

Selectors Report

By Chris Rochelle

A total of fifteen pairs have applied to enter this year's Camrose trials. Of these 5 pairs have been seeded through to the final trial. These are the pairs who either played or were reserve in last year's Camrose matches. This means that 10 pairs who applied will compete at Gwent Academy over the weekend of the 18-19th June for the right to join them.

This first trial takes on more importance this year than it has in previous years. This is due to the forthcoming friendly international match against China in Cardiff on August the 31st. Wales will probably use 6 pairs for this match, and as at least 1 of last year's Camrose pairs is unavailable, this will give the opportunity for 2 pairs close to making the Camrose team the chance to represent Wales in a full international.

The weekend scheduled for the 2nd trial has been changed to a one-day training session on the Saturday only, 8th October.

The Lady Milne Trophy

Wales failed to take advantage of home territory for this year's competition and for the 2nd consecutive year ended up with the wooden spoon. The event was hosted by the North Wales Bridge Association in Deeside. Scotland made it their 7th victory in the 45-year history of the competition, by winning all 3 of their 36 deal contests.

Final table	VP's
Scotland	217
England	189
N. Ireland	161
Wales	146

- Wales: **J. Chlmes & D. Harris**
P. Edwards & K. Stephenson
J. Casey & M. Pierce
 (NPC: **J. Luck**)
- Scotland: **V. Outred & U. Harper**,
E. McGowan & C. Gerrard,
M. Robertson & S. McDonald
- England: **S. Burn & A. Walker**,
M. Brunner & R. Goldenfield,
S. Penfold & J. Phillips.
- N. Ireland: **C. Smyth & M. Curran**,
D. Sloan & C. Burns,
K. Murphy & V. Hamilton.



N EWSLETTE R

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Editorial:

Due to the large number of masterpoint promotions, this edition of the Newsletter has an extra 4 pages. I am quite willing to make this the norm from now on as long as I can have regular contributions from you the members.

Regular contributors are now starting to submit their articles on computer disk; this is a great saving to me as I do not have to retype their work thus eliminating copying errors. However, if you have something to submit I will gladly accept handwritten efforts still.

The new season sees one major change that will affect all members who enter the various WBU competitions: Paul Chimes has retired from the post of N.T.O. and this position has been filled by Wendy Wood of Newport. Please note her address and telephone number which appears at the top of this page.

A number of people have remarked to me, their desire to see WBU national finals using computer-dealt hands. We have this facility available at present but no plans to use it. What is your view?

Finally, congratulations to Mike Jones on his election to the post of President of the W.B.U. He is the first president to come from the recently formed Mid-Wales Area.

I'll tell you what's interesting

By Filip Kurbalija

S: QJ

H: Q8x

D: KJ10xx

C: Axx

S: AKxxxx S: xx

H: xx H: A10xx

D: xxx D: Qxx

C: xx C: QJ10x

S: xxx

H: KJ97

D: Ax

C: Kxxx



Technique, timing and luck

Most contracts can be made, most contracts can be defeated this is a common adage in bridge. Even when the defence slips however, you still have to exhibit good technique and timing.

After a competitive auction South arrives in 4 hearts. Diane Kurbalija received the lead of the Ace, King and another spade. She ruffed the third spade with the Queen of hearts (East discarded a club) and advanced the Jack of diamonds which held the trick. Declarer now ran the 8 of hearts followed by a heart to the nine, the third heart was won by East who switched to a club. Declarer won the club switch with the King, drew the last trump and brought the contract home with diamonds breaking 3-3.

As with all these types of complex hands there were opportunities for the defence to prevail (not always easy to spot at the table), but full marks to declarer who nevertheless had to exhibit good technique and timing.

NAT. TOURN. ORGANISER'S REPORT

REPORT FROM THE N.T.Oh!

BRIDGE PLAYERS DO IT IN FOURS...

Hello. Since taking over from my soon to be ex-friend Paul Chimes as N.T.O, I have been adrift in a sea of paperwork - the size of which has to be seen to be believed, however, I have ordered a skip and filing is nearing completion.

I am very eager to get "stuck in" but at the moment the amount of arranging to be done is minimal thanks to Paul's efforts prior to departure, but, rest assured, I have several "pet" projects and although nothing is apparent on the surface, there is an awesome amount of paddling going on underwater, so keep your eyes open and watch for the ripples.

