

**Important notice**

To all contributors - especially Club, Area and Congress secretaries.

If you have any results that you would like to see published in the Newsletter, will you please ensure that you send them to me no later than two weeks before the publication date. As you can see from this edition, I have not had one single result from any area or congress.

For your information, the publication dates are:

- Autumn - October 1st
- Winter - January 1st
- Spring - April 1st
- Summer - July 1st

If you have any articles to submit, then the same condition applies.

**The Lady Milne Trophy**

Wales started very well in this year's competition and led the field after the first complete round. However, large defeats at the hands of the English Ladies left them to battle it out with Scotland and Ireland for the rest of the weekend for the minor placings.

| Final table | W | D | L | VP's |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|
| England     | 8 | 1 | 3 | 215  |
| Scotland    | 5 | 2 | 5 | 175  |
| N. Ireland  | 4 | 2 | 6 | 161  |
| Wales       | 4 | 1 | 7 | 153  |

Wales: G. Clench & D. Kurbalija  
 A. Fox & I. Thomas  
 J. Casey & M. Pierce  
 (NPC: G. Martin)

**Frozen Swede!**

A friend of mine, a not too slim international bridge player (Sweden) recently complained that she gets very cold in the British winters because she can't get any large sized Long-Jones! As she lives in England, we advised her to move to Wales - we have plenty of those!!

U. Bryant (Mumbles)

**I'll tell you what's interesting**

By Filip Kurbalija

- S: J 4 3 2
  - H: 2
  - D: K Q 5 4 3 2
  - C: K 2
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| N | E |
| W | S |
- S: A K 9 5
  - H: K J 10 6 5 4
  - D: A
  - C: 7 4

**Not Impressed!**

You are playing with a top British International and you are looking for an opportunity to impress him when along comes the South hand opposite.

West opens the bidding with 2N showing a hand with 6-10 pts and 5/5 in the minors, and it goes P - 3C - to you. Having no agreement, you make the slight overbid of 4H and this ends the auction. West leads the SQ and North puts down the dummy opposite. The play proceeds with South taking the trick and then leading a club towards the CK. West hops in with his Ace and switches to the D8. After winning this trick, South crossed to dummy with a club and played the H2. East played the 3. Which card should South play?

The correct card is the King followed by a small heart. This caters for all heart combinations where the contract is makeable. Unfortunately you fail to impress as East rose with HA immediately and gave his partner a spade ruff with a heart holding of Q 7.

Would you have got it right if East had played small?



**NEWSLETTE R**

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**Editorial:**

Another "Bridge Year" has come to an end and what a successful one it has been for the Welsh Bridge Union. The finances of the Union are in a very healthy state and thanks for this must go to Robert Upton the treasurer. His professional approach has ensured that the WBU can look forward to the future from a firm financial base.

Of course, this would be impossible if it wasn't for you the members generating this income by your participation in the WBU's various competitions.

The calendar containing next year's events is already out along with an official entry form, so if you haven't played in any of the WBU's main team events - The Welsh Cup and The Cambria Cup - before, why not get a team together and enter for this coming season. Apart from being great fun, you can also earn Green Points for matches that you win.

A plea from the Masterpoint Secretary to all heat organisers; in the case of directly credited points (Flitch etc.), please ensure that entry lists contain WBU numbers as well as initials and surnames. Also, her postcode has been changed (not her address), to CF62 8EG. Please make a note of this.

Gary Martin

**NATIONAL RESULTS**

**National Mens Pairs**

1. A. Ratcliff & P. Jourdain
  2. A. Haworth & K. Pratt
- \*\*\*\*\*

**National Ladies Pairs**

1. G. Knight & R. Morgan-Edwards
  2. J. Hirst & A. Edwards
- \*\*\*\*\*

**National Open Pairs**

1. D. Kurbalija & F. Kurbalija
  2. A. Ratcliff & S. Daniel
- \*\*\*\*\*

**National Mixed Pairs**

1. A. Ratcliff & D. Kurbalija
  2. N. Forrest & R. Cox
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Webber Cup**

1. M. & A. Pierce, A. & J. Casey, P. Jourdain
  2. E. Atkinson, D. Ronson, P. Felman, G. Roxburgh
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Welsh Cup**

