

Biggest Ever Win For Wales

Wales defeated Northern Ireland by a record score of 66-23 in Belfast in the season's first Macallan Camrose match. This win puts Wales on the top of the Camrose Table with Scotland in 2nd place after their 48-42 win over England.

The victorious Welsh Team was
Peter Goodman & Filip Kurbalija
Mike Hirst & Jim Luck
Tony Ratcliff & Patrick Jourdain
 NPC: Gary Martin

The team pre-selected for the next match against Scotland in Troon on Jan. 15/16th is
Peter Goodman & Filip Kurbalija
Mike Hirst & Jim Luck
Gary Martin & Dean Hardie
 NPC: Geoff Evans

The final match against England will be held in the Corbett Arms Hotel in February. The selectors have not yet decided on the team for this match.

Selectors' Report

Juniors:

Junior Camrose Team
 Tim Jones & Mike Hampton
 Sam Rhodes & Mike Ash
 Tom Ogden & Karen Norman

Peggy Bayer (U-21) Team
 A & J Dunne
 J. Harwood & M. Roderick
 J. Feavers & M. Cleaton
 NPC: Howard Warner (both teams)

The selectors wish to thank Patrick Jourdain and Alan Pierce for their efforts in the Junior Training seminar.

Lady Milne:

12 pairs have been invited to attend a training weekend in Knighton on Sat. 8th January. The course will be conducted by Filip Kurbalija.

Camrose Final Trial Results:

- 1. Jourdain/Ratcliff/Hirst/Luck 145 VPs
- 2. Kurbalija/Goodman/Martin/Hardie 144 VPs
- 3. Birt/Evans/Disley/Charlesworth 101 VPs
- 4. Pierce/Thomas/J. Casey/M. Pierce 90 VPs



N EWSLETTE R

ISSUE 44

WINTER 1993

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Editorial:

Belated seasons greetings to you all.

Although the New Year comes well into the start of our new bridge season, it is nevertheless an appropriate time to consider changes we'd like to see in the realm of bridge. I have a few personal views that I know are shared by many others.

One is the increased use of the director and the rule book in an attempt to obtain a better result than you might have got or deserved. I'm not saying that we should allow cheats to prosper or that we should throw away the rule book, but some situations I've witnessed have been nothing short of bullying by so called "stronger players". Surely we can all adopt a more tolerant and less intimidating attitude, especially towards beginners.

Another is the contentious issue of smoking. Increasingly people are becoming more aware of the dangers from passive smoking. Many public buildings, places of work and public transport have gone as far as a total smoking ban. The WBU is also moving along this path having recently increased its restrictions on smoking at its National Events and Congresses. Surely it is only a matter of time before bridge becomes a smokeless zone.

On a lighter note (no pun intended), have you ever wondered what value you have had from your marriage licence? Well why not put it to good use by entering the WBU Flitch competition which is to be held in clubs on a night during the last week of January. There is a prize for the winners and extra masterpoints too! Approach your club secretary if you would like to participate.

I'll tell you what's interesting

By Filip Kurbalija

S: A Q 3 2
H: -
D: Q J 9 2
C: A Q J 5 2

N
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S: K 10 9 6 5
H: Q 10 9 5 4
D: K 5
C: 10

Watch your doubles!

It is often suggested that in competitive auctions where the defenders have bid and supported a suit, an unsupported honour should be led to "see the dummy". However, this may point declarer to the right line.

The auction on this hand was

S	-	W	-	N	-	E
P	-	1C	-	P	-	1H
1S	-	2H	-	4H	-	X
P	-	P	-	5C	-	P
5D	-	P	-	6S	-	All Pass

(The X of 4H promised the Ace or King)

West led the HK, Declarer ruffed and played a diamond to the K. West won and switched to a C. South took the finesse and then played a S to the Ace (on which East played the J). Next came the CA followed by a small one on which East showed out. Declarer ruffed a H high and then played trumps.

With West marked with the CK and East the HA, the position of the D10 was irrelevant - a double squeeze brought the contract home.

