrs J. Newton, C.M.Pope, J. Dutton, & P.Hepworth.

2. **WELSH INTERNATIONAL MASTERS** This event had possibly the highest quality entry of recent years and included two pairs from France and three English internationals in partnership with Welsh players. Winners were ex-Welsh internationals Pat Shields & Paul Denning, second were Robert Upton & John Armstrong.

3. **WELSH CUP** The quarter-final draw is G. Martin v. P.J. Shields, R.G. Upton v. D.M.Powell, R.W. Graham v. S.W. Jones, B. Wennell v. R. Radford. By 11th April. Semi-final by 6th May.

4. **CAMBRIA CUP** The semi-final is Mrs B. Williams v. Mrs H. McCloskey, Mrs J. Casey v. E.Hudson. By 11th April.

5. **SCHOOLS TROPHY** Three teams from Welsh schools (Bishop of Llandaff, Cardiff, and two from Barry Senior Comprehensive) qualified for the British regional final in Bristol. They performed creditably but were not amongst the qualifiers for the British Final.

6. **SOBRANIE CHALLENGE 1982** This new British event for club teams (restricted to players below the rank of National Master) was well received in Wales. Over twenty teams entered and 13 qualified for the 22 team regional final in Monmouth for Wales & the West of England. Welsh teams filled the first five places. Only one goes through to the British Final and there was a tie between BSC Port Talbot and South Glamorgan Bridge Club 'A' which was resolved in favour of Port Talbot.

7. **ABERYSTWYTH** The ninth Aberystwyth Bridge Congress is on 23rd-25th July. For details, please contact E.Williams, 77 Bryn Castell, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

Selectors' Report

1. **CAMROSE** The team selected for the match against Scotland was: M.N.Hirst, D.K.McAndrew; P.D.Jourdain, G.E.Needham; A.G.Pierce, W.A. Casey; npc C.C.Smith; and against England was Dr. J. Butler, C.C.Smith; A. Haworth, L. Sheridan; A.G.Pierce, W.A. Casey; npc R. Wiltshire (report elsewhere).

2. **LADY MILNE** The team selected for the Ladies Internationals at Peebles in June is: Mrs J. Newton, Miss M. Randle; Miss J. Newton, Mrs J. Howarth; Mrs J. Casey, Mrs M. Farr; npc P.Griffith. Reserves: Miss B.Griffith, Mrs D. Kurbalija. England will be represented by the reigning world champions.

3. **CBAI JUBILEE** The Welsh team selected for the Jubilee of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland was: Dr J. Butler, C.C. Smith; D.M. Powell, C.Heard. The team was ninth.

The Home Internationals

CAMROSE Wales began the season on a high note but its position in the table deteriorated over the three weekends to this sad conclusion: England 76 Scotland 74 Wales & N.Ireland 33.

v. **N.IRELAND** Wales had an excellent start to the season with a 22-14 win over Northern Ireland at Larne. This put Wales at the top of the table, for England had drawn their encounter with Scotland 18 each.

v. **SCOTLAND** The same team as had beaten N. Ireland travelled to Dumfries to play Scotland, but lost 32-4 with a similar margin in each of the three matches over the weekend. This result took Wales down to third place in the table.

v. **ENGLAND** The choice of a new venue, Cowbridge, proved a success in attracting a sizeable audience to watch the final round. Wales started very poorly with a loss of 139-31 imps in the first match, but lost only narrowly in the third match for a weekend score of 7-29 VPs.

JUNIOR CAMROSE The Juniors of the four home countries met in London at the end of January over 90 boards. It was a disappointing occasion with Wales finishing in bottom place, but the team had one consolation when Peter Goodman was awarded the prize for the best played hand of the weekend. Result: England 77 N.Ireland 56 Scotland 49 Wales 34.

Welsh Competition Results

National Events

GRADED PAIRS Section Winners: 1. Dr J. Butler, C.Smith.
2. P. Sumption, A.M. Best. 3. J. Poole, J. Baker.
4. P. Clarke, A. Pitts. 5. M. Morris, C. Snowball.

SCHOOLS TROPHY Bishop of Llandaff High School, Cardiff.

MENS PAIRS A.G. Pierce, W.A. Casey.
LADIES PAIRS Mrs D. Clare, Mrs. M. Ratcliff.
MIXED PAIRS Mr & Mrs W.A. Casey.

West Wales

Pairs: K. Pratt, Mrs D. Clare. **Mixed Pairs:** Mr & Mrs F.Hyatt.
Teams: G. Martin, J. Pilborough, M. Waterworth, M. Ainsworth.

East Wales

National Pairs: W.A. Casey, P.D. Jourdain; **Mens:** W.A. Casey, A.G.Pierce; **Ladies Pairs:** Mrs I. Weaver, Mrs P. Watkins;
Mixed Pairs: Prof N. Shergold, Mrs W. Thatcher.

North Wales

Teams: P. Griffith, Miss M. Randle, Mr & Mrs J. Scott.
Pairs: P. Griffith, Mrs E. Scott; **Mixed:** T. Phillips, Mrs Coker.
Individual: P. Nickson; **Club teams:** BSC Shotton.