



By Filip Kurbalija

In a recent Gold Cup Match, South had an interesting bidding decision followed by a play problem, the solution to which, is often overlooked.

♠ 10 x
♥ A
♦ Q x x
♣ Q 10 x x x x

♠ A J 9 8 x
♥ x x
♦ A x
♣ A K x x

After North opened 3C, South decided to introduce the spade suit. North with a difficult decision, chose to raise to 4S. Therefore, the superior 5C game was missed.

West led the HK and North won with the Ace. Declarer now crossed to hand with the CA in order to ruff a heart. Then the S10 was played from dummy which ran to West's K. Declarer was now forced in hearts and when the trumps broke 4-2, had to concede defeat.

Declarer had ruffed a heart prematurely: imagine if declarer had run the S10 at trick 2. No return by West could embarrass South. West has the DK but the contract still makes if it is with East.

SELECTORS' REPORT

Results of the "Second" Camrose Trial held at Swansea B.C. on 16/17 Sept.

88 boards were played and the results cross-imped and converted to VPs.

Results

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. Martin & Hardie | 153 VPs |
| 2. Pierce & Thomas | 144 |
| 3. Jourdain & Ratcliff | 143 |
| 4. D.Kurbalija & Daniel | 120 |
| 5. Zaman & Glubb | 112 |
| =6. Hirst & Luck | 109 |
| =6 F.Kurbalija & Goodman | 109 |
| 8. Haworth & Pratt | 84 |

Plus Evans & Birt, Forrest & Jarvis, and Maddox & Edwards.

For the Final Trial on 7/8th Oct., the following four teams have been selected:

- (a) Martin/Hardie
Goodman/F.Kurbalija
- (b) Pierce/Thomas
Jourdain/Ratcliff
- (c) D.Kurbalija/Daniel
Zaman/Glubb
- (d) Hirst/Luck
Haworth/Pratt.

Closing date for entries to the Lady Milne Trials.

There are two dates in the small, blue "Fixture and Entry Forms" tear-out booklet. The correct one is **19th January, 1996.**

THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Autumn 1995

Issue 51

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

The Western Mail, Wales' only national daily newspaper has given bridge a boost by restarting its regular bridge column. The column is written by Filip Kurbalija and appears in the Saturday edition each week.

Filip has asked me to inform you that he will gladly include any newsworthy bridge information if you send it to him.

As well as the aforementioned newspaper, Patrick Jourdain is the Bridge Correspondent for The Daily Telegraph and regularly reports the results of major congresses and the like in the Monday - Wednesday editions.

For players in the West Wales Area, Roy Griffin has a column in the South Wales Evening Post every Friday.

For those of you feeling left out, I'm afraid that you'll have to make do with this humble publication!

Many of you may be aware that there is also a "Bridge Page" on Channel 4/S4C teletext pages. Tune in to Page 479 to enjoy the half-dozen or so pages of quizzes, Congress information and results service that it provides.

Let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas as the next edition will not be out until the first day of 1996!

Gary Martin

National Tournament Organiser's Report

WBU Silver Plate

The Silver Plate final was played on 18th June and the winners were C. Rushden, P. Allsop, J.J. Evans and I. Davies. The runners-up were B. Clements, G. John, R. Parris and G. White.

Smoking regulations

The W.B.U. has decided to adopt the E.B.U. smoking regulations for all National Finals. In the case of Area Finals of National Events, Areas are recommended to adopt these regulations.

The full regulations can be found on Page 32 of The E.B.U. Supplement to the E.B.L. Tournament Directors Guide.

Graded Masters 1996

To stop all rumours regarding the venue of the 1996 Graded Masters, it will be held at the Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli as in previous years.

Don't forget that a change in regulations now means that Green Points will be awarded in all sections.

Calendar changes

The National Open Pairs final date has been changed to 13/14th April to avoid clashing with the Easter weekend.

The date of the Webber Cup final is Sat/Sun 4/5th May, 1996.



EAST WALES BRIDGE LEAGUE

The final positions in 1994-95 league were as follows:-

Division 1

1. Cardiff Bridge Club "A"
2. Cardiff Devils

Division 2

1. University of Wales
2. Gwent Bridge Academy "B"

Division 3

1. Cowbridge Old Hall "A"
2. Mid-Glamorgan Bridge Club "A"

Division 4

1. Barrivale Bridge Club "Blue"
2. Gwent Bridge Academy "C"

WEST WALES BRIDGE LEAGUE

John Cox (☎ 01792-648990) is organising a League for Western Area members. The entry fee is £4 per team. The matches will be of 30 boards played in sets of 10.