NAT. TOURN. ORGANISER'S REPORT

Apparently some clubs in Wales have been unable to muster enough pairs to hold a qualifying heat for the national pairs events, and pairs have therefore had to apply to another club to enter a qualifier (in accordance with rule 3 in the WBU Competition & Master Point Journal). It seems that some clubs either turn away applicants from elsewhere, or make them unwelcome when they play.

This was discussed at the Executive Council meeting in December, and it was agreed that clubs should not turn away visiting pairs who apply to enter a qualifying heat without a VERY good reason (e.g. there is genuinely no room to accommodate them). When such an application is received by your club, please make every effort to accommodate the pair, and make them welcome.

The Porthcawl Pavillion is unavailable for this season's Webber Cup final. I hope to find an alternative venue in that area.

Unfortunately I will have to give up the role of NTO at the next WBU AGM in May 1994. If anybody wishes to take on the job, which involves a lot of hard work, frustration, aggravation, and occasional moments of satisfaction, please contact either your Area Secretary, the WBU Secretary or myself. I believe we already have one brave volunteer, but we would be pleased to hear from everyone who likes a challenge.

Competition Round-up

Unfortunately nobody has sent me any news of exciting finishes in the knock-out teams events, but the team which made a clean sweep of the Welsh Cup, Cambria Cup and Webber Cup last season has been defeated in the Welsh Cup by Trevor Towers' team from Gwent, so at least one of the major trophies is destined to change hands.

Paul Chimes (0495-244401).

NATIONAL RESULTS

Veteran Pairs

1. P. Allsop & Mrs B. Richards
 2. J. Evans & G. Lloyd-Lewis
 3. E. Robinson & P. McCombie
- *****

International Masters Pairs

1. G. Clench & B. Rigal
 2. K. Patt & T. Haworth
 3. A. Pierce & A. Thomas
- *****

Ladies' Welsh Cup

1. J. Newton, J. Newton, J. Spence, D. Evans
 2. D. Kurbalija, G. Clench, M. Pitts, M. Pierce
 3. P. Duncan, E. Jenkins, P. McCombie, E. Parry
- *****

National Mens' Teams

1. P. Jourdain, T. Ratcliff, A. Pierce, A. Thomas
 2. M. Hirst, A. Zaman, T. Casey, D. Hamilton
 3. P. Felman, D. Ronson, J. Luck, T. Reddy
- *****

Forthcoming Events

Jan. 9	Area Events (W & N)
Jan. 16	Area Event (E)
Jan. 23	Area Events (E & W & M)
Jan. 24-28	Fritch Pairs (Clubs)
Jan. 30	Area Events (E & W & N)
Feb. 5/6	Graded Masters (Llanelli)
Feb. 12/13	Portland Pairs
Feb. 13	Area Event (M)
Feb. 18-20	East Wales Cong. (Cwmbran)
Feb. 26/27	Camrose: Wales v England (Corbett Arms)
Mar. 5/6	Nat. Mixed Pairs Final (W)
Mar. 12	Area Event (W)
Mar. 13	Executive (Llandrindod)
Mar. 13	Area Event (E)
Mar. 20	Area Event (M)
Mar. 24/27	Llangollen Congress
Apr. 3	Area Event (N)
Apr. 9/10	Nat. Open Pairs Final (N)
Apr. 17	Area Events (E & W & M)
Apr. 23/24	Nat. Mens/Ladies Prs. F. (E)

ADVANCES IN BIDDING

By Dean Hardie



Puppet Stayman



Puppet Stayman is used by responder after a strong balanced 2NT opener to locate major suit fits. To utilise the bid responder will need game values. The convention's main advantages over more traditional treatments are that 5 card majors can be shown and if a major suit fit is identified it can be arranged that the "Big hand" always plays it.

2NT - 3C asks opener about his major suit holdings

3D denies a 5 card major and also denies 3 spades with 2 or 3 hearts.

