

Continued from Page 19

An English player made a thoughtful bid to gain a big swing.

♠ Q J 9 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ K Q T 9
♣ A 7

♠ K 3
♥ A K Q J 8 6
♦ A 6
♣ Q 8 4

South had bid hearts which North had supported and then cue bid 4C (first round control and slam interest). East doubled 4C, presumably for a club lead. South passed and realising that it would be safer for him to play the contract on this information, East to be on lead and unable to lead a club effectively, North chose 6NT to be the final contract.

This presented no problem in the play when East led a spade and gained a slam swing for England when the Welsh pair were in 5H making eleven.

Question - should East really have doubled for a club lead when it could lead the opposition into a better contract? Might partner have found the killing lead against 6H anyway?

To be continued

Camrose Trials

After holding a pre-trial involving 12 pairs, the selectors have decided to take 3 pairs through to a final trial to be held over 2 weekends. These pairs will form 4 teams along with the 5 exempt pairs.

The team line-up for the final trial is:

Jourdain & Ratcliff: Hirst & Luck
Haworth & Pratt: Charlesworth & Disley
Glubb & Zaman: Hardie & Martin
J Casey & F Kurbalija: Thomas & Towers

The three leading pairs in the pre-trial were:

1. Charlesworth & Disley
2. Maddocks & Richards (withdrew after 2 sessions)
3. Gagne & Harris

THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Summer 1996

Issue 54

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

The printing in the last Newsletter of Graham Ashford's letter and the poem entitled The Lonely Shepherd has produced my biggest postbag ever and has resulted in this 20-page edition. Sadly Dennis Hill passed away at the end of June and as a result, a number of items referring to the poem have had to be replaced.

I have stressed all along that this is your Newsletter and it is your contributions that determine its quality. It would soon become very boring and predictable if the sole input was mine, especially as I have now been in the Editor's seat for 4 years! So if you prefer this enlarged version - you know what to do - start writing!

☺RESULTS ROUND-UP☺RESULTS ROUND-UP☺
 ☺RESULTS ROUND-UP☺RESULTS ROUND-UP☺

**LLANGOLLEN SPRING
 CONGRESS 1996**

Fitch: Harold Griffiths Cup
 Mr & Mrs L.R. Dempster

Ladies Pairs: Rawlinson Cup
 Louise Orme & Yvonne Evans

Mens Pairs: Newton Shield
 John Arrowsmith & John Gorman

Mixed Pairs: Tatlow Rose Bowl
 Mr & Mrs Dowling

Mixed Teams: Medical Cup (Not returned)
 Mr & Mrs Hall, Mr Gore & Mrs Fisher

Diamond Crystal Trophy Teams
 Mr & Mrs Dowling, E. Jones
 & Mrs P Woodhouse

Consolation Pairs: Alice Cope Trophy
 P. Lloyd & R. Parkinson

Championship Pairs: Hospital Cups
 D. Stevenson & Dan Crofts

Swiss Teams: Imperial Cup
 P. Mollart & Mrs. L. Smith
 J. Wilkins & P. Smith

**EBU GRAND MASTERS
 1996**

1. Mike Hirst & Jim Luck
3. Gary Martin & Dean Hardie

**BOURNEMOUTH
 CONGRESS 1996**

Championship Pairs:
 1. Peter Goodman & Mike Pownall

TENBY CONGRESS 1996

Ladies Pairs:
 Mrs J Mclean & Mrs M Williams

Mens Pairs:
 Mike Baker & John Seal

Mixed Pairs:
 Mike Baker & Mrs J Ingram

Championship Pairs:
 Liam & Maureen Sheridan

Championship Teams:
 John & Jill O Sullivan,
 Nick Forrest & Steve Jarvis

PERRY SHIELD 1996

West Wales -
 G. Martin & D. Hardie: K. Pratt & T
 Haworth: R. Charlesworth & T. Disley

SPICKETT BOWL 1996

East Wales -
 A. Hirst & C. Pierce: S. Howarth & D.
 Jones: L. Atkinson & J. Chimes

EAST WALES LEAGUES

Div 1: Cardiff Bridge Club A
 Div 2: Barrivale B.C. Green
 Div 3: Gwent Bridge Academy C

WEST WALES LEAGUE

Winners: Hardie's Hackers
 (G Martin & D Hardie: N Forrest & S
 Jarvis)

Runners-up: The Bridgend Aces
 (W Turner, M Morris, A Fox, I Thomas,
 A Evans)

TOURNAMENT DIRECTION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

TD Training

The club courses are in progress as I write this report.