1. A. & M. Pierce, A. & J. Casey, M. Hirst, J. Luck
  2. A. Haworth, K. Pratt, A. Disley, R. Charlesworth
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Cambria Cup**

1. M. & A. Pierce, A. & J. Casey, T. Reddy
  2. G. Martin, D. Hardie, F. & D. Kurbalija, P. Goodman
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Perry Shield**

1. E. Wales (A. Ratcliff, S. Daniel, J. Luck, M. Hirst, F. Kurbalija, P. Goodman)
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Spickett Bowl**

1. E. Wales (G. Clench, D. Kurbalija, W. Wood, A. Garvie, A. Hirst, E. Atkinson)
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Nat. Club Teams of Eight**

1. Cardiff (G. Evans, D. Birt, S. Daniel, A. Zaman, A. Maddocks, A. Ratcliff, F. & D. Kurbalija)
2. Shotton

**NAT. TOURN. ORGANISER'S REPORT**

The calendars and entry forms for the 1993-94 season are now in the clubs. All WBU members are entitled to a copy of each and of the Journal which will be available early August. Please make sure you collect these from the club through which you pay your WBU subscription.

When you send in an entry, please use the whole form - do not cut out the individual boxes which can easily get mislaid. Also please make sure that you write the WBU membership number of each player on the form as the players can otherwise be difficult to identify, and master-points may be credited to someone else!

The Veteran Pairs is shown as 20-21 November in the calendar, but this is a 1 day event only held on Sunday 21st November.

The method of allocation to the sections for the Graded Masters Pairs has changed slightly this year - please see the 1993-94 Journal when this comes out.

**Competition Round-up**

The national knockout teams events have now been completed. Haworth beat Patrick and Pierce beat Owen in the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup, and Martin beat Atkinson and Casey beat Jones in the semi-finals of the Cambria Cup.

In the finals, Alan & Maggie Pierce and Tony & Jill Casey completed an impressive treble, adding both titles to their Webber Cup victory earlier in the month.

**Forthcoming Events**

- Jul 3/4 Swiss Pairs (Bangor)
- Jul 11 WBU Executive (Llandrindod)
- Jul 17/18 Cardiff Congress (WNO Cardiff)
- Aug 7 EWBA Swiss Pairs (Cwmbran)
- Aug 20/22 Aberystwyth Congress
- Sep 5 WBU Executive (Llandrindod)
- Sep 11/12 Welsh Foursomes (Porthcawl)
- Sep 17/19 Lampeter Congress
- Sep 18/19 Camrose Trial II

**DIRECTOR TRAINING**

By Bill Starr

I am very happy to say that we have now been able to arrange a selection of "A" and "B" Courses for those who live in the southern half of the country. Dates and venues are as follows:

- "A" Swansea Bridge Club 18/9/93
- "B" Swansea Bridge Club 25/9/93
- "A" The Lion, Builth Wells 24/10/93
- "B" The Lion, Builth Wells 7/11/93
- "C" The Lion, Builth Wells 28/11/93

and there will be a further series of courses in the North with dates to be arranged. All of the courses start at 11 a.m. and finish at approximately 5 p.m. "A" and "B" cost £15 each and the "C" course costs £20. The A and B can be attended in reverse order. Those attending should have their own copy of the Law Book and the Orange Book of Directives but I will have a few spares with me.

As was mentioned in the President's report at the AGM all those who have attended so far have found the courses very interesting and entertaining. They have also found them hard work, but have learned quite a lot in the process. This is why quite a few people have been attending even though they have no intention of directing. A lot of time is spent in understanding things like hesitations, mistaken bids, claims and other areas that seem so mysterious to many ordinary club players. So once again I urge you - HAVE A GO!

Numbers are limited to 24 on the A & B and 16 on the C courses so do apply as soon as possible. All bookings and queries to me:

Bill Starr, The Corbett Arms Hotel, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9DG. Telephone queries to 021-554-7305. (You may get my answerphone message - but just leave your name and number and I will contact you quite soon).

Please make all cheques payable to:  
The Welsh Bridge Union.