3H shows a 5 card suit

3S shows a 5 card suit

3NT shows 3 spades and 2 or 3 hearts.

2NT - 3C

3D - 3H denies 4 hearts but may have 4 spades. Opener bids 3S with a 4 card suit or 3NT without.

- 3S shows 4 hearts and denies 4 spades. Opener bids 4 hearts with a 4 card suit or 3NT without.

- 3NT shows 4 cards in both majors, Opener now passes or bids 4 of his major.

Note:

With 4 spades and 5 hearts, responder should transfer with 3D to show his 5 hearts and then show his spade suit. (For the adventurous 3NT shows 4 spades and 3S denies 4 spades. This way the big hand still gets to play the hand).

With 5 spades and 4 hearts, responder should bid 3C. If opener bids 3NT showing 3 spades he can convert to 4S (via a 4H transfer for the not so faint-hearted). If opener bids 3D responder should bid 3NT knowing partner will convert to his major if he has one.

READ BOOKS AND BEHAVE GRACIOUSLY

By Paul Chimes

A few years ago, I was playing in the Mens' Pairs at the Llangollen Congress with Eric Favager, when the following hand came up. The bidding had revealed the heart fit, but partner took what turned out to be an inspired decision when he opted to bid the small slam in spades (probably caused by a desire to enjoy the restful pursuit of being dummy!).

S:	Q x
H:	A Q x x
D:	A x x
C:	K x x x
	□
S:	A K J x x x
H:	K x x x
D:	Q x
C:	x

West led the Ace of clubs and continued with a 2nd club. The contract is safe if the hearts break 3-2 (as is the alternative contract of 6H), but having read Patrick Jourdain's excellent book "Squeeze Play is Easy" a few weeks earlier, I recognised the extra chance of finding the same player with long hearts and the King of diamonds. So - discard a heart on the King of clubs, play Queen of spades, Ace of diamonds (the necessary Vienna Coup) and run the spades.

When the last spade was led, Dummy's small club can be discarded, but West held 4 hearts and the King of diamonds, so whichever card he discarded, declarer takes the remainder of the tricks (this squeeze also works against East).

Opening the traveller revealed that "the room" had played it in 6H-1, but whereas a lot of players will just scowl when presented with an undeserved bottom, South (one of Wales most senior players and a Camrose player of many years standing) responded with a genuine "Well played".

If only we could all behave so gracefully in moments of adversity, the game would be so much better!

MASTER-POINT OF VIEW

A letter from the Masterpoints Secretary - Noelle Bond

Some masterpoints seem to lead adventurous lives, turning up on my desk after being rescued from the bottom of pockets, handbags or ashtrays, so I am not surprised to find that sometimes they are a little grubby.

Because of this I was pleased recently to receive a set of MPs which had been washed and ironed. Very nice to handle. Quite disappointing to learn that the washing had been accidental.



Then the other day I had a second set which had been washed. Unfortunately I had to shake these out of the envelope as they had been turned into near papier-mache fragments. Very little could be read on them, but we did develop an interesting family game arranging them into various shapes, among which were a scottish terrier, french poodle and (the best) a bird on a branch. Obviously too hot a wash.

Fortunately for the player, I had already received the counterfoils from the club's M.P. secretary so I after checking through was able to credit them. Perhaps the next time the masterpoints are printed we should include washing instructions.

Seriously, I will always try to where possible credit points which have had a mishap, but sending them in regularly will reduce the chance they have to get into mischief.

Master-point promotions

From 14/9/93 - 29/12/93.