Unfortunately there were not enough people to hold any courses in Mid Wales, nor for a Preliminary course in East Wales. However I have held a Preliminary course in North Wales and an A course in West Wales, and I have plenty of bookings for the remaining A and B courses. People seem loathe to put themselves forward for the C courses: come on, try them!

There has been a change in dates because of confusion over the Green point events in early August. The revised schedule for July and August is:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Saturday July 13th | B | Newport |
| Sunday July 14th | C | Bridgend |
| Saturday August 3rd | B | Colwyn Bay |
| Sunday August 4th | C | Newport |
| Saturday August 10th | see below | |
| Sunday August 11th | C | Colwyn Bay |

It is possible (check with me) that the Newport C course could be on the 10th not the 4th if people prefer that date.

I would like to thank Aberystwyth BC and Bridgend BC for arranging hotels for us and Newport BC and Colwyn Bay BC for providing accommodation. Without this help these courses would not have got off the ground.

There will be no more club courses for the time being: the demand only seems enough to provide them every couple of years. I may try a D course though. If anyone is desperate having missed these ones talk to me and I may find you a suitable one in England.

There will be a National course either late this year or early next.

People with aspirations to direct National competitions or the main Area competitions will be expected to attend, or to attend an equivalent English or Scottish course. Full details will be available later in the year.

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 david@blakjak.demon.co.uk
 Tel: +44 (0)151 677 7412
 Phone before Fax please



MASTER POINT OF VIEW



21st June, 1996

By Noelle Bond

I know that like everything else in modern life time moves quicker than it used to, but I was surprised a few days ago to receive a letter telling me it was now "all downhill to Christmas", this sounds very pessimistic, I would rather think we have a long summer and a gentle autumn still stretching out before us.



The year end Master Point rush went very well this year. At this busy period of points, pens, paperclips, pencils, points, packages, parcels and more points, when on occasions we have had four mail deliveries a day, (no wonder the postmen have gone on strike) the backlog has previously been two or three weeks, but this year I managed to keep it to only about a week because most people sent me their points well before the April 30th closing date, and so I want to thank all those who did, which is most of you. One Saturday towards the end of April I actually received no mail whatsoever; such an unexpected event was quite unnerving and I was worried that some members' points were under a hedge somewhere, but so far I have had no calls to say cards have not been returned, so obviously all was well.

The National Tournament Organiser, who - produces the WBU Journal, wanted the ranking list by mid May this year, which is somewhat earlier than usual, so some late senders may be disappointed not to see their current status there.

I only hope they will not call me names; I get called enough odd ones in the letters I receive, recently "Nellie" and "Estelle" among them. What the "elle", I don't want to carp, as one goldfish said to the other.

I expect that some will be puzzled to find their promotion in the list which accompanies this, but not then reflected in the 1996/97 Journal. The promotion list in this Newsletter shows all those who have been promoted between last spring and today, the Journal will only contain those promotions up to year end.

In 1995/96, I entered 2,398,355 local points and 5,102.01 national points in 4007 entries which is considerably less than last year, some of the short fall may be explained by the very prompt year end, but it is hard to believe it all can.

I know that there is some confusion about points requirements for ranks, for people often ask me how many they need for the next, or what the ranks are. If the editor has space, I will include a listing of the various ranks and their points requirements with the promotion list. If it can not be fitted in this Newsletter, I will try in the next. I can not help thinking that our habit of referring to National points, almost always given on white cards, as "Green points" whilst local points, mostly written on 'green' slips, are, if given a colour, called "black" points, probably adds to the confusion for newer players. If you are not aware, the colour refers to the ink used.

One of the other home bridge unions wrote to me recently saying that, as she was not their member, they were sending me Mrs. So-and-so. I wait now for the postmen to arrive one morning with a mummy-like figure in a fireman's lift on his shoulder. I don't know what I will do with her, perhaps she can count points for me.