Interested parties should contact John at the above number by 3rd October at the latest.

If sufficient interest is shown, then 2 divisions will be formed.

A Weird Weekend in Bangor

by Paul Chimes

The WBU Swiss Pairs in Bangor has established itself as an enjoyable and successful event, so the first weekend in July saw me heading north in tropical temperatures to enjoy my favourite pastime. I was playing with a strange (in more ways than one) partner, whose attitude upset two charming ladies (my apologies to Gwyneth and Betty), and who even more perversely advocated 3-level pre-empts on five card suits.

During the last set of the weekend, I picked up the South hand below and in line with partner's methods I opened three Diamonds. With opponents playing double for take-out, 3D undoubled became the final contract. With everything lying badly, the hand played itself for seven off and -350. It is rare to be playing undoubled at the three level in a suit in which opponents can make 11 tricks, but there is no guarantee that EW will bid game. We never found out how the board scored (although I know we lost the match), as the computer system was causing trouble on the Sunday. However the directors and scorers somehow kept the movement going and the overall scores coming. Congratulations to them on a splendid effort.

♠ KJ973
♥ Q104
♦ —
♣ 7654

♠ 85 ♠ AQ10
♥ A83 ♥ KJ97
♦ KJ9852 ♦ 107
♣ AK ♣ 10932

♠ 42
♥ 652
♦ AQ643
♣ Q18

To return to the hand, the optimum contract on the layout is Six Hearts by West which can be made on the 4-3 fit, although it is an impossible (and insane) contract to bid.

West will play two top clubs and one finesse in each major on the first four tricks, the order

depending on which suit is led, and comes down to this position with the lead in dummy:

♠ KJ976
♥ Q10
♦ —
♣ 76

♠ 8 ♠ AQ
♥ A8 ♥ KJ7
♦ KJ9852 ♦ 107
♣ — ♣ 109

♠ 4
♥ 65
♦ AQ643
♣ Q

A club is led and ruffed with the Ace of Hearts, establishing dummy's last club. The eight of Hearts is then led for a second Heart finesse, and the remaining trumps are drawn with the King. Alternatively ruff with the eight, cash the Ace of trumps and cross to dummy with a Spade to draw the remaining trumps. A Diamond is then led from dummy and South is helpless.

We arrived in another slightly bizarre contract on Saturday evening. This time partner opened 2 Hearts as East promising 5-9 points with a five card Heart suit and a four card minor. Sitting with ♠A J x x x ♥x ♦AKx ♣K J x x a response of 2NT to enquire about the minor suit seemed appropriate. When partner bid 3D, I decided to shoot 3NT (the mark of a desperate man), and a small Diamond was led to reveal:

♠ AJ764 ♠ 10853
♥ 2 ♥ QJ104
♦ AK8 ♦ J762
♣ KJ85 ♣ 10

This ran round to the eight in hand. Ace of Spades followed by a small Spade brought forth the King and Queen. North then switched to a small club to South's Ace, then the Queen of Clubs from South allowed the run of five black winners from hand. The spots which fell established the eight of Clubs as a winner and ten tricks resulted for an undeserved 95% of the matchpoints.

I look forward to visiting Bangor again next year, preferably with a sane partner!

MASTERPOINT OF VIEW

By Noelle Bond



I remember (just) as a child being given books of uplifting stories always with a moral at the end, which I am sure would be thrown down with disgust by the modern child. So if I begin with a story which points a moral, blame it on my early conditioning.

A member phoned me a few days ago to say that the S.A.E. included with her master points had arrived home empty. I checked my records and found that I had not received any points from her, so was forced to conclude that once again the Post Office had done its dreadful worst and torn apart an envelope containing master points.

This theory was proved a few days later when a single master point card that happened to have her address on it was returned to the member, and then, this morning, I received the original envelope she had addressed to me, looking scarcely damaged but totally empty, secured in one of the plastic bags the Post Office use for forwarding damaged mail, with a note saying that some of the contents might be missing.

Sadly, as I have mentioned before, this type of incident has become all too familiar lately. MORAL: as master points are such a different size and shape from normal envelopes and make up oddly bulky little packages, use sellotape to protect the edges and to reinforce the adhesive on the flap. Don't be blue, use some glue!

After the Newsletters are circulated, I sometimes get a call from a member complaining that a promotion was not listed. The promotion lists are fully computerised now, so mistakes should be extremely rare (I hesitate to say impossible, for fear of tempting fate) and checking usually finds that the promotion was in the previous quarter's Newsletter. This can happen when points for events are sent directly to me by the organisers; I enter these into the system as soon as possible, and these extra points may cause a promotion which the member is unaware of, until the MP card is sent in for updating. Good Heavens, it's another moral: always check the promotion lists carefully, for like the children who cycle down our steep hill, you may be there sooner than you expect!