Club Master

Mrs D Akister	Penarth
Mr E F Cope	Swansea
Mr R Evans	Cardiff
Mr L Fletcher	Colwyn Bay
Mrs M He	Swansea
Mrs E Hughes	Ynys-Mon
Mrs B James	Penarth
Mr A Jinks	Cardiff
Mr L Katan	Colwyn Bay
Mr R D Law	Swansea
Mr R Pepper	GBA
Dr T Reilly	Cowbridge L.
Mr M Samuel	GBA
Mrs M Van	
Der Slujs	Ynys-Mon
Mrs C Welson	Aberaeron

Local Master

Mr M J Davis	Bridgend
Mrs J Day	Cwmbran
Mr W Day	Cwmbran
Mrs M Dewsberry	Mid-Glam
Dr R Dewsberry	Mid-Glam
Mrs A Dolan	Awel-Y-Mor
Mr H Golding	Criccieth
Mrs H Hall	Penarth
Mr R Phillips	Old Hall
Mrs S Phillips	Old Hall
Mrs A C Roscow	Llandudno
Mr B Trethewey	Rhiwbina
Ms L Watkins	Barrivale



County Master

Mr H Arnold	Swansea
Mr G Cameron	Newtown
Mrs M Cameron	Newtown
Mrs E Disley	Porthcawl
Mr M Fox	Mid-Glam
Mrs F Goza	Mumbles
Mr N Large	Colwyn Bay
Dr P J Murphy	Colwyn Bay
Mr J Ryan	Swansea
Mrs S Shea	Ynys-Mon
Mrs M Smart	Swansea
Mr P Stott	Prestatyn

Master

Mrs A Barker	Dolgellau
Mr P Bradbury	Pwllheli
Mrs A Martin	Caernarfon
Mr S Maslin	Corbett Arms
Mr S Phillips	Mitchel Troy
Mrs M Smart	Swansea

Advanced Master

Mrs B Lewis	Swansea
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1 Star Master

Mrs J Barton	Cardiff
Mr M Barton	Cardiff
Mrs M Briscoe	Shotton
Mrs S Ingham	Barrivale
Mrs D Lewandowski	Glascoed
Mr G Maddox	Mid-Glam
Mr T Parish	Swansea
Mrs B Spencer	Cardigan
Mrs L Thomas	BSC
Mr C Thomas	BSC
Mr B Waite	Mid-Glam
Mrs J Williams	Cardiff
Dr A Williams	Bridgend

2 Star Master

Mr P Cunningham	Barrivale
Mrs W Durant	Newport
Mrs I Evans	Cardiff
Mrs C Holdron	Swansea
Mrs V Jardine	Swansea
Mrs B Jones	Bridgend
Mr B Parkinson	GBA
Mr R Smith	Mid-Glam
Mrs L Williams	Criccieth

3 Star Master

Mr J Henson	Bridgend
Mr J James	Swansea
Mr K Jones	Wrexham
Mrs M Morris	Cardigan
Mrs P Thomas	Barrivale
Mr J Thomas	Barrivale
Mr J Tozer	Bridgend

4 Star Master

Mr E Pyke	Rhyl
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Tournament Master

Mr G Woolf	Mumbles
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Regional Master

Mr M Clare	Llandudno
Mrs M Moore	Bridgend
Miss T Saunders	Porthcawl
Mrs L Williams	Rhyl

Premier Regional Master

Mrs M Banks	Rhyl
Mrs A Garvie	GBA
Miss W Wood	GBA

National Master

Mr T Disley	Porthcawl
Mrs P Duncan	Rhiwbina
Mr P Gagne	GBA
Mr K Thomas	Tenby

Premier National Master

Mrs P McCombie	GBA
Mrs M Morris	Bridgend

Life Master

Mr P Felman	Cardiff
Mrs D Harris	GBA
Mr D Jenkins	Rhiwbina
Mrs E Jenkins	Rhiwbina
Dr D Melville	Cardiff

Senior Life Master

Dr A Zaman	Bridgend
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Tenby Swiss Teams

By Bill Nicholls

The Tenby Bridge Club held their annual one day Swiss Teams Congress on Sunday 24th October at the Imperial Hotel in Tenby. These events are always amongst the most enjoyable on the calendar and this was no exception. The day's bridge plus an excellent meal served by friendly and courteous staff cost only £10 - a real bargain.

One of the biggest swings I have seen happened at one of these competitions.

