

THE BRITISH BRIDGE LEAGUE

Important Notice regarding Trials

The BBL Selection Committee plans to hold Open and Ladies Pairs Trials from 27-30th December at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. The leading pairs from the Open Trials will then go forward to two further weekends of teams trials, the first being on 5th/6th February, 1994, with the date for the second weekend together with the date for the Ladies Teams trials, being announced as soon as possible.

The purpose of the trials will be to select two squads, Open and Ladies, from which the teams for the 1995 European Championships will be selected.

Please contact Anna Gudge, 13 Chaucer Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6LN. Tel: 0787-881920, if you would like full details of the trials.

The Rosenblum Teams and World Pairs Olympiad Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17th September - 1st October, 1994

It is hoped that details of the above events, comprising the Rosenblum Teams, Ladies Teams for the McConnell Cup, Senior Teams, Open, Ladies, Mixed and Senior Pairs events, will be available shortly. If you are interested in playing in any of the various Championships, please contact Anna Gudge for further details and an application form. All applications have to be approved by the Selection Committee and you should also be aware that there is a limited quota for most of the events.

Ready for action!

Doubles are defined in many ways these days. There are penalty doubles, Sputnik doubles, cooperative doubles, competitive doubles, etc.

A recent addition to the list is an action double. An action double is defined as applying when

- (a) it is not clear that the opponents are sacrificing.
- (b) our side has bid to game in a suit.
- (c) we are not in a forcing auction.

An example from a recent teams event at red v green, partner opened 1NT with the North hand opposite. The next hand overcalled 2D showing spades and another and I bid 4H with the South hand opposite.

West now bids 4S and this is passed back round to me. Using action doubles, (a) (b) and (c) above apply and you double leaving partner with the decision on whether to bid on or defend. Partner should not expect defence to spades, merely that you are too strong to let matters rest. If he has AQxx and a small doubleton in S, he should bid on but with Kxx in S and say Qx in H, he should pass. As it happens he bids 5H-1 while the opponents can make 6S.

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

By Filip Kurbalija

S: J 2

H: A Q 7 2

D: K 3 2

C: A 10 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

S: 9 5

H: K J 10 6 5 4

D: 4

C: K Q 7 4



NEWSLETTE R

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Editorial:

The first few events of the new season have already been played and, judging by attendances, it seems that interest in Welsh Bridge is in a healthy state.

However, the Welsh Bridge Union is still keen to encourage newcomers to the game, and inside this issue is an article on the rudiments of MINIBRIDGE.

This is a simplified form of bridge designed to get absolute beginners playing immediately. It was originally designed for promoting bridge amongst schoolchildren but can equally be used on the recalcitrant spouse or friend who has always expressed an interest in learning bridge but has, naturally enough, been put off by the commitment required.

Why not get a group together and do your bit to promote bridge in your area.

You may have noticed the media coverage that chess is getting at the moment with Nigel Short contesting the World Championship. There is a regular spot on BBC2 reporting on the day's play. Contrast this with the coverage that bridge gets and got last year when the Great Britain team were the reigning European Champions. Hardly a mention in the press and certainly none on television.

NATIONAL RESULTS

National WBU Swiss Pairs

- 1. M. Pryor & L. Anderson
R. Williams & S. Scholes
- 3. A. Ratcliff & P. Jourdain

Welsh Foursomes

- 1. O. D. Matthews, J. Williams, Y. D. Baker, J. Young
- 2. A. Thomas, D. Hamilton, M. J. Hill-Jones, M. T. Pownall
- 3. J. Baker, J. D. Moore, D. F. Huggett, S. M. Preston

Executive News

Have you ever wondered what Executive means on the calendar?

Well for those that don't know it is the Welsh Bridge Union's governing committee (for want of a better a term) and is comprised of 4 delegates from each of the 4 Areas that make up the WBU. They together with the annually elected officers of the Union meet 4 times a year in Mid-Wales to deal with all aspects involved in running the WBU. The meetings start at 10.30 a.m. and usually end by 4 p.m.

Here are some of the decisions made at a recent meeting that may be of interest to members.

The Bridge Plus publication are producing a directory of bridge clubs both in Britain and abroad. This will contain details of club nights, table-money, directions, etc. The Council decided to purchase 1 copy for each bridge club. Hopefully these will be available by October.