Sincerely
Noelle

LIST OF PROMOTIONS FOR EACH RANK

FROM 11/3/96 TO 21/6/96

| Club Master | | Local Master | |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----|
| Mrs Jean Barker | PN | Mr Graham Ashford | PN |
| Mrs Jean Bassett | PR | Mr D J Camp | S |
| Mrs Anne Brambley | GA | Mrs Pat Clayton | AG |
| Mr Norman Clewer | R | Mr John P Davies | L |
| Mrs Jean Cufley | NT | Mr Michael Davies | L |
| Mrs Joan Davies | S | Mrs F M Davison | S |
| Mrs Lilian Duffield | C | Sir Herbert Duthie | R |
| Mr Chris Evans | S | Lady Maureen Duthie | R |
| Mrs Fay Fletcher | AG | Mrs Estelle Evans | S |
| Mr Martin Green | GA | Mr Julian Evans | R |
| Mr Noel Griffiths | GA | Mrs Beryl Geraghty | S |
| Mr Tom Harvey | C | Mrs Val Hamilton | R |
| Mrs Hazel Hession | PN | Mrs Phyllis Hancock | Y |
| Mrs Alice Hopkins | BV | Mrs Irene Harris | BV |
| Mrs Margaret Johnston | A | Mrs Ann Holmes | NP |
| Miss Kathleen Jones | S | Mrs Lyn Howell | C |
| Mrs Sheila Lloyd | R | Mr Bill Hunter | GA |
| Mrs Dorothy Loxton | C | Mrs Beryl Marke | PN |
| Mr Reg Mealings | CBY | Mr Peter McColl | C |
| Mrs Jan Morris | MB | Mrs Justine Petters | LD |
| Mrs Monica Mulford | MT | Mrs Margaret Phillips | AG |
| Mr Henry Page | LP | Mrs Joan Pontin | PW |
| Mr George Poole | CD | Mrs Trish Tracey | PN |
| Dr Terry Read | SH | Mrs Marijke van der Sluijs | Y |
| Mr Peter Richards | CR | Mrs Janet Walters | PN |
| Mr D M Underwood | L | Mr Gregory Williams | PC |
| Dr Jonathon Watkins | SH | Dr Jim Wright | PN |
| Mrs Elizabeth Wilkinson | CN | Mrs Tina Wright | PN |
| Mrs Betty Williams | S | | |

Master-point Promotions continued

| County Master | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Mrs Eileen Austin | C | Mr Brian Rich | C |
| Mrs Judith Babbage | PD | Mr Brian Roderick | BV |
| Mrs Cath Bailey | GA | Mrs Helene Sobczak | CA |
| Mrs Barbara Beeston | S | Mr Eric Tebbet | PN |
| Mrs Penny Cocks | C | Mrs Hilary Tozer | PC |
| Mrs B David | S | Mrs Doreen Willis | BV |
| Mrs Jane Davies | PN | Mrs M Willis | S |
| Mrs Jo Davies | A | Dr Peter Willis | S |
| Mrs Gwyneth Dew | GA | | |
| Mr Ralph H Evans | C | Master | |
| Mr Peter Glover | MB | Mr Rodney Burden | C |
| Mrs Betty Gumbleton | CB | Mrs Maureen Clough | PW |
| Mrs Yvonne Hamill | PN | Miss Pat Crowley | GA |
| Mr Brian Harden | GA | Mr Ray Curry | S |
| Mrs Pat Harris | GA | Mrs Margaret Davies | GA |
| Mr Ping He | S | Mr Owen Davies | Y |
| Mr Eric Hitchings | GA | Mr Keith Davison | S |
| Mr Roy Holloway | GA | Mrs June Dixon | PV |
| Mrs Sophie Holloway | GA | Mrs B Dummer | PT |
| Mr John Hough | S | Mrs Mary Evans | S |
| Mr Barrie Jenkins | PC | Mrs Mair Jones | A |
| Mr Alan Jones | BV | Mr Nigel Key | BR |
| Mr Jim Kinge | GA | Mrs Mair Owen | L |
| Mrs Olwen Mitchell | GA | Mrs Beryl Sleath | MB |
| Mrs Margaret Murray- | | Mrs Betsy Sprake | CD |
| Williams | PD | Mrs Pat A Thomas | CL |
| Mrs Barbara Ponting | S | Mrs Audrey Tinkler | AM |
| Mr Ron Ponting | S | Mrs Marie Topp | PW |
| Mr Brenig Powell | BV | Miss Nans Wheldon | CN |
| Mrs Mari Powell | BR | Mrs Gwen Whiteman | S |
| Mr Alun Preece | PN | Mrs Ann Williams | NT |
| Mrs Viv Price | R | Mrs Joan E Williams | S |
| Mrs Betty Reynoldson | CN | Mr Vaughan Williams | NT |
| | | Mr Wayne Williams | PC |