S: -
H: K Q 5 4
D: K Q 7
C: A K 10 9 7 2
S: A Q J
H: A 9 7 3 2
D: 3
C: Q 8 5 4

At the first table North opened 1C and East overcalled 1S. South bid 2H, West passed, and North jumped to 4NT. South dutifully showed 2 Aces and North decided that as East had overcalled spades she would be likely to hold that Ace, so she "went for it" with a bid of 7H. East holding the Ace of diamonds doubled, and then realised that she was not on lead. West led a spade. East rose with the King and dummy's diamonds were discarded. At the other table after 1C - 1S South decided to support clubs. Again North invoked Blackwood and drew the same conclusions regarding which two Aces partner held, so ended up in 7C. This time of course East was on lead and led the Ace of diamonds. A swing of 21 IMPs.

This year's winners were G. H. Thomson, Mrs. S. Thomson, Dr. K. Stagg, Mrs. D. Stagg. Runners-up were K. Thomas, Mrs. P. Shimmell, Mrs. D. Edwards, Mrs. J. Hirst.

For anyone wishing to play competitive bridge in a friendly atmosphere, this is one for the diary.

Porthcawl Congress 1993

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The Porthcawl coast is a beautiful sight in the calm of the off season; red and black oyster catchers bob amongst the raucous herring gulls, sanderlings patter along the edge of the rolling sea, and the foreshore is devoid of man; but it was another world behind the generous glass of the Seabank Hotel. Amidst the aroma of Philip Felman's cigar, a killing defence was imminent.

S: 9 8 7
H: A K 10 2
D: K 9 7
C: J 10 9

D3 led S: Q 3
 H: 8 5
 D: 8 6 4 2
 C: K Q 8 5 3

W	N	E	S
2D	X	XX	3S
P	4S	Passed out	
2D was multi.			
X was take-out.			
Redouble was clubs.			

Dummy won and ran the 9 of spades to Philip's King.

He returned the 2 of clubs to my Queen which held.

What would you do now?

Philip's hand was
S: K42
H: QJ9764
D: 3
C: A72.

A diamond ruff, another small club to my King, and a second diamond ruff led to a top score, two off!

Your letters.....



Re: When "a spade" means a high spade.

Dear Sir,

I have heard of occasions recently when some tournament directors (and even higher authorities), have quoted the second part of Law 46B ("If declarer designates a suit but not a rank, he is deemed to have called the lowest card of the suit indicated") without quoting the first part which says, in effect, that the second part only applies when there is doubt about declarer's intention.

The key words in the first part are: "The following restrictions apply (*except when declarer's different intention is incontrovertible*)" (my italics). Appeals Committees have to interpret "incontrovertible", but, clearly, the Laws would not include the option unless it was expected to be used.

If declarer's intention is so clear that a reasonable person would not call it into question then most Appeals Committees will rule what declarer intended, and NOT use the second part of Law 46B to interpret what he said. If a reasonable person would question declarer's intention, then the second part of Law 46B applies.

Example: Dummy holds A K Q 8 6 4 of spades and declarer says: "Run the spades". I would expect an Appeals Committee to rule that this meant "start with AKQ", with an element of doubt about what happened after the first three. If declarer cashed AKQ, felling J109 from one defender whilst the other held 7532, and declarer then said "Run the spades", the Appeals Committee might rule that declarer must play a low spade next.

You should abide by Law 46A and avoid saying "A spade" when there is more than one in dummy. If you do make an insufficient designation, then you run a major risk of an adverse ruling. But it is wrong for the TD to ignore the first part of Law 46B which gives you the chance of a favourable one.

Yours etc.,

Patrick Jourdain

Welsh Representative, British Bridge League Laws and Ethics.

P.S.

There is a related problem: what should dummy do when given an incomplete instruction by declarer? The Laws do not say. It is normal for dummy to ask for clarification (I do not believe Law 43C, forbidding dummy to ask questions about the play, can apply where dummy does not understand an instruction), though this may give rise to a claim by a defender that dummy is directing play. Some people advise dummy to play a low card and see if declarer corrects this (as provided for in Law 45), but this is no easier a solution.