Meanwhile if you have any queries, comments or gripes, write to your psychiatrist (don't keep things bottled up) or ring me WENDY WOOD on 0633 273664

A hand to think about Dealer South, -Sitting North, you pick up the following cards—

- S. VOID
- H. AQx
- D. Qxxxx
- C. AKxx

Nice, your partner opens 1NT (15-17) holding

- S. KQx
- H. Kxx
- D. AKxx
- C. Qxx

and the bidding goes

- 1NT P. 3S* P. *slam try diamonds
- 4D# P. 4H# P #1st round control
- 4NT~ P. 5S~ P. ~RKCB
- 6D P. . P. P.

QUESTION: CAN THE GRAND BE BID SCIENTIFICALLY?

NATIONAL RESULTS

National Mens Pairs

- 1. G. Martin & D.M. Hardie
- 2. A. Pierce & F.S. Kurbalija

National Ladies Pairs

- 1. G. Knight & R. Morgan-Edwards
- 2. D. Kurbalija & J. Casey

National Open Pairs

- 1. A. Ratcliff & S. Daniel
- 2. J. O'Sullivan & J. Thomas

National Mixed Pairs

- 1. A. Ratcliff & D. Kurbalija
- 2. Esme Parry & Alan Powell

Webber Cup

- 1. M. & A Pierce, A. & J. Casey, A. Thomas
- 2. G. Martin & D.M. Hardie, F.S. Kurbalija & A. Ratcliff.

Perry Shield

- E. Wales (A. Ratcliff, P. Jourdain, A. Pierce, A. Thomas, F. Kurbalija, P. Goodman)

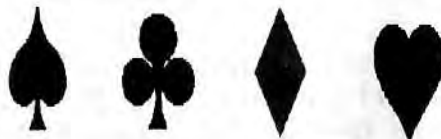
Spickett Bowl

- W. Wales (D. Panniers, S. Leyshon, A. Fox, I. Thomas, M. Morris, M. Moore)

Nat. Club Teams of Eight

- 1. Swansea (Mrs. D. Panniers, Mrs. S. Leyshon, Mrs. E. Price, R. Parris, G. John, B.D. Clements, D. Hardie, G. Martin)
- 2. Rhiwbina

The Welsh Cup final and Cambria Cup Final are yet to be decided.



THE OPPONENTS MAKE AN OVERCALL

By Dave Melville

In these days of aggressive overcalls and bouncy bidding, it is vital to paint a precise picture of your hand as soon and as effectively as possible.

When the opponents make an overcall our bidding gains a useful new vocabulary; the negative double. Efficient use of this tool can lead to an improvement in our bidding accuracy. In order to obtain the maximum benefit of the negative double you need to discuss, with your partners, the actions arising after an opposition overcall. In this article I describe some of the variables which you need to consider, and put forward a simple scheme favoured by many good players.

Meaning of double.

Does the double promise a major? both majors?

Meaning of suit bid

Does a suit bid promise 5+? or could it be 4? Is it forcing?

Point Count

Many players adopt 8+ for the negative double. The favoured scheme relaxes this to 6+ at the 1 level, but at the two level 8+ is retained.

Recommended Scheme

Simply put the scheme is as follows;

- 1. The X promises the next major up.
- 2. Bids and X at the 1level promise 6+ points
- 3. " " " " 2 " " 8+ "
- 4. Interrupted bids are weak 2's type (6/10 points, 5/6 cards) with a 2NT, Blue Club enquiry.

This is discussed in more detail below. I do not claim that any of this is new, it is merely a bringing-together of familiar ideas into a simple, coherent system.

Bidding at the 1 level following an overcall.

The negative double shows specifically 4 cards in the next major up and 6+ points. It follows that a major suit bid at the 1 level will usually have 5+ cards. The exception is;

- W N E
- 1C 1D 1S

Here the X would show 4 H's, so that E is showing only 4+ S's. It is also recommended that in this sequence, a 5 card spade suit (bid

1S) is shown before a 4 card heart suit, (X), in keeping with standard Acol principles.

- W N E
- 1C 1D 1NT

E is denying 4+ H's (he didn't bid 1H or X) and 4+ S's (he didn't bid 1S).

Negative double at the 2 level

The same philosophy is adopted as at the 1 level, inasmuch as the X promises the next major up, (or clubs, if both majors have been bid). However, the loss of space means that the X will not usually promise exactly 4 cards, it will usually show 4+. Only when, as at the 1 level, an uninterrupted bid can be made does the X show just 4. This occurs in three sequences only i.e.