**TRAUMA IN TENBY**

By Paul Chimes

Tenby is a pleasant place to be in June and the congress is always friendly and well run. We got off to a moderate start, finishing second to John O' Sullivan and Jill Thomas in the mixed pairs, and missing the main pairs final by one place, so we sat down for the consolation pairs looking to go one better. The round was going reasonably well, then this hand came up:

|               |
|---------------|
| S. K 10 9 6   |
| H. A Q J 2    |
| D. K 2        |
| C. A Q J      |
| □             |
| S. A J 4 3 2  |
| H. 10 9 8 4 3 |
| D. 4 3        |
| C. K          |

After West has opened 1C, some sprightly bidding gets you to 6S. West leads C9.

You have escaped a diamond lead, so if the two small diamonds in hand can be discarded on dummy's clubs, you only need to find the HK on-side, or failing that, pick up the SQ to bring home the slam. A count of the points shows that only twelve points are missing, so even if one of the missing major suit honours is in the East hand, the other must be in the West hand to allow the barest minimum opening (both honours in the East hand would require West to have opened 1C with a seven count).

You therefore take the 1st trick in dummy with the Ace, and continue clubs discarding both diamonds. On the 3rd club, East also discards a diamond in front of you. You now return to hand with a spade to the Ace and lead a spade towards dummy. West discards a club so you rise with the King, and return to hand with a diamond ruff, and lead a heart towards dummy in the sure knowledge that West has the King - unfortunately he discards a club!

One off was a bottom and the difference between 1st and 2nd place, victory and the prize money going to John & Jill (again). We look forward to another visit to Tenby next year.



## MASTER-POINT OF VIEW

A letter from the Masterpoints Secretary - Noelle Bond

Having now completed my first year as Masterpoints Secretary, and been through the hectic period in April when all your points flooded in, I now know how much work is involved, but am pleased to find how much I have enjoyed it.

Those of you with a statistical bent will be interested to know that up to the close of the year, I had entered 2,443,765 local points and 4,848 Greens; unfortunately, only a small percentage were mine. I also issued 493 masterpoint books.



Of course the points cannot be entered into the computer as they arrive, they must all be checked first and occasionally points for one person seem to end up with another, and I have to return these "Strays" as I call them.

During the year, I received many queries about masterpoints which are lost or missing, many of which I have to redirect to the EBU, where they are often languishing in their computer system. To be able to retrieve them, I need to have the date of the event, type of event, and name of partner. Those who play in EBU events will get their points much faster if they write "WBU" on their masterpoint cards, as well as their EBU number.



One problem I have is identifying who should get directly credited points when we have so many surnames and initials the same. It can take some time to sort out, so please put your forename and, as I mentioned in the Winter Newsletter, your WBU number on everything especially if you are a Jones, Thomas or Lewis.

Since the list in the Spring Newsletter, there have been 366 promotions which comprises:-

- 55 Club Masters
- 51 Local Masters
- 43 County Masters
- 52 Masters
- 32 Advanced Masters
- 30 One-Star Masters
- 17 Two-Star Masters
- 22 Three-Star Masters
- 9 Four-Star Masters
- 11 Five-Star Masters
- 3 Tournament Masters
- 13 Regional Masters
- 9 Premier Regional Masters
- 7 National Masters
- 6 Premier National Masters
- 5 Life Masters
- 1 Senior Life Masters

and no Grand Masters ('ee it's ough at the top), too many to list individually in this Newsletter, but they will of course appear in the Journal. Throughout the next year I will provide the Editor with a list of promotions as they occur.

I was astonished and delighted when so many people took the trouble to wish me well when they sent in their points, there are obviously a lot of very nice people in our bridge world. I should like to thank those and all the others who have helped me when I needed it, especially my husband, Mike, for his support and assistance throughout the year.



## THE KILLARNEY CONGRESS

By Adrian Thomas (Cardiff)



For many years, numerous English players have been enjoying the delights of bridge in Ireland in the week-long Killarney Congress. This year was the 50th anniversary of the Congress and there was a mass invasion by the Welsh headed by Wales' adopted Englishman, Jim Luck. This was his 18th consecutive visit!