I seem to be nagging a lot today, if I am not careful, the editor will replace the eyes he has put at the top of my letter recently with that evil goblin he used before. I think the eyes are rather nice, but mine are not quite so far apart, and at the end of the Master Point year they were considerably more bloodshot and tired.

For those who are now reluctant to consign their points to the Post Offices tender mercies: I plan to be at the Porthcawl congress at the end of October, and will as usual, have a box there to collect master points.

I can't resist ending with something odd which happened at our club recently: most of the cards from a bidding box disappeared one night and have never been seen since; we could only conclude that someone had taken them to review the bidding at home!

I dare not write anymore after that.

Noelle Bond

Master-Point

Only ranks with promotions are printed

**Promotions****Club Master**

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Mr Alison Johnston | C |
| Mr Evarard Kerslake | BV |
| Mr Frank Verdon | BV |
| Mr Allen Williams | CN |

Local Master

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Mr Ken Brinkworth | C |
| Mr David Brittan | CBY |
| Mr John Ford | R |
| Mrs Marie George | C |
| Mr Charles McDevitt | R |
| Mr Martin Morris | CD |
| Mr Graham Norris | CL |
| Mr Alun Preece | PN |
| Mrs Mair Raw-Rees | A |
| Mr Bob Tucker | CA |

County Master

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Mrs Y M Blackshaw | W |
| Rodney Burden | C |
| Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson | GA |
| Mrs Aileen Lloyd | C |
| Mrs Colleen Scott | AG |
| Mr Peter Smith | GA |
| Mrs P M Sutcliffe | LD |
| Mr Wilf Sutton | W |
| Dr John Valentine | A |

Master

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Mr John R Bowen | T |
| Mrs Stroma Davies | PV |
| Mr Joe Jackson | GA |
| Mr George B Powell | AG |
| Mrs Jean M Powell | AG |
| Mrs Anne Raw-Rees | A |
| Mrs Margo Sarson | AG |
| Mrs M Wolage | W |

Advanced Master

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Mr Nigel Baker | BV |
| Mr Owen Barker | D |
| Mr Garfield Darbyshire | C |
| Mrs Judith Nightingale | PD |
| Mrs June Owen | GA |
| Mr Richard Senior | LD |
| Mr Peter Stott | PR |

1 Star Master

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Mr Malcolm Fox | MG |
| Mrs Muriel Fraser | MB |
| Mrs Jean Hodgson | MT |
| Mrs Mary E Smart | S |

2 Star Master

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Mr Stephen Gorard | C |
| Mr Norman Large | CBY |
| Mr Gwynne Maddox | BR |
| Dr Paddy Murphy | CBY |

Master-Point Promotions (Continued)

3 Star Master

Mr Mike Climer BV
 Mr Bill Isherwood F
 Mr Gordon Turcan CR

4 Star Master

Mr Roger Eastwood PR
 Mrs Rita Isherwood F

5 Star Master

Mr Denis Mottram BV
 Mr Don Walton BR
 Mrs Pamela Woodhouse A

Regional Master

Mrs Angela Bridges S
 Mrs Vera Jardine MB
 Mrs Andrea Martin CN
 Mrs Daphne Patrick GA
 Mrs Diane Reynolds MB

Premier Regional Master

Mr Howard Edwards H
 Mrs Mary Edwards H
 Mr Geoff Fielding STD
 Mr Richard Trew BV

National Master

Mr Philip Dunn CA
 Mr Joe Patrick C

Premier National Master

Mrs Noelle Bond BV
 Mrs Eileen Hughes BV
 Mrs Val Kennewell S
 Mrs Menna Roberts Y
 Mr Adrian Trickey R

Life Master

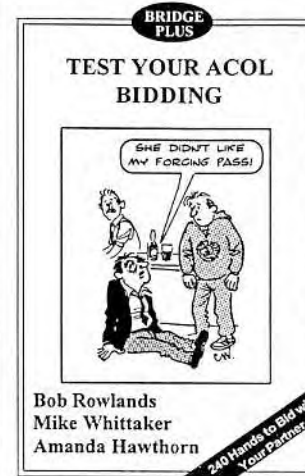
Mr Tony Disley BR
 Mr Paul Gagne BV

Tenby Congress 1995

Main Event winners

Ladies Pairs: C. Middleton & M. Wilkinson (Tenby)
 Mens Pairs: J. Beaver & M. Ashe (U-25 Nationals)
 Mixed Pairs: Lady Baker & J. Swan (Bath)
 Championship Pairs: A. Thomas & M. Baker (Cardiff/Haverfordwest)
 Championship Teams: B. & V. Robinson; F. & A. Hyatt (Port Talbot)

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WHERE HAS ALL OUR YOUNG TALENT GONE?