- W N E
- 1S 2C(D) 2H 5+ H's
- X 4 H's

and,

- 1H 1S 2C 5+ clubs
- X 4 clubs

Suit bids at the 2 level following an overcall

At the 2 level the bidding is more cramped and some loss of definition is inevitable. It is convenient to discuss interrupted and non-interrupted bids separately;

Interrupted bids at the 2 level

These show a weak-2 type of hand (6/10 points, 5/6 card suit). The 2NT Blue Club enquiry is used.

Interrupted bids at the 3 level are forcing.

Non-interrupted bids

2C/2H shows a 5+ suit, 2D just 4+. All promise 8+ points.

Balanced hands

Balanced hands, with no 4 card major, can be bid by way of a limit bid in NT (with a stop), or by way of an UCB (with no stop).

Powerful 1-suited hands

Powerful 1-suiters, which cannot be bid via an uninterrupted bid, (usually in C or D) are bid via the high-powered X, i.e. double initially, and follow up with your suit, or, if partner has bid your suit, bid the enemy suit.

MASTER-POINT OF VIEW

A letter from the Masterpoints Secretary - Noelle Bond

I have to admit giving a small sigh of relief when I closed off our 1993/94 Masterpoint year, as, perhaps because last year's WBU Journal missed giving the usual April 30th. closing date, the end of year rush went on much longer this year. In fact, it was not until May 29th that my morning mail did not include any masterpoints. Some people who realised they were late, included affecting pleas for me to take pity on them and register their points before the year's end. One man who had forgotten to send in his own and his wife's points until very late, wrote that she had threatened torture and damage to his vital organs if her points did not get registered. Luckily he was in time, or from his detailed description of her threat I don't think we would have seen him walking around.

Our postmen were very busy the last two months, most days we would hear a thump, thump, thump as they pushed a dozen or so letters through the front door separately; then, quite often, an hour or so after the normal delivery, a large van would drive all the way up the hill to our house, and out would get a postman carrying a single letter which he would then pop through our letter-box. I suppose the Post Office were trying to keep up their percentage of deliveries within a day, but it was difficult not to imagine that the letter had just been found down behind a cupboard or somewhere similar.

I have been wondering if anyone received notes from me with unfinished words at the end of lines, if so I apologise. I can't always squeeze

the full words into the space the computer allows for notes and intend to go back later and write the missing letters in, but I worry that during the busy period I may have some-times forgotten to do so.

A definite apology now, in the last Newsletter, Mrs. Elsie Evans of Llandudno Club was not listed in the promotions to Master. She should have been there, but a printer's error made her name unrecognisable. This edition of the Newsletter will be the first to have all the promotion listings transferred from computer to computer direct, so I hope errors will now be very few and far between.

During the past year I entered 2,367,960 local points and 5,294 Green points into the computer, nearly half of them after April 9th. This was slightly fewer Local points than last year, but more Green points. I don't know how far all these points will stretch if laid end to end, but back to back they come to twenty feet, quite appropriate as I store them in shoe boxes. All these points lead to many promotions, a large number of them in this last quarter, as you will have seen from the listing. I think a promotion is almost as nice for me as for the member being promoted, for I always get a little thrill of pleasure when I enter someone's points into the computer and the message comes up "Rank changed".

CLUB ABBREVIATIONS

A	Aberystwyth	CN	Caernarfon	MH	Milford Haven	PW	Pwllheli
AA	Aberaeron	CR	Criccieth	MT	Mitchel Troy	R	Rhiwbina
AG	Abergavenny	CRI	Crickhowell	N	Newport	RH	Rhyl
AM	Awel-y-Mor (Porthcawl)	D	Dolgellau	NT	Newtown	ROF	Glascoed
BR	Bridgend	DM	Direct Member	OH	Old Hall	Ry	Rhayader
BSC	British Steel Corporation	DR	Drury	P	Porthcawl	S	Swansea
BV	Barrivale	F	Flint	PC	Pencoed	SH	Shotton
C	Cardiff	GA	Gwent Academy	PD	Penrhyndeud- raeth	SP	South Pems
CA	Corbett Arms	H	Haverfordwest	PE	Pennal	STD	St Davids (Aberystwyth)
CB	Cwmbran	L	Llanelli	PN	Penarth	T	Tenby
CBY	Colwyn Bay	LD	Llandudno	PR	Prestatyn	W	Wrexham
CD	Cardigan	LP	Lampeter	PT	Port Talbot	Y	Ynys-Mon (Anglesey)
CL	Cowbridge Leisure	M	Mold	PV	Park View (Wrexham)		
		MB	Mumbles				
		MG	Mid-Glam				