The recently formed Mid-Wales Bridge Association has been given the go-ahead to run a 2 day green-pointed Congress in July 1994. This will become an annual event and will be held in Llanandod Wells at the Metropole Hotel.

NAT. TOURN. ORGANISER'S REPORT

Please note the following alterations to the original published calendar (an updated calendar can be found on the inside back cover of the Journal):

1993

- Sep 17-19 Lampeter Congress
- Nov 21 Veterans Pairs

1994

- Jun 3-5 Tenby Congress

Competition Round-up

It has been a very quiet three months since the last newsletter, so there is really nothing to report. However, the draws for the Welsh and Cambria Cup competitions have just been held, and by the time you read this the action will have started.

Watch this space.....

Paul Chimes
(0495-244401)

Forthcoming Events

- Oct 2/3 Ladies Welsh Cup (Metropole -)
Nat. Mens Teams (Llandrindod)
- Oct 9/10 Camrose Trial 3
Lady Milne Trial 1
Junior Trial/ Young Players Cup
- Oct 23/24 International Masters (Cardiff)
- Oct 28/31 Porthcawl Congress
- Nov 12/14 Llangollen Congress
- Nov 21 Veteran Pairs
- Nov 25 WBU Simultaneous Pairs (Clubs)
- Nov 26-28 BBL Swiss Teams (Llangollen)
- Dec 4/5 Wales V N. Ireland (A)
- Dec 12 Executive meeting (Llandrindod)
- Jan 9 Gold Cup Round 1
- Jan 15/16 Wales V Scotland (A)
- Jan 24/28 WBU Fitch Pairs (Clubs)

**MASTER-POINT
OF VIEW**

By Noelle Bond

The WBU Master Points Information usually printed before the MP ranking list in the Journal seems to have disappeared this year, so I include it here for the benefit of newer players (and those who have forgotten) but in an abbreviated form.

All master points won in National Events will be credited automatically. Result slips of Welsh Cup, Gold Cup and Cambria Cup matches should be sent directly to me. Local points won in events other than National Events will be credited when I receive the certificates from members. Please register your points regularly to reduce the end of year workload, only points received by 30th April, 1994 will be included in the ranking lists in next year's Journal. A total of the points sent and an S.A.E. will speed up the turnaround time.

Whilst on the subject of registering points, those who play in EBU events often worry about points that they have won and have not yet seen. The system should work like this: for BBL and EBU one-day events the points are sent directly to the players, for most other competitions and EBU congresses, the points are sent directly to me.

Unfortunately if the EBU staff do not recognise a player as belonging to the WBU, they open a file on their computer and the points languish there forever if no one raises the matter with them. So to ensure you are never a victim of this, always make sure you write "PLEASE SEND TO WBU" and your WBU number on the master-point card when filling it in. When sending in points for registering you can include a note of those you believe should have been credited to you, for me to check. However, getting lost points from the EBU can take a month or more, so queries with your end of year points may not get resolved until after the Journal is printed.

For the benefit of those who do not know me, I would like to mention that the picture of the harassed person printed with this column last time bears only a slight resemblance to myself, and then only when there is a postal strike, or when the computer is faulty or at year end! If the editor prints a similar one this time he will never get his points registered again.

Master-point Promotions (27/5 - 1/9/93)