Master-point Promotions continued

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Advanced Master | | Mr Norman Riches | NT |
| Mrs Joan Bakewell | PW | Mr Elwyn Roberts | W |
| Mr Gordon Cameron | NT | Mrs Joan Roberts | PW |
| Mrs Mair Cameron | NT | Mr Peter Smart | MG |
| Mrs Morag Clare | LD | Mr David Stephenson | CL |
| Mrs Sheila Clarke | S | Mrs Margaret Thackeray | PW |
| Mrs Margaret Cole | PN | Mrs Dilys Thomas | T |
| Mr Mike Dando | GA | Mr David Williams | W |
| Dr Martin David | C | Mrs Del Williams | A |
| Dr Chris Davies | C | Mrs Wendy Williams | AM |
| Mrs E Joyce Edwards | N | | |
| Dr H John Evans | CL | 2 Star Master | |
| Mr Graham Fifield | S | Mr Geoff Barnes | BR |
| Dr Robert Havard | A | Mr Martin Barton | C |
| Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson | GA | Mrs Glenys Beynon | L |
| Mr Barry Jones | W | Mrs Marjorie Bowen | T |
| Mrs Yvonne Lewis | S | Mrs Dorothy Bretherton | CR |
| Mr Clive Malam | GA | Mr Glyn Collins | S |
| Mrs Joan Shefford | MB | Mrs Glenda Dorling | STD |
| Mr Terry Smith | BV | Mrs Peggy Edwards | M |
| Ms Linda Watkins | BV | Mr David M Evans | LD |
| | | Mrs Barbara Frost | PR |
| | | Mr Reg Grose | BV |
| 1 Star Master | | Mr Peter Haywood | GA |
| Mr Adam Anderson | T | Mr Tony Jodo | AA |
| Mrs Jean Bailey | CN | Mr Emyr Tudwal Jones | STD |
| Mr David Bellis | CN | Mrs Betty Lewis | S |
| Mrs Mary Benton | S | Mrs Colleen Lloyd | LD |
| Mr Iain Brisbane | ROF | Mr Gerry Long | OH |
| Mr Philip Dorling | STD | Mrs Liz Radclift Jones | GA |
| Mrs Anita Freeman | GA | Mrs Nesta Thomas | L |
| Mrs Berta Jones | A | Mrs Sheila Williams | GA |
| Mrs Coral Jones | T | Mr Frank Zdzienicki | Y |
| Mr Deg Morgan | MB | | |
| Mrs Susan Raybould | CA | | |

Master-point Promotions continued

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 3 Star Master | | Mr Relp Winstanley | F |
| Ms Chris Burdett | PV | Mrs Jean Wright | W |
| Miss Colette Davies | L | | |
| Mr John Curtis Grove | MB | Tournament Master | |
| Mrs Christine Holdron | S | Mr Ken Grove | MB |
| Mrs Doreen Job | W | Mr John B Jamieson | S |
| Mr Derek Jones | CD | Mr J W Warhurst | LD |
| Mrs M Nichols | S | | |
| Mrs Dorothy Phillips | W | Regional Master | |
| Mrs Janet Rees | L | Mr Fred Baker | H |
| Mrs Anne Warhurst | LD | Mrs Margaret Dummer | W |
| Mrs Gladys Waters | BR | Mr Bryan Edwards | W |
| Mrs Frances Williams | L | Mrs Dorothy Harris | AA |
| | | Mr Norman Large | CBY |
| 4 Star Master | | Mr Fred Moyses | W |
| Mrs Rachel Douglas-Jones | S | Dr Paddy Murphy | CBY |
| Mr Dennis Francis | MG | Mr Gwilym Pierce | CN |
| Mrs Dorothy Gilbert | R | Mrs Haulwen Pierce | CN |
| Dr Gerald Gould | PN | Mrs Enfys Powell | GA |
| Mrs Brenda Harris | SP | | |
| Mrs Gwen Hurst | W | Premier Regional Master | |
| Mrs Margaret John | L | Mrs Sian Ellis | PW |
| Mr John Murray | L | Mrs Mollie Evans | PW |
| Mrs Joan Parker | MB | Mr Graham Hadlow | SP |
| Mr Jack Tozer | BR | Mr Warwick Horspool | PR |
| Mrs Lucy Williams | CR | Mr Brian Humphreys | PD |
| | | Mrs Sandra James | R |
| 5 Star Master | | Mr Simon Murray- | |
| Mr Dave Barwood | BR | Williams | PW |
| Mr John Henson | BR | Mr Ivor Owen | W |
| Mr Jimmy James | S | Mr Chris Rochelle | R |
| Mr Keith Jones | L | Mrs Sheila Shea | CN |
| Mr Kevin Jones | W | Mr Ray Smith | MG |
| Mrs Cecilia McCreary | CD | | |
| Mr Keith Williams | GA | | |