MASTER-POINT PROMOTIONS

From 19/3/94 to 23/5/94

Club Master

Mr Michael Ashe	C
Mrs Barbara Buckland	L
Mrs Maureen Charlton	BV
Mr Dominic Cottrill	C
Mrs Liz Crockford	T
Mr Ray Curry	S
Mrs Jo Davies	A
Miss Janice Evans	D
Mrs Terry Farago	C
Miss R George	L
Mrs Patsy Hirst	PC
Mr A Juchnowicz	PW
Mr Patrick Llewelyn	Y
Mrs Frances Masters	H
Mrs Mary Parker	H
Mrs Jurdy Pearce	C
Mr Fred Pugh	PC
Mr J A C Seavers	S
Mr Eric Tebbet	PN
Mrs Jean Thomas	PN
Mrs Elizabeth Thomeycroft	LP
Mr John G Treharne	C
Mrs Janet Walters	PN
Mr Steve Webb	C
Mr Ted Wood	BV

Local Master

Mrs Eileen Austin	C
Mrs Dorothy Broadbent	D
Mrs K Broadbent	MB
Mr Bernard Dalton-Jones	Y
Miss Iris Davies	BR
Mr W E Davison	S
Mrs Kath Edwards	DM
Mrs Mona Egginton	AA
Mrs Joan Evans	CD
Mr Ralph H Evans	C
Mr Justyn Gough	BV

Mrs Doreen Griffiths	AM
Mrs Marie Hay	PN
Mr John Hough	S
Mr Bill Jenkins	BV
Mrs Hennie Jenkins	CD
Mrs Kath Jenkins	CL
Mr Neil Jenkins	CL
Mrs K M Juchnowicz	PW
Mr Len Kendrick	DM
Mrs Betty Mackintosh	P
Mrs Edith Mallett	PV
Mrs Margaret McCumiskey	CA
Mrs K M McNeal	PW
Mr Mike Miles	AG
Mrs Sally Parkes	Y
Mrs Jean Parry	MB
Mrs Betty Phillips	L
Mr Ken Rees	AG
Mrs Betty Reynoldson	Y
Mrs Marilyn Runham	CN
Mrs Colleen Scott	AG
Mr David Spalding	CN
Mrs Celia Thomas	BV
Mrs Elaine Thomas	C
Mr Huw Thomas	BV
Mrs Doris Tomlinson	MT
Mrs Margaret Tovey	MB
Mr Ian Watson	MT
Mr David Williams	PV
Mr Hywel Williams	MB
Mrs M Willis	S
Dr P Willis	S
Mrs Sharon Winter	C

County Master

Mrs Gwen Anderson	T
Mr R N P Baker	S
Mrs Jane Bartlett	GA
Mr Keith Bellamy	BV

Mrs Hillary Cullen	CD
Mr Owen Davies	Y
Mrs Sally Davies	AA
Mrs Babs Dunford	C
Mrs Mary Evans	S
Mrs Amelia Faulkner	S
Mr Graham Fifield	S
Mrs Patricia Gale	L
Mrs Marion Green	CD
Mr Joe Jackson	BV
Mr Anthony Jenkins	NT
Mrs A L Jones	F
Mr Tom Kendrick	BV
Mr George Kozlowski	NT
Mrs Ann Lewis	AA
Mrs Cynthia Luen	BV
Mrs Hilda Lyons	S
Mrs Jackie Martin	C
Mrs Rhiannon Maxwell	L
Mr John Moore	MG
Mr Mark Roderick	BV
Mrs G Shenton	MB
Mrs Betsy Sprake	CD
Mr Les Thomas	S
Mrs Marie Topp	PW
Mr Richard Turley	MT
Miss Nans Wheldon	CN
Mrs B Whiting	BSC
Mrs Ann Williams	NT
Mrs Beryl Williams	MB
Mr Peter Williams	PR
Mr Vaughan Williams	NT

Master

Mr Adam Anderson	T
Dr Jim Arthur	CBY
Mrs Margaret Bancroft	CL
Mrs Mary Benton	S
Mr Peter Britten	BV