By Alastair Jinks

I have just attended the under 25 Bridge camp at Aston University, 30 July to 7 August, and having attended the camp since its first year (this being the sixth) the thing that has shocked me most is the decline of participants from 50 or 60 to only 20 this year. In fact it was in danger of being cancelled due to lack of support. Please if you are under 25 and interested in bridge please support next year's camp or next year it might not be run. It improves your bridge immensely, in fact with the exception of Ireland 90% of the current Junior Camrose teams have attended the camp in either a teaching capacity or as a participant.

Any way now on to my week's bridge

Sunday 31 July 1995

Arrived at the camp about 3.00 to see the end of the Schools Cup final won by Loughborough in an excellent display of bridge.

On Sunday we played hands from the World Simultaneous pairs which was instant Matchpoint Scoring. It was very interesting I managed to come sixth with 50%. I wonder where I would have come overall had I been scoring against the rest of the world.

Monday 1 August 1995

In the morning we had a lecture by Tom Townsend on defence which was very interesting I certainly picked up some pointers which helped me defend better during the week.

In the evening there was an Individual. We played two boards with every person in the room. The event was won by Nick Pekva with Mark Stretch in second place.

Tuesday 2 August 1995

Started playing teams about 1 am in the Morning which I managed to win. In fact I won about 75%

of my matches I played about this time. Perhaps I can persuade my team mates and opponents to play our league matches in the middle of the night.

On Tuesday we had Patrick Jourdain who was teaching us Psychology and things like the way to behave towards your opposition, partners and how to get the best out of yourself at the bridge table. Some of the people in my local club could have benefited from this lecture.

In the evening there was the championship pairs. Another interesting evening when I managed to come fourth. The event was won by Mark Stretch and Mark Snellgrove, who came in the top ten in a junior bridge tournament see last month's Bridge Plus.

Wednesday 3 August 1995

Another early morning teams victory. Today was a quiet day when we had a few Director Tales from our Director for the week Mike Amos and in the afternoon we went to Superbowl.



It was Teams in the evening. Our team I managed to come second with - 3 points closely behind the winners Simon Budd, Jon Cooke, Mark Snellgrove and Mark Stretch who had + 44 points.

Thursday 4th August 1995

Played football at 12.30 am, trials for the Football tournament the following day crazy but good fun. Lost my first early morning teams match. You can't win them all can you?

The lecture was by Jon Cooke who was a camper for the previous 3 years and now coming in a

teaching capacity. He taught us opening leads which is a very important and often an undertaught aspect of the game.

Football in the afternoon, my team did quite badly.

Swiss Teams in the evening which was won by Mike Ashe another Cardiff Bridge Club member, Simon Budd, Rachel Wade and Bea ? in fact we both came in the top seven every night, playing with different partners of course.

Friday 5th August 1995

Today we had John Probst who taught us competitive bidding the losing trick count & Verne's Law aka The Law of Total Tricks, and when playing in a match with him afterwards we had the perfect hand to illustrate both these principles.

♠ 3
♥ AKJ987
♦ 843
♣ 532

♠ AKQ65 ♠ T872
♥ 64 ♥ 2
♦ T6 ♦ A975
♣ K976 ♣ QJT8

♠ JT94
♥ QT53
♦ KQJ
♣ A4

The bidding went

| | | | |
|----|----|----|---|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1S | 2H | 3S | P |
| P | P | | |

At the other table who applied the principle of the lesson

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1S | 2H | 3S | 4H |
| +S | 5H | P | P |
| P | | | |

East/West bids to game on the Losing Trick Count West opens on 7 losers East can raise to 3

as has 8 losers

24 - 15 = 9 tricks or 18 - 15 = 3 Level whichever method you prefer and as West has only 6 losers he can happily raise to 4

24 - 14 = 10 tricks or 18 - 14 = 4 Level, North South can use Verne's Law adding a trick for pure trumps, a total of 20 tricks. If East/West can make 4S, 5H goes down 1 but if they can only make 9, 5H will make therefore it a good sacrifice.

20 - 10 = 10 so 10 tricks each
20 - 11 = 11 so 11 tricks for North South.

The evening was play with the experts which was won by Sami Khan and Russell Probst and also by Simon Budd and Bea ?

Saturday 6th August 1995

We had a light hearted anecdote from Phil King about the boobs (apparently not many) and the brilliancies (a large amount) by our winning team in the World Championships.