Master-point Promotions continued

National Master

Mr Tim Barsby R
 Mr Brian Crawford W
 Mr Frank McAleavy W
 Ms Krista Stephenson SH
 Mr Richard Trew BV
 Ms Laura Woodruff BV

Premier National Master

Mrs Margaret Banks RH
 Mr Phil Duncan R

Miss Nancy Gibbon R
 Mrs Rona Morgan
 Edwards PW
 Mrs Esme Parry GA
 Mr Richard Thomas S

Senior Life Master

Mr Rob Charlesworth AM
 Mr Roger Scott AM

Grand Master

Dr Stephen Daniel C

WANT TO BE ON TV?

Elena Jeronomidis writes

As Editor of the Bridge Pages for *Teletext on Channel 4 (S4C)*, I sometimes wonder whether viewers who tune in to Page 479 for quizzes, tips and news, might not gain the mistaken impression that bridge is played almost exclusively in England and Scotland. The "Forthcoming Events" column (updated every Monday) and the "Bridge News" (updated on Mondays and Thursdays) indeed seem to be filled with information from these two countries - and very little news from Wales.

Now I know from experience that a lot of bridge is played in Wales, and very pleasant it is too. So why not let me know of your future events, no matter how small as long as they're open to all players? And, having done that, why not follow it up with telling me the names of the winners? The service is free, so why not take advantage of it?

Elena can be reached on 0118 835 1052 by telephone or fax.

Your Letters



Dear Mr. Martin,

I'd like to comment on Graham Ashley's letter on "Bridge Etiquette." I take my hat off to Graham for bringing to light this age-old problem.

Too many long suffering bridge players have been on the receiving end of this and had to put up with unpleasantness, awkwardness and sheer downright rudeness.

I realise that the TDs cannot address this problem unless they are called to the offenders' table at the time. Therefore, I suggest that people should call the TD at the very first sign of any rude behaviour, to nip it in the bud.

I certainly agree that the offenders should be penalised (perhaps after 1 or 2 warnings), if they persist in spoiling other people's enjoyment of bridge.

Yours sincerely,
 M.C. Warren.

Dear Gary,

It is not clear what Graham Ashford is complaining about specifically (Spring Newsletter) but I think I know the sort of people he means and perhaps the following will help.

First of all, I personally think the existing bridge rules should be binned and rewritten. They are far too complicated and in many instances condone cheating by good players over

lesser mortals. It is a small number of these so-called good players who think they should get a top on every board or the world will end, who are the trouble.

You must learn to be thick-skinned. If such a person starts his thing, when it is your turn to bid you say, "3S" and then add, "And you are a pain in the *ss, East." This person will then scream, "DIRECTOR!" If the TD is worth his salt he will say, "North is quite correct. You are a pain in the backside," and walk away.

At a good club once a certain player frequently asked what I understood by my partner's bid (no alert). I answered conscientiously each time, but it happened too often, and he would probe.

One night I gave a point count range of 9-16 and he continued, "Could you be more specific?"

"Certainly, he has the KJ9 of clubs, KQ2 of spades..." My partner broke in (both of us with deadpan faces), "It's the KJ SEVEN of clubs. Les, try and get it right." This player never asked me anything again.

TDs should be biased towards protecting the weaker players. In my experience TDs favour the aggressive better players, and according to Peter Donovan this happens at a very high level as well.

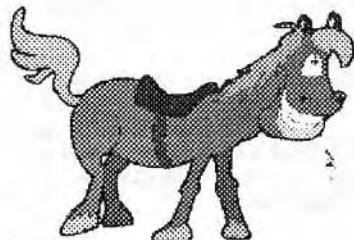
Make sound easily-understood rules and much of the problem disappears. I live in hope!