<u>Master(contd.)</u>		<u>2 Star Master</u>	
Mr Lawrie Buckland MB	Mr M L Jurgens PW	Mr Rex Acton AG	
Mr Frank Cross M	Mrs Mair Ley MB	Mr P Braddock Y	
Mrs Elsie Davies PR	Mrs Daphne Patrick CB	Mrs Chris Burdett PV	
Mr Wally Davies W	Mrs Joan Roberts PW	Mrs Allie David L	
Mrs S J Eagles PV	Mrs Rona Silvey RH	Miss Colette Davies L	
Mr Don Evans LD	Mrs Veronica Smith SP	Mr Manny De Souza OH	
Mr H John Evans CL	Mrs L Thomas PT	Mrs Margaret Hathaway AA	
Mr W Eric Evans PD	Mrs Elizabeth Trevor Jones Y	Mrs Doreen Hughes R	
Mrs Sarah Harrison PN	Mr Eddie Urbanski PW	Mrs Peggy Morgan MB	
Mrs Pamela Higgs CL	Mr A W Williams PW	Mr John Murray L	
Mrs Dale C Joy LD	Mrs Joan Wronski BR	Mrs Dorothy Phillips PV	
Mr Norman Large CBY		Mrs Janet Rees L	
Mrs Margaret Lewis L	<u>1 Star Master</u>	Mrs Jean Summer DR	
Mrs Yvonne Lewis S	Mr John Berni S	Mr Richard Trew BV	
Mrs Rosemary Mages L	Mrs Dorothy Bretherton CR	Mrs Norma Wells A	
Mrs Phyllis Matthews BSC	Mr G K Burnett DR	Mrs Joy Whitelock SP	
Mrs Dawn McDonald BR	Mrs Pat Cogbill BR	Mr M C Whitelock SP	
Mrs Doris McLean LD	Mr Glyn Collins S	Mrs Frances Williams L	
Dr Paddy Murphy CBY	Mrs Elsie Daymond MB		
Mrs Vera Philip PR	Mr Ron Daymond MB	<u>3 Star Master</u>	
Mr Alan Phillips SP	Mrs Yvonne Evans F	Mrs Rachel Douglas-Jones S	
Mrs Mairi Rees T	Mrs Barbara Frost PR	Mr Mike Evans W	
Mr Elwyn Roberts W	Mr G Hampton SP	Mr Philip Finnigan A	
Mr Aneurin Rogers BSC	Mrs Audrey Howells L	Dr Gerald Gould PN	
Mrs Margaret Thompson MB	Miss Eleanor Howells R	Mrs Margaret John L	
Mrs Betty Wilcock NT	Mrs Betty Lewis S	Mr Gareth Jones PD	
Mr Les Wilcock NT	Mrs Colleen Lloyd LD	Mr Keith Jones S	
Mrs Wendy Williams P	Mr Harold Maslin R	Mrs Molly Jones MB	
	Mrs Muriel Maslin R	Dr Peter Lloyd Jones MB	
<u>Advanced Master</u>	Mrs Lyn Matthews BV	Mr Ted O'Neill BV	
Mrs Joyce Arthur CA	Mrs Hannah Roberts PV	Mrs Joan Parker MB	
Mr John Arundale LD	Mr Neil Rooney S	Mrs Jane Steven MB	
Mrs Mary Arundale LD	Mr Alan Sauer BV		
Mrs Jean Bailey CN	Mrs Val Smith ROF	<u>4 Star Master</u>	
Mrs R K Bromfield AG	Mr Ron Thompson GA	Mr Dave Barwood BR	
Mr Alan J Davies LP	Mr Howard Warner H	Mr Gerald Bell MB	
Mrs Barbara Easterbrook OH	Mr R Waterhouse F	Mr David Brooke MB	
Mrs Muriel Fraser MB	Miss G Watkin-Jones S	Mrs Elaine Evans W	
Mrs Maureen John MB	Mrs Marjorie Young AM	Mrs Gwyneth Flaye CD	
Miss Rita Jones Y	Mr Frank Zdzienicki Y	Mrs Corina Grove MB	
Mr Emyr Tudwal Jones A		Mr Ray Heslinga SP	