The Laws aim to avoid punishing slips of the tongue or wrist. Laws 25, 45, 47 and 48 all contain provisions for people to withdraw without penalty things they have done or said, but if you do or say something different from what you meant to do or say, you run the risk of an adverse ruling.

AREA NEWS

East Wales Bridge League 1992-93

- Div. 1 Cardiff Bridge Club "A"
- Div. 2 Gwent Bridge Academy "A"
- Div. 3 Cowbridge Leisure Centre "Red"
- Div. 4 Barrivale Bridge Club "Green"

The North Wales Bridge Association would like to announce, that despite rumours to the contrary, the BBL Swiss Teams will again be held in Llangollen in 1994. The only difference being the change of dates to 18th-20th November, 1994.

Results: The Harold Griffiths Cup (Teams)

- 1. Mr & Mrs P. Hand, Mr & Mrs G. Ellis, P. Swingler
- 2. B. Humphreys, H. Weale, B. Edwards, G. Jones

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Dear Sir,

I have heard of occasions recently when some tournament directors (and even higher authorities), have quoted the second part of Law 46B ("If declarer designates a suit but not a rank, he is deemed to have called the lowest card of the suit indicated") without quoting the first part which says, in effect, that the second part only applies when there is doubt about declarer's intention.

The key words in the first part are: "The following restrictions apply (*except when declarer's different intention is incontrovertible*)" (my italics). Appeals Committees have to interpret "incontrovertible", but, clearly, the Laws would not include the option unless it was expected to be used.

If declarer's intention is so clear that a reasonable person would not call it into question then most Appeals Committees will rule what declarer intended, and NOT use the second part of Law 46B to interpret what he said. If a reasonable person would question declarer's intention, then the second part of Law 46B applies.

Example: Dummy holds A K Q 8 6 4 of spades and declarer says: "Run the spades". I would expect an Appeals Committee to rule that this meant "start with AKQ", with an element of doubt about what happened after the first three. If declarer cashed AKQ, felling J109 from one defender whilst the other held 7532, and declarer then said "Run the spades", the Appeals Committee might rule that declarer must play a low spade next.

You should abide by Law 46A and avoid saying "A spade" when there is more than one in dummy. If you do make an insufficient designation, then you run a major risk of an adverse ruling. But it is wrong for the TD to ignore the first part of Law 46B which gives you the chance of a favourable one.

Yours etc.,

Patrick Jourdain

Welsh Representative, British Bridge League Laws and Ethics.

P.S.

There is a related problem: what should dummy do when given an incomplete instruction by declarer? The Laws do not say. It is normal for dummy to ask for clarification (I do not believe Law 43C, forbidding dummy to ask questions about the play, can apply where dummy does not understand an instruction), though this may give rise to a claim by a defender that dummy is directing play. Some people advise dummy to play a low card and see if declarer corrects this (as provided for in Law 45), but this is no easier a solution.

The Laws aim to avoid punishing slips of the tongue or wrist. Laws 25, 45, 47 and 48 all contain provisions for people to withdraw without penalty things they have done or said, but if you do or say something different from what you meant to do or say, you run the risk of an adverse ruling.

AREA NEWS

East Wales Bridge League 1992-93

- Div. 1 Cardiff Bridge Club "A"
- Div. 2 Gwent Bridge Academy "A"
- Div. 3 Cowbridge Leisure Centre "Red"
- Div. 4 Barrivale Bridge Club "Green"

The North Wales Bridge Association would like to announce, that despite rumours to the contrary, the BBL Swiss Teams will again be held in Llangollen in 1994. The only difference being the change of dates to 18th-20th November, 1994.

Results: The Harold Griffiths Cup (Teams)

- 1. Mr & Mrs P. Hand, Mr & Mrs G. Ellis, P. Swingler
- 2. B. Humphreys, H. Weale, B. Edwards, G. Jones