Yours sincerely,
 Les Fletcher.

TROU NORMANDE

By Haydn Dando

I stared gloomily into an enormous log fire in the middle of Normandy and tried to blank from my mind the foolishness which had landed me and three intrepid team mates in this situation. When two golfers who don't know each other meet on the first tee and agree to play each other the air rings with self deprecation. What standard am I? Well since my operation my game has been right off. To give you a decent game I'll need lots of shots. This is usually countered with, "Oh this is the first time I've played in 3 years. Can't remember which end of the club you hold etc." Why is it then that we bridge players take the opposite tack?



We had arranged to go to Normandy, staying at a stud farm owned by an Englishman, Graham Wenman. Graham would arrange for us to play duplicate at a couple of clubs and a team's match on the Saturday. What standard of player was I? Well I said reeling off a few names I had read about in magazines and dropping in a few of the sort of remarks you hear at

every congress breakfast table. You know the sort of thing, "I refuse to play with Patrick until his defence improves." Graham sounded pretty impressed I can tell you. And so to Normandy. When we flew across the last snowdrift we found that the stud farm had frozen pipes and we would therefore be staying at a local hotel. This hotel was obviously used to bridge players as it was staging some international match at the weekend. I explained that we also wanted to play on Saturday and would there be room for us? A certain amount of Gallic mirth ensued but they said yes of course there would be room for us. Playing duplicate at the local clubs we were treated regally. It was only when the President of the Area Bridge Federation who had played especially to meet us started talking about the big match at the weekend that I realised that in fact we were the international opposition. I confessed all to Graham. Could we get out of it? No you can't he said.

On the morning of the match our opponents turned up early. They explained that they didn't play much together and needed to cobble together some sort of system. However, so that we wouldn't be bored waiting they had arranged for us to visit a local cider factory. How kind I thought. The owner of the cider factory was waiting for us. Glasses of cider were handed round and tasted very nice. Then on to the Pommeau a cross between Calvados and cider that tastes like an apple

sherry. Mindful of the game, I restricted myself to four or perhaps five glasses. However, we were then forced into the Calvados cellar and made to taste vintage after vintage. We were somewhere in the mid-1970's when I once again remembered the bridge



game. Finding Ted Mallam slumped behind a giant Calvados vat did not increase my confidence.

Back to the hotel. Time to play? More Gallic mirth. Monsieur must know it is lunchtime? Pate followed pate, crab, steak, cheese, I could take no more. Even Trevor Towers who has been known to finish off four starters and main courses in one session was struggling. However, the opposition had an answer. What I needed was a Trou Normande (a Normandy hole). This medicine would burn a hole in the food in my stomach and allow me to eat dessert. It tasted exactly like the Calvados we had been drinking earlier. Anyway the second one worked and I set about the tarte des pommes (which was swimming in Trou Normande) with gusto.

Time to sit in front of the log fire? Non monsieur - it was now time to play. The pair who had been putting their system together produced a World

Bridge Federation convention card covered in visas. They were to play a system where 1C meant very little, 1D showed 5 hearts, 1H showed 5 spades and 1S showed a weak no trump. I couldn't bring myself to ask about the complicated stuff in the rest of the system. However, we had no fears. We were equipped with, among other things, the Squibb double. This double relies on convincing declarer that there is some reason behind it and causes him to misplay the hand. It is true that players throughout England and Wales have become familiar with it and the resulting overtricks, however it would be new to France and should cause as much havoc as the bowmen of Agincourt did in sorting out their ancestors. I will not dwell on the result. Suffice to say that the enormous cup presented by the hotel, remains in France. Should anyone who



enjoys a few days in France playing bridge decide to challenge for the Coupe Croix Blanche, please give me a ring. I can assure them of a warm welcome in a fairly unknown region of Normandy at very reasonable prices.

Whatever else though, I shall warn them AVOID THE TROU NORMANDE (and Squibb doubles).

Haydn Dando (01633-420213).

ADVANCES IN BIDDING

By Dean Hardie



Defending Against Michaels Cue-bids

Further to my last article I will take a look at defending against Michaels when they cue-bid our major or minor.