<u>4 Star Master(Contd.)</u>		Mrs Mary Edwards H		Mrs Rona Morgan Edwards PW	
Mr Andrew Phillips LP		Mrs Mollie Evans PW		Mrs Vera Robinson P	
Mrs Jean Wright W		Mr Warwick Horspool PR		<u>Premier National Master</u>	
		Mr Alan R Powell GA		Mrs Jackie Chimes GA	
<u>5 Star Master</u>		Mrs Eleanor Price S		Mr Tony Disley P	
Mrs Joyce Dale P		Mr Chris Rochelle R		Mr John J Evans LP	
Mrs Margaret W Davies A		Mr Ray Smith MG		Mr Robin Parris S	
Mr Fred Hiles CD		Dr Kenneth Stagg MB		Mr Andrew Scott R	
Mr Colin Moore S		Ms Laura Woodruff BV			
Mrs Marjorie Paschkes LP				<u>Life Master</u>	
Mrs Clarice Powell BR		<u>Premier Regional Master</u>		Mrs Renee Cox H	
Mr Rupert Preece LD		Mr Philip Dunn CA		Mrs Ann Fox BR	
Mr Tony Waller RH		Mrs Esme Parry GA		Mrs Jill Thomas SP	
Mr Elwyn Williams PR		Mr Joe Patrick CB		<u>Senior Life Master</u>	
		Mr Cliff Rushton STD		Mr Jack Fine C	
<u>Tournament Master</u>		Mr Richard Thomas S		Mrs Diana Panniers S	
Mrs Margaret Dummer W		Mrs Sybil Thomson MB		Mrs Maureen Sheridan BR	
Mrs Jeanne Forster CN		<u>National Master</u>		<u>Grand Master</u>	
Mr Glyn L Jones PT		Mrs Noelle Bond BV		Mrs Jill Casey C	
		Mrs Eileen Hughes BV		Mr Tony Ratcliff C	
<u>Regional Master</u>		Mr Dewi I Jones A			
Mr Barry Edwards PD		Mrs Mary Knapton R			
Mr Howard Edwards H					

MINIBRIDGE COMPETITION A BIG SUCCESS

Terry Galloway and Darryl Walters (pictured below left) of Coedcae School, Llanelli were the first players in Wales to be awarded WBU Novice Points for winning a schools minibridge competition held in the Barrivale Club during the Easter holidays.



The 5 table event attracted pupils from 3 schools with their ages ranging from 11-15 years. They played 20 boards under minibridge rules and scoring.

Terry and Darryl, who only started playing the game after Xmas during school lunch hours, managed a 70% score in this their first ever competition.



- Results:
1. Terry Galloway & Darryl Walters (Coedcae Comp., Llanelli)
 2. Ceri Coles & Gareth Matthews (St. Richard Gwyn School, South Glam.)
 - 3-. Laurence Griffiths & Christopher Doughty (Llantwit Major School)
 - 3-. Danny Rowles & David Price (St. Richard Gwyn School, South Glam.)

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

By Tony Disley

An example of ridiculous things that can happen in simultaneous pairs events occurred in the Cardiff Bridge Club heat of the 1994 Charity Challenge Cup. The expert analyst surmised, "It is very hard for E-W to stay out of trouble on this deal as 1C is probably about as high as you would want to be."

How then did one declarer make 9 tricks in a contract of three no trumps?

A J 10
7 3
J 6 2
J 9 8 6 2

K 9 2	N	8 7 5 3
A Q 5	W E	J 9 6 2
A	S	K Q 10 7 5
K Q 10 7 4 3		- - - - -
Q 6 4		
K 10 8 4		
9 8 4 3		
A 5		

Dealer: East Vul: E-W

The bidding:

N	E	S	W
	No	No	1C
No	1D	No	3N
No	No	No	

North on lead was suspicious of the bidding of West, a well known "operator", and chose a club lead which was won by South.

South returned a club which was won by declarer's K. The Q of hearts was led and taken obligingly by South with the K.

A small spade (rather than the Queen which beats the contract) puts North in with his 10. Now seeing that the diamonds will come home for 5 tricks, North thinks that his only hope is to find South with the King of spades and so cashes the Ace of spades followed by the Jack.

Declarer now completed the task successfully by dropping the diamond Jack rather than attempting three tricks in hearts.

Was this skill, table presence or, as I suspect, did he think that 8 tricks for one off was probably a good score?

Post mortem

a) A dreadful lead by North. This hand is a good example of how effective a short suit lead (hearts) can be.

b) South should hold up the King of hearts almost automatically. The 'almost' as there is a possibility (remote here) of the Queen of hearts being declarer's ninth trick.

c) Although the Queen of spades would work on this hand, there is little to choose between the Queen and the 4.

Dramatis personae

North:	
Tony Disley	
West:	East:
Roman Smolski	Mike Hirst
South:	
Akram Zaman	

FIVE GO TO FLANDERS

By Gary Martin
(with apologies to Enid Blyton)

The first weekend in June sees the Alken Maes Carta Mundi Bridge Tournament in Ostend, Belgium. This year was the 12th such event and I managed to persuade Filip & Diane Kurbalija that Jim Mason and I would be worthy team mates, so we decided to go. My non-bridge playing wife made up the party with the intention of having a relaxing weekend, shopping in Belgium.