I should stress that this is first and foremost a holiday and not really suitable for the keen and serious tournament player. The key words are hospitality and Guinness and, to get the best out of the event, one should go with the attitude of mixing with the Irish people and not staying exclusively within your own group.



As well as a bridge congress, it is also a golfing congress. The Killarney Golf & Fishing Club boasts 2 superb courses with many others within 30 minutes by car. For non-golfers, tourist attractions abound and the scenery both mountainous and coastal is spectacular. Fishermen and walkers will not be disappointed with the choice available.

The bridge itself is of a high standard, with a less competitive Open Pairs running alongside the main events and attracting a larger entry! There is only one session per day starting at 7.45 p.m. in the evening, but with the timekeeping being somewhat lax, the 2nd round rarely starts before 9.15 p.m.! To the Killarney convert this is not a problem - relax, mingle, have another Guinness - remember it's a holiday, you haven't got to get up early in the morning.

Unlike most venues nowadays, where the awkward question "Are you a resident?" is frequently asked, the Lake Hotel will serve you until you leave. Adopt the attitude of one Irish character, Denis McGrath, - book 2 weeks off work - 1 for the congress and 1 to recover after it.

The Welsh contingent did pretty well and, oddly enough, it was the ones enjoying themselves that did rather better than the ones taking it more seriously. There must be a moral here somewhere.

Gilly Clench and I, together with Liam & Maureen Sheridan won the mixed teams; Liam & I together with Jim & Alan Williams came 2nd in the Mens Teams; Debbie Baldwin & Mary Moore were 3rd in the Ladies Pairs; Max Powell & Simon Richards came 3rd in the Mens Pairs and the main teams were won by Jim & Alan partnering the Goldenfields, regular visitors to the Porthcawl Congress.

After the final session there was a celebratory dinner, which confused everyone as it started on time! After the many speeches and toasts came the highlight of the whole congress - the prize-giving. Highlight you ask? Where in Wales half the players have gone home before the other half have finished playing! The Irish do this in style, with each prize winner, golfing included, making a short speech. The prizes themselves are all quality Waterford Crystal, worth about £80 per item - putting British prize money to shame.

After the prize-giving there followed a cabaret with a gentleman called Damian Hand worth the entrance fee alone, amongst others.



My final tip is to take the Fishguard-Rosslare crossing.. It's less traumatic than the Swansea - Cork crossing

even if there is more driving on the other side. To all those that want friendly, fun bridge - leave your System Card and "DIRECTOR" call at home and head for Killarney. Those of you that like a bit of organisation and punctuality, stay in Wales there are plenty of excellent conventional congresses to suit. I'm joining Jim as a convert!

## TAKE CARE - DOUBLES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR SCORE

By Jim Fletcher (Swansea B.C.)

It's right and proper to be pleasant and considerate to your opponents at the bridge table, but beware of being too helpful. In the Western Area Teams of Eight final, Mike Waterworth and I were given the chance to better our score by the generosity, (some would say thoughtless self-indulgence), of our opponents. Here are two examples:

You pick up

|                |
|----------------|
| S. A J 3 2     |
| H. A K J 4 3 2 |
| D. A           |
| C. 3 2         |

and open 1H. Partner bids 1S. Your hand is now worth a shot at game, opposite as little as Q 6 5 4 in spades and any 6 count. You opt for 4D, a slam try agreeing spades and showing the Ace of diamonds. This is followed by 5C from partner, he's interested, with

|            |
|------------|
| S. K 6 5 4 |
| H. Q 5     |
| D. Q J 3 2 |
| C. A Q 4   |

From your point of view, it's all down to the quality of the trump suit, so 5NT (Josephine), "How good are your spades partner?" Answer, 6S = one of the top 3 honours. This is followed by Pass, Pass and then L.H.O. comes to life with double! Mike thinks about this and not liking his skinny spade suit, bids 6NT. The slam is no problem, +990.

L.H.O. has Q 10 9 8 of spades, which on this layout is good for 2 tricks, but why warn us off for the sake of an extra 50 points? Left to ourselves we go down in 6S.

The second example was board 20.