They cue-bid our minor. When the opponents cue-bid a minor at the 2 level it shows at least 5-5 in the majors. Below I have outlined a method to combat their methods and put opener in the best position to judge the best contract if the 3rd hand pre-empts. Bids are essentially natural apart from cue-bids of their suits which show good hands in our suits.

| | | |
|----|----|--|
| 1C | 2C | Pass = nothing to say |
| | | Dble = 10+ points and probably looking for a penalty or a hand that doesn't fit in elsewhere |
| | | 2D = natural, invitational |
| | | 2H = club support and at least a raise to 3C. Opener will bid the full value of his hand now |
| | | 2S = diamond suit and game-forcing |
| | | 2NT = natural, 10-11 HCP and stops in the majors |
| | | 3C = natural, 7-10 HCP |
| | | 3D = 6+ diamonds, game-forcing |
| | | 3H/S = splinter raise showing a singleton in their suit, club support and at least game-values |
| | | 3NT = natural, 12-15 HCP and stops in the majors |
| | | 4C/D = preemptive |
| | | 4H/S = splinter raise showing a void in their suit, club support and at least game-values |

4NT = Roman Key Card Blackwood

5C/D = preempt

5H/S = Exclusion Key Card Blackwood!

Over 1D - 2D our bids are essentially the same. A cue-bid of 2H shows a game-forcing hand in clubs and a cue-bid of 2S shows at least a raise to 3D.

They cue-bid our major. When the opponents cue-bid our major suit at the 2 level there is a big difference to our previous scenarios. Their bid shows the other major and an unknown minor suit, therefore the only cue-bid we have available is in the other major. Our bids are essentially natural with cue-bids being some sort of raise in our major and 3NT is also a raise in our major.

I will outline a defence below which is consistent with our previous defences when the opponents showed a specific 2 suiter.

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| 1H | 2H | Pass = nothing to say. Followed by double is cooperative with some values and 3 card support |
| | | Dble = 10+ HCP with either 3 card support or looking for a penalty |
| | | 2S = good raise to 3H with 4 card support and 10-12 support points |
| | | 2NT = natural |
| | | 3C = natural and forcing |
| | | 3D = natural and forcing |
| | | 3H = 7-10 point heart raise |
| | | 3S = splinter raise with a singleton/void in spades and heart support with at least game-values |
| | | 3NT = Watch this one! It shows a balanced heart raise |
| | | 4C/D = splinter raise with singleton/void in the suit bid |
| | | 4H = preemptive raise |
| | | 4S = Exclusion Key Card Blackwood |
| | | 4NT = Roman Key Card Blackwood |
| | | 5C/D = Exclusion Key Card Blackwood |

A TALE OF TWO GRAND MASTERS

by One of Them

Once upon a time, there were two Grand Masters, two sweet and innocent Grand Masters who played simple systems and standard leads. Said one Grand Master to the other, "Shall we enter the Welsh Bridge Union National Open Pairs this year?" "Why not", said the other, "We could even try and win it".

So off went the two Grand Masters to play Bridge. After two qualifying nights in Abercwmnameless and a regional final in Llansomewhere, the two duly scraped into the National Final playing their own (and truly unique) form of Welsh Acol called Trifw. Soon the big day was upon them - the day of the final. Early did they rise for the long trip to Llandrindod Wells stopping for refreshments along the way. Barely, 15 miles from Llandrindod did the older of the two say to the other "lets play Blackwood" and proceeded to explain the intricacies of Roman Key Card Blackwood. "Dim problem" said the younger in his pigeon Welsh as he struggled to keep his powerful car out of the scenery and on a wet, twisting mountain road high above Builth Wells, "that's exactly what I normally play". "Good," said the older, "So we'll play my version". The young one just grimaced...

A bit later that day, the two Grand Masters picked up the following hands:

| | | The bidding? | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| North | South | North | East | West | South |
| ♠ A K Q x x x | ♠ x | Young one | Lady Laura | Old one | Maid Mary |
| ♥ x x x | ♥ A x x x | | | 2D | Dbl |
| ♦ Q J | ♦ x | 2H | Dbl | 3C | 3D |
| ♣ x x | ♣ A K Q J 10 9 x | 3S | Pass | 4N | Pass |
| | | 5S | Pass | 5N | Pass |
| | | 7N | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| | | 2D was multi | | 2H was negative | |
| | | 3C was 8 Playing tricks | | 4N was Blackwood | |
| | | 5S showed 2 or 5 aces | | 5N showed all aces | |

After a rather eventful auction, Maid Mary cashed the first seven diamond tricks for -2,000 to precipitate a rather heated discussion. "I thought your 5NT showed all aces and asked for Kings" said the young one "and I could count 14 tricks". "4NT was not Key Card Blackwood in this sequence", retorted the old one defensively, "So I thought 5S showed three aces". "But in your system, Key Card Blackwood always agrees the last bid suit, so 4NT cannot be straight Blackwood". "Perhaps I don't always get my system right", mumbled the old one. The young one just grimaced...