We left Cardiff at lunch-time on Thursday and met up with Jim just off the M20 on the way. A speedy 30 minute hovercraft crossing got us to Calais by 7:30 and we were safely ensconced in our hotel in Ostend by 9 p.m. This gave us plenty of time to select a restaurant in the centre of town for our evening meal.

The bridge programme for this tournament is one of the most arduous that I have ever played in. The first session of bridge started at 11 a.m. and it was 5:30 p.m. before we finished. All this was done without a single break although refreshments were available in the playing area. The session involved 7 x 8 board rounds of Swiss Teams with the desired aim being to finish in the top 8 by the end of this, in order to make the semi-final stage. Needless to say, we finished 9th in a field of 45 teams just missing the cut, mainly due to me bidding 6C with S:x H:J10xx D:KQJx C:AJ9x after the bidding had gone 1D-1S-X-4S-5C-P-?. Partner held S:x H:A9 D:Axxxx C:KQ10xx

The following morning it was a 10 a.m. start for a further 3 x 8 board matches in our mini-league, comprising of the 4 teams who finished 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th the previous day. A lack-lustre performance saw us win only one of these matches against strong opposition. This finished at 1 p.m. and so we had a full 90 minutes to ourselves before the first session of the championship pairs.

At 2:30 p.m. we sat down amongst 200 pairs to play 17 x 2 board rounds (yes, 34 boards), again straight through without a break, which ended at 7 p.m. Fortunately, both pairs performed well and we happily left in search of a meal followed by lashings of excellent Belgian beer.

The Sunday morning was reserved for the final of the teams which just involved the 2 teams that had won their respective semi-final pools. This was shown on Vu-graph but we gave this a miss in favour of searching out a French

hypermarket. A 30 minute drive into Dunkirk proved fruitless as the hypermarkets were closed for the D-day celebrations. However, a smaller supermarket just on the French/Belgian border amply met our needs and we headed back for Ostend with the car groaning under the weight of Bordeaux and Export 33 that filled the boot!

The final session of pairs was a repeat of the first. Another good performance by both pairs saw Jim and I finish in 10th place with Fil & Di occupying 24th place. Play finished at 7 p.m. with all participants invited to attend a post-tournament reception with free food and drink laid on by the sponsors, during which the prizes would be presented. It was confirmed that we had both won prizes (these went to the top one-third of the field), but as we had to be in Calais for 9:30 p.m. we could not stay for the prize-giving. As ours was a cash prize, I managed to persuade the officials to let us have our prize (6,500 Bf) in advance of the prize-giving and it was left to Maureen Dennison to pick a prize for Fil & Di from the large selection of gifts on offer.

We raced out of Ostend at 8:25 p.m. to try to make Calais in time for our 10:00 crossing. On our race back to Calais, Jim Mason recalled that once playing in Deauville with Ian Poppstone, Cameron Small and Vernon Gaskell had also won a prize but had to leave to catch a train before the prize-giving. They asked Ian if he would collect a prize for them. This he agreed to do but he let his sense of humour get the better of him when he chose two matching handbags for them as their prize! I can't wait to see what Maureen picks for Fil & Di.

Yes we did catch the hovercraft, but because of rough seas, Filip wished we hadn't, and we got back to Cardiff at 1 a.m.

The things that I personally enjoyed about the bridge were the long uninterrupted sessions, the friendly welcome we got, and the extent and value of the prize list. The things I did not enjoy were the almost compulsory non-stop smoking by the opponents and the mosquito in room 8 of the Hotel Serge.

The organisers have promised to send me some leaflets for next year's event and I will pass these on to anyone who requests one.

Did my wife have a relaxing weekend? You'll have to ask her!

BLOCK OR HOLD-UP?

By Dave Melville

To hold up a winner (usually the ace) is an effective communications-severance play in situations such as

```

                xx
    QJxxxx      Kx
                Axx
    
```

However, sometimes it pays to play the ace immediately, in an attempt to cause a communications breakdown in the danger suit. In this article I shall try and throw some light on when a block will work and when it should be attempted.

After a hold-up, one defender, (West in the diagrams) can run the suit when next on lead. The blockage is more effective; it ensures that neither defender can run the suit, and it does not involve giving up a trick. We should therefore be on the lookout for potential blockage situations; but when?