- Life Master
- Mrs. Mary Aherne Cardiff
- R. Charlesworth Awel-y-Mor
- N. Forrest Haverdforwest
- Regional Master
- P. Dunn Corbett Arms
- 5* Master
- D. Gorst Llandudno
- 4* Master
- Mrs. M. Calder Barrivale
- 2* Master
- I. Beverley Pencoed
- 1* Master
- Mrs. R. Bowen-Jones Old Hall
- Mrs. M. Greenwood Old Hall
- Mrs. G. Hurst Park View
- M. Page Corbett Arms
- Mrs. M. Parish Swansea
- Advanced Master
- M. Bond Barrivale
- T. Parish Swansea
- Mrs. B. Spencer Cardigan
- Ms. L. Woodruff Barrivale
- Master
- O. Barker Dolgellau
- Mrs. L. Kendrick Corbett Arms
- Mrs. J. Shefford Mumbles
- County Master
- J. Bowen Tenby
- D. Bryant Cardiff
- Dr. A. & Mrs. E. Evans Llandudno
- Mrs. M. Jones Lampeter
- Ms. D. C. Joy Llandudno
- Mrs. A. Moorsom Rhiwbina
- Local Master
- Dr. H. Backer Cardiff
- Mr. N. Baker Barrivale
- Mrs. C. Fielden Llandudno
- Prof. R. Havard Davis Cowbridge
- Mrs. V. Havard Davis Cowbridge
- D. Jones Lampeter
- Mrs. M. Jones Rhiwbina
- Mrs. S. Shea Ynys Mon
- Dr. J. Valentine Aberystwyth
- Club Master
- Mrs. M. Cawley Mumbles
- M. & Mrs. G. Dent Abergavenny
- J. Dunn Corbett Arms
- J. Gough Barrivale
- Mrs. J. Jones Cardiff
- B. Knight Penarth
- Mrs. S. Knight Penarth
- M. Iaming Caernarfon
- M. O' Leary Mid Glam
- Miss E. Rees Cardiff
- Mrs. H. Sobczak Corbett Arms
- Mrs. M. Young Cardiff

9 Ever, 8 Never

By Dave Melville (Cardiff)

A J x

3 led or played

5 4

What is the best line to make two tricks from the above layout?

I shall show how the best play depends upon North's small card, and arrive at a rule which sums up the appropriate actions.

If the x is small, we hope that L.H.O. has K Q x (x) and finesse the Jack immediately. However, when the x is the 8 or 9 we consider whether a deep finesse of the 8 or 9 (followed by a finesse of the Jack) might be better.

A deep finesse of the 8 wins two tricks when L.H.O. has K 10 9 x (x) or Q 10 9 x (x), whereas the direct finesse of the Jack wins two tricks when L.H.O. has K Q 10 x (x), K Q 9 x (x) or K Q x x (x). Thus the direct finesse of the Jack is clearly better. In practice L.H.O. will usually simplify matters by leading or playing an honour from these holdings, although a small card may well be played from K Q x x (x), particularly in No Trump contracts.

With A J 9 the deep 9 finesse wins when L.H.O. has K 10 x x (x) or Q 10 x x (x). The Jack finesse wins only when L.H.O. has K Q x x (x), so that the deep finesse wins twice as often as the direct Jack finesse.

To summarise we see that we should finesse the 9 ever and the 8 never.

An identical analysis arises for K J x opposite x x. The best line for 1 trick with K 10 X and x x is to finesse the 10 or 9 but not the 8, so that the rule applies here also. A 10 x yields the obvious 1 trick with no legitimate play for 2 tricks.

It is assumed throughout that R.H.O. will defend accurately. For example, if the 8 was carelessly played from A J 8 R.H.O. would punish us with the 9 from Q 9 x (x) (x) and not play a thoughtless Queen.

It would be interesting to know under what conditions 9 ever, 8 never does not apply, and is there a use for a rule such as 8 ever, 7 never?

One Costly, Careless Moment

By Michael Close

They said we were lucky, my partner Ken Richardson and I, that Friday night at the Barry Leisure Centre. Judge for yourself.

I picked up S:A874 H:-- D:AK98 C:KQJ84, and Ken opened 1H. I bid 1S and Ken bid 4S. With my extra values I shut my eyes and bid 6S, which my L.H.O. doubled in a voice of thunder. My learned and experienced partner, promptly redoubled and there we rested.

The H4 was led and partner put down S:J10965 H:AQJ9873 D:3 C:-- and with a cheery "Thank you partner", I began to think....

The doubler must be looking at either KQx of trumps or a trump trick and the CA (or maybe both!). If it's the former, I'm dead and buried, but if his 2nd trick is the CA, he'll be feeling pretty sick at the sight of dummy!

I take a good look at L.H.O. - no, he's not looking worried, quite the reverse, he's sat on the edge of his seat, eager with anticipation! Here comes a bottom. Still, never say die.