The hands were:

| WEST            | EAST         | and the bidding: |        |        |       |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| S. K J 10 9 5 3 | S. A Q 4     | West             | North  | East   | South |
| H. A 9 7 3      | H. 6         | 2S (1)           | 3H (2) | 4H (3) | P     |
| D. 8 3          | D. A K J 9 2 | 5H (4)           | X (5)  | P (6)  | P     |
| C. 6            | C. A 10 3 2  | 6C (7)           | P      | 7S (8) |       |

- (1) Not usually a good move to bid a weak 2 with 4 cards in the other major, but with nothing but the Ace of diamonds outside spades, I felt it just about OK.
- (2) A suit.
- (3) Too good to bid game, therefore needed to do something enterprising.
- (4) 1st round control and maximum.
- (5) Did he think we'd play in H?
- (6) Now isn't that useful, leave the next bid to partner.
- (7) With good spades and the DA, this can only be a singleton/void.
- (8) With no wasted values in H or C, 7 must be worth a shot.

We would have got to 6S, but never to 7 without the helpful double.

The motto, don't be free with doubles, it could cost you.

## AUFENTHALT IN DEUTSCHLAND

The European Pairs Championships, 1993

By Jim Mason - Leics. (formerly Haverfordwest)

This tournament is held every other year, and it draws together contestants from the entire continent - Iceland to Israel. The field is liberally sprinkled with World and European champions, and all the participants know what they are doing. In 1993, the venue was Bielefeld, which nestles in the Ruhr Valley - the industrial heartland of Germany.

Gary Martin and I qualified as a result of winning the Welsh International Masters, and we flew the Welsh flag along with Adrian Thomas/Peter Goodman and Jim Luck/Gilly Clench, who had been approved as "appropriate representatives" by the WBU. We travelled to Germany the hard way - by ferry and car rather than aeroplane, but this wasn't gruelling enough to satisfy Gary. He organised matters so that we could share sleeping quarters with King Snorer (Jim Peppin of Hants.) on one side, and an amorous couple on the other side of a wafer thin cabin wall! Relaxation and mental preparation were difficult...

Over 200 tables were in play, with each section supervised by a top class tournament director. English is the official language, bidding boxes are used throughout, and every table is diagonally divided by a wooden partition. Thus, during the auction you can see one opponent and nobody else. You alert and explain every conventional bid made by you or your partner, but only to the opponent on your side of the screen. This arrangement can cause problems when the explanations are different on opposite

sides of the partition - hence the need for all the directors. In general, bidding systems were fairly natural, and the players were good enough to know what was going on without requiring elucidation. The forcing pass bidding systems were banned, which helped a great deal.

The competitors play two sessions, after which the leading 140 pairs continue in the grand final for a further 3 sessions. You don't need a huge percentage to qualify - 53% is more than enough, but it is very difficult to score above average consistently. We seemed to have missed the boat, but Gary (who is able to count) spotted that one of our adjusted scores had not been entered. The entire event was rescored, and we slotted effortlessly into the final in 139th place!

Nobody in the British contingent did particularly well, so we were quite proud to finish 81st, given the exceptionally high standard. The tactics universally adopted were to bid like a lunatic, double all the time and play accurately both as declarer and defender. Nearly every auction was competitive, and it was rare not to be doubled. This is the winning philosophy at pairs bridge, so perhaps I'll stick to teams.

It was exciting to be part of such an impressive spectacle, and I would love to play in the event again. If you think that you are getting too good for the local bridge club, try a trip to the next European Pairs. You'll come back down to earth with a resounding thump.

### Mid-Wales Goes Smokeless!

By a majority of nearly 6 to 1 the following resolution was carried at the Mid-Wales AGM - "That at all events organised or sponsored by Mid-Wales there shall be no smoking at the bridge tables, but that all venues must have convenient areas for smokers to use and wherever possible the director shall arrange to have smoking breaks."

Clubs and congresses will continue to make their own rules, and obviously national finals held in the Area will follow national rules. (W. Starr)

### In The Bag!

Submitted by Noelle Bond

Two newcomers to duplicate bridge, having played rather slowly on the first round, were told by the tournament director that because it was time to move for the next round they would have to play board 28 at the end of the evening.

Whereupon, before moving to the next table, one of them put board 28 in her hanbag! (Cardiff Bridge Club circa 1984).