A blockage will only occur if N or S have more cards than E, otherwise EW can manoeuvre for the long hand to win the vital round. Deeper analysis of the 6-2 split shows that a blockage will occur if NS have A10x - xx or Ax - 10xx and E has KJ or QJ (and when the 10 and J are interchanged) e.g.

```

W leads 4th      xx
highest.  Q9xxxx      KJ
                A10x
    
```

S heads the K and thereby creates a blockage.

Contrast this with

```

                xx
    Q10xxxx      KJ
                A9x
    
```

Now the best that S can do is to duck once so that E cannot later return the suit (but W can run the suit when he is next in), or to duck twice and immediately concede 2 tricks.

When the suit is divided 5-3 we should consider the blockage, when, as in the 6-2 case, S (or N), has more cards than E, and E is marked with an honour richness. e.g.

```

                x
    Kxxxx      Q109
                AJxx
and,
                x
    Kxxxx      QJ10
                A9xx
    
```

In each case S heads the Q and the suit is blocked.

Despite the fact that the hold up is more common than the block, circumstances do arise when an attempted blockage may be the best line; E may have a killing switch, (or it may be possible to keep E off lead, and thus protect our tenace (even when the blockage fails).

Finally, an example;

```

                xx
                xxx
                Axx
                A109xx
    K9xxxx      Q10
    xx          xxxx
    Kxx         QJ109
    xx         Kxx
                AJx
                AKQJ
                xxx
                QJx
    W - N - E - S
    2S - P - P - 2N
    P - 3N all pass.
    (2S - weak 2)
    
```

A small spade goes to the Q. If S ducks, E can't clear the spade suit, but a D switch will prove fatal for declarer. S therefore wins and runs the CQ. Had W held the CK the contract would now be safe. However, E wins and returns the S10, S ducks, a blockage has been created and the contract is well made with an overtrick.

ADVANCES IN BIDDING

By Dean Hardie

FIT JUMPS

All the rage these days are 'fit jumps'. A fit jump shows the suit bid and support for partner's suit. The rationale behind this is that the jump uses a relatively idle bid, describes a fairly precise hand and allows partner to decide on the best final resting place.

Fit jumps are most commonly used after the opponents have made a takeout double or having initially passed on the first round of bidding.

Fit Jumps Over The Takeout Double

A single jump in a new suit over the takeout double shows:-

- 3 card support in partner's suit,
- 5 cards or more in the suit
- bid and 10-12 high card points.

A bid of 2NT over a major suit opening is known as the Jordan 2NT Raise and was covered in the Spring newsletter. A bid of 2NT over a minor suit opening is known as the Reverse 2NT Raise and shows either a pre-emptive raise in the minor or a raise with game-values. In both cases responder will have at least 4 card support. Obviously with the stronger hand responder will be bidding on over partner's rebid. With a genuine raise to the three level in partner's minor responder bids 3 of the suit. The rationale behind this reversal is that we do not 'wrong side' 3NT if that is the correct contract. Over a major suit opener we would almost invariably play in that suit.

Fit Jumps After Passing

A jump bid in a new suit shows:-

- 3 card support in partner's suit,
- 5 cards or more in the suit bid,
- 10-11 high card points.

A raise to three of partner's opening major suit having initially passed shows 4 card support and is mildly pre-emptive. A bid of 2NT would show a full value raise to the 3 level. A raise to three of partner's opening minor suit is full value and 2NT preemptive because of the same rationale as above.

1994 Tenby Congress

The event was held at the Imperial Hotel, Tenby from 3rd to the 5th of June.

The sun shone, the sea sparkled and the bridge was keen and competitive.

MAIN RESULTS

Ladies Pairs

Mrs. E. Coldron & Mrs. S. Ryles (Warw.)

Mens Pairs

Ray Bowen & Paul Klee (Tenby)

Mixed Pairs

Don & Eileen Jenkins (Cardiff)

Championship Pairs

Phillip & Pearl Duncan (Cardiff)

Championship Teams

Jill Thomas & John O'Sullivan (S. Pems.)

Steve Jarvis & Nick Forrest (Cardigan)

The Tenby Associates are now preparing for their next main event - Swiss Teams on 9th October, 1994.

BBL Junior Trials

The above trials will be held jointly with the EBU from Thursday 15th September to Monday 19th September, 1994 at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London.

To be eligible for the squad, U-25's must have been born no earlier than Jan 1st 1971 while U-20's no earlier than Jan 1st 1976.

Individuals may apply as well as partnerships.

Further details and application forms are available from:

BBL Secretary, Anna Gudge,
13 Chaucer Road,
Sudbury,
Suffolk CO10 6LN