The HJ from dummy holds the 1st trick. So he's led away from the HK. Hoping that my conclusions about the spade suit are incorrect, I lead the SJ off the table, and watch it go S2, S4 and SQ. Back comes a diamond. I've decided to take this ruff a club and a heart to see if dummy's suit can be set up. Straight away I put the C4 on the table. There is a loud smack as L.H.O. plays a card. Before I call for a trump from dummy, I look down to see what all the fuss is about, and there, nestling on the table is SK!!

There is one of those strange moments of double-take, as L.H.O. and myself look down at the cards together, look at each other together, down at the cards, before he puts one hand despairingly on his forehead.

The Director rules that it is a major penalty card, LHO plays a C to the trick and I ruff. I ruff a small H, LHO following with the 10, and then play the SA calling for the SK to be played under it. I then play another trump to draw LHO's last small trump and when I play the HA his HK falls and I write 2070 in the plus column instead of -400.

The moral of this story is concentrate, one daft mistake can ruin an evening!

MINIBRIDGE

The game of MinibrIDGE is a vehicle for enabling complete beginners to start playing a form of Bridge almost immediately.

RULES OF MINIBRIDGE

- (1) There are 4 players playing as 2 partner ships, N-S and E-W. Partners sit opposite each other.
- (2) Rank of the cards: Ace (high), K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 (low).
- (3) Each player deals in turn, clockwise around the table. The Dealer shuffles the cards, and deals the complete deck out, one card at a time, starting with the player on his left.
- (4) Each player counts the high card points in his hand, counting 4 points for each Ace, 3 points for each King, 2 points for each Queen and 1 point for each Jack.
- (5) Starting with the dealer and going clockwise around the table, the players each announce how many points they hold. If the total does not equal 40 points, they try again.
- (6) The partnership which holds the greater number of points will choose and play the Contract. They are the declaring side, and their opponents are the Defenders. If both sides hold 20 points, the same player reshuffles the pack and deals again.
- (7) The player with the greater number of points on the declaring side will actually choose and play the contract. He is called the Declarer. If both players on the declaring side have the same number of points, the player who announced first is the Declarer.
Example: South deals and has 5 points, West has 10, North has 13 and East has 12. East-West hold 22 points to North-South's 18, so E-W will play the contract and East will be declarer. If East and West had each had 11 points, then West would be declarer since he would have announced his points before East.
- (8) Declarer's partner is known as the Dummy. Dummy spreads his hand face up on the table with each suit in its own vertical pile. Dummy now has nothing more to do with this hand, except to turn over the cards as they are called out by declarer during the play.

- (9) At this point, Declarer announces whether or not he is playing in GAME, and which suit, if any, will be the TRUMP SUIT. If there will not be a trump suit, he is playing in NO TRUMPS. The selected trump suit is moved to the Dummy's right, next to the other suits of Dummy's hand.
- (10) The Defender to the left of Declarer makes the first lead, and the hand is played out as in Bridge, with Declarer playing both his own and Dummy's cards.

SCORING

- (1) Declarer's goal depends on his announcement:
 - (a) If he has NOT announced Game, his goal is 7 or more tricks.
 - (b) If he has announced Game in No Trumps, his goal is 9 or more tricks.
 - (c) If he has announced game with Hearts or Spades, his goal is 10 or more tricks.
 - (d) If he has announced Game with Clubs or Diamonds, his goal is 11 or more tricks.
- (2) If Declarer does not reach his goal, the Defenders score 50 points for each trick by which he has missed his goal.
- (3) If Declarer reaches or exceeds his goal, his side scores points for each odd trick taken. "Odd tricks" are the seventh and subsequent tricks taken by Declarer. No points are scored for the first 6 of Declarer's tricks. The score for No Trumps is 40 points per odd trick. For Spade and Heart contracts it is 30 points per odd trick, while for Diamond and Club contracts it is 20 points per odd trick.
- (4) If Declarer's total score on a hand is 100 points or more, AND he had announced he was playing in Game, his side scores an extra Game Bonus of 300 points.
- (5) Each hand is scored independently. The players decide how long a complete game will be - either a certain number of hands, or until a particular score is reached, or simply a time limit.

There are 6 mini-lessons accompanying these rules to introduce beginners who have little card sense. Anyone interested can obtain them from me by sending a S.A.E. (G.M.)