In the evening we had pairs which was won by Maureen Dennison. She'll kill me if I don't mention her somewhere, and Russell and the other direction by Mike Bradford and Dominic ? Mike came as a beginner the beginning of the week so that was a great achievement.

Sunday 7th August 1995

Home again and may I take this opportunity to thank a few people. Maureen Dennison and Mike Amos who both ran the camp brilliantly, Robert Upton and Basil Goddard not to mention the EWBA and the WBU who have helped me and the other Juniors financially and by way of teaching during my years as a junior, all the campers, teachers and helpers over the six years who have made the camp a truly wonderful experience.

A final plea under 25 bridge players please tell the BBL you want another camp next year. It is a wonderful experience and you have a great, great time and learn so much.



LEARN THE LAWS

With Lloyd Lewis

SIMPLE (BROKEN) LAWS I

It is disappointing to find so many players, including many who have played for years, who do not know some basic laws. One such law is found in the following situation.

East is the declarer, and some way into the play he wins a trick in hand. (Hooray!) To the subsequent trick he clearly names a card for dummy to lead. Dummy says "No, no. It is your lead". And then declarer automatically leads from his own hand.

Dummy can prevent declarer leading from the wrong hand [Law 42B2], but once declarer has nominated a card dummy is too late. The infraction has already occurred. It is then up to the defenders [Law 55B2]. A defender, without consultation with his partner [Law 10C2], can accept or refuse the lead-out-of-turn. And if refused declarer can lead from his own hand any card from any suit.

The same ruling applies when a trick is won in dummy and declarer leads to the next trick from his own hand.

Of course, the silence of the defenders could be taken to mean that they do not mind the rectification. But many defenders do not realise that they have the option of accepting the lead-out-of-turn.

SIMPLE (BROKEN) LAWS II

Another law which many players do not seem to know is the following.

During the auction, my partner opens the bidding by correctly placing his 1S bidding card on the table. Next opponent passes. I place a STOP card on the table, and then the 3D bidding card. Immediately I say "No! I meant 3C". I remove the 3D bid from the table leaving 3C as my bid.

My L.H.O. objects, saying that once a bidding card is placed on the table then it is too late to change. She says that 3D must stand.

This is not so.

All clubs in Wales should have received the circular "Bidding Box Regulations, October 1994." This says that "a call may be changed without penalty under Law 25A only if:-

- (a) the change is solely due to your having taken out the wrong bidding card in error, and
- (b) you change, or attempt to change it instantly when you realise that you have taken out the wrong card."

Moreover, the circular adds, in thick black type, the following sentence. "Note that the fact that you have released the card does not, in isolation, mean that it is too late to change the call under Law 25A - points (a) and (b) above refer."

ADVANCES IN BIDDING

Roman Key Card Blackwood

By Dr. Dean Hardie



A popular convention in tournament play is Roman Key Card Blackwood. Traditionally 4NT asked only about aces held but RKCB also asks about the King and Queen of trumps.

When responding to 4NT the King of trumps is regarded as the 'fifth ace', hence there are five key cards.

In order to respond appropriately the partnership has to know what the agreed trump suit is. On most occasions this is obvious but if there is any doubt then responder bids assuming the last mentioned natural bid is the trump suit. 4NT should not be used if an unfavourable response would take the bidding too high.

Responses.

- 4NT = 5C = 3 or 0 key cards
- 5D = 4 or 1 key cards
- 5H = 2 or 5 key cards and denies the Q of trumps
- 5S = 2 or 5 key cards and the Q of trumps

Partnerships have developed various continuations to enquire further about the

Queen of trumps and remaining kings. In one method the asker can bid the next step up (provided it is not the trump suit) to ask. The responses vary depending on whether the possession of the Q of trumps is known.

- Over 5C/5D next step asks
- 1st step = denies Q of trumps
- 2nd step = Q of trumps
- 3rd step = Q of trumps and 1 king (not K of trumps)
- 4th step = Q of trumps and 2 kings
- 5th step = Q of trumps and 3 kings

After the 1st step, which denies the Q of trumps, asker can bid the next step up again (but not the trump suit) to ask about kings. Responder uses steps to show 0, 1, 2 or 3 kings.

- Over 5H/5S next step asks
- 1st step = 0 kings
- 2nd step = 1 king
- 3rd step = 2 kings
- 4th step = 3 kings

If the asker bids 5 of the trump suit over the response to his 4NT enquiry responder should pass if he holds the lower number of Key Cards and bid on using the steps as over 5C/5D and 5H/5S if he has the higher number.

In the next newsletter I shall be looking at Exclusion Key Card Blackwood.