DEFENSIVE TIP - REMEMBER DECLARER CAN ONLY SEE TWO HANDS

By Tony Disley

Dummy (N)

S: J 6
H: J 9
D: K J 9
C: Q J 8 7 6 2

West

S: A K 10 8 4 3
H: K 7
D: 10 6 2
C: K 9

After a bidding sequence in which South has shown a strong hand with a good heart suit, and your spade bid has not been supported by partner, you are on lead against 4H. You cash the A and K of spades, partner indicating three and declarer playing the Q and 7. Now what?

In the Swiss Teams of this year's Swansea Charity Congress at the first table West tried the 6 of diamonds. Declarer deduced that this was probably MUD, put in the 9 of diamonds and was subsequently able to discard his losing club. The deceptive 2 of diamonds may have given declarer more trouble as he may now try dummy's Jack and will then have to make the right choice out of 3 finesses to make his contract.

However, at the other table Tony Haworth found the brilliant play of the 7 of hearts! Consider the effect on declarer. It is natural to continue with another heart to take the marked finesse against the King, conceding only a club in addition to the two spades already lost. However, West now takes his trump trick and with dummy shorn of trumps, can play another spade and the defence must come to a fourth and setting trick.

The full hand:

	North	
	J 6	
	J 9	
	K J 9	
	Q J 8 7 6 2	
West		East
A K 10 8 4 3		9 5 2
K 7		8 3
10 6 2		Q 8 5 4 3
K 9		10 4 3
	South	
	Q 7	
	A Q 10 6 5 4 2	
	A 7	
	A 5	

The game swing helped the holders - A. Haworth, K. Pratt, A. Disley and R. Charlesworth to win the trophy for the 3rd successive year.

Just for fun

By Ursula Bryant (Mumbles B.C.)

- First player:* "The doctor has prescribed some tranquilisers for me."
Second player: "Oh, why?"
First player: "Well, I keep having these funny dreams. I dream that I am either a wigwam or a marquee!"
Second player: "What did he say was wrong?"
First player: "He says I am two tents!"

ADVANCE NOTICE

Tenby Congress 1994

This very popular congress will be held over the weekend of June 3rd - 5th and not as printed in the WBU orange calendar.

There will be a Swiss Team event on October 24th, 1993 but entry is limited to 40 teams. Further details from Margaret Davies on 0834-2031.



Pictured above are the winners of the 1993 Welsh Foursomes Championship together with WBU President Mrs. Diane Harris who presented the trophy. (Result on page 2).

WBU Camrose Trial

Fourteen pairs were invited to take part in the first trial on September 18/19th and the selection committee formed these into 7 teams.

Results:	VPs
1. Team A (P. Goodman, F. Kurbalija, G. Martin, D. Hardie)	86
2. Team B (M. Hirst, J. Luck, A. Ratcliff, P. Jourdain)	81
3. Team C (A. Pierce, A. Thomas, M. Pierce, J. Casey)	72
4. Team F (D. Birt, G. Evans, R. Scott, A. Scott)	64
5. Team D (A. Haworth, K. Pratt, T. Disley, R. Charlesworth)	57
6. Team G (P. Gagne, D. Harris, S. Edwards, A. Maddocks)	32
7. Team E (M. Baker, J. O' Sullivan, T. Towers, G. Roxburgh)	25

When the event was rescored as Butler Pairs, the leading 4 pairs were the reverse of the teams result!

1. Hirst & Luck 2. Jourdain & Ratcliff
 3. Kurbalija & Goodman 4. Martin & Hardie

The final trial to be played in Cardiff Bridge Club on 9/10th October will comprise of the pairs from the 3 leading teams together with G. Evans & D. Birt and T. Disley & R. Charlesworth.

North Wales News

The Wartski Cup (North Wales Club Teams Championship) was won by Wrexham Garden Village Bridge Club.
 Team: F. Moyses, Mrs. V. Forster, O. I. Owen, Mrs. E. Evans.

Runners-up were Drury Bridge Club. Team: Mr. & Mrs. J. Poole, G. Burnett, Mrs. J. Peach.

During the above competition, the North Wales Bridge Association made a presentation to Jessie Newton to express their thanks and appreciation for her massive contribution to bridge, particularly in North Wales.

The Association would like to pass on their very best wishes to Jessie for the future in her new home in Worcester.