Regaining their composure, the two Grand Masters were now faced with the problem of trying to calm down their opponents who still hadn't stopped laughing. Later, they decided to make their escape with as little fuss as possible.

The moral of the story? Better players make bigger c*** ups!

THE 1996 EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS CARDIFF

PROGRAMME

(for 23 or 24 teams in the Junior, 13 or 14 in the School)

| July 1996 | Times | Details |
|-----------|---|--|
| Fri 19 | 1000 1400 1500 1530 1600 1700-1900 | Hospitality & Treasury Desk on duty Practice session for Vugraph, players & scorers Tournament Directors' meeting Appeals Committee meeting Junior Captains' meeting Opening Ceremony Reardon Smith Lecture & City Hall Dinner at Students Union |
| Sat 20 | 1900-2030 2100-2350 1030-1320 1315-1445 1500-1750 1800-1930 2015-2305 | Juniors Round 1 Juniors Round 2 Lunch Juniors Round 3 Dinner Juniors Round 4 |
| Sun 21 | 1030-2305 | Juniors Rounds 5-7 |
| Mon 22 | 1030-1750 1230 1630-1700 1900 | Juniors Rounds 8-9 Macallan Press Lunch (at the Armless Dragon) Schools Captain's meeting Schools Opening Ceremony (University) Evening off |
| Tue 23 | 1030-2305 | Juniors Rounds 10-12, Schools Rounds 1-3 |
| Wed 24 | 1000-1300 1300 1500-2305 | Morning off: National Juniors Congress National Juniors Officials Lunch at University Juniors Rounds 13-14, Schools Rounds 4-5 |
| Thu 25 | 1000-1700 1800-1930 2015-2305 | Visit: Cardiff Bay with Techniquet or St. Fagans Dinner at Students Union Juniors Round 15, Schools Round 6 |
| Fri 26 | 1030-2305 | Juniors Rounds 16-18, Schools Rounds 7-9 |
| Sat 27 | 1030-2305 | Juniors Rounds 19-21, Schools Rounds 10-12 |
| Sun 28 | 1030-1310 1500-1750 2000-2030 2030 | Juniors Round 22, Schools Final Round 13 Juniors Final Round 23 Drink, City Hall Foyer Prize-giving Banquet , Assembly Room, City Hall |

For further information, contact P. Jourdain on 01222-628839

Camrose - Wales v England 21-22 January 1996

by Krista Stephenson

I turned up to watch the final day of the Camrose Wales v England to find it interestingly poised: Wales had narrowly won the first match 16:14, and drawn the second 15:15. It was anyone's; a large win in the third match would guarantee either team the contest.

It was a poignant occasion for me when meeting the Welsh players, as Alan Pierce had been selected to play in this match. His death just before the Camrose brought a bittersweet feeling to the event. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

The first match started and I took my seat in the Vu-graph room. The excellent viewing facilities, Vu-graph with video and aural link to the Closed room made the action seem very close at hand. My only complaint - purely personal - too much cigarette smoke!

Apparently the bridge standard of the first two matches had been, how shall I say it, mixed. This carried on to some extent in the third match but most of what I saw was of a good standard, and there were some very interesting hands. Tony Ratcliff, sitting West, for Wales, defended the following hand well.

♠ A Q 9 4
 ♥ J 7 5 2
 ♦ 9 5 3
 ♣ K 6

 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ Q J 4 2
 ♣ A J 8 5 3

North-South arrived in 4H, by South, after he opened 1NT and responded 2D to partners 5 card Stayman and then bid 4H over partners 3NT.

At trick one Ratcliff led the QD.

Partner shows three diamonds and the Queen is won by declarer's Ace.

Next comes the club three from South, ducked by West and won by North's King. Partner shows two or four. Next the club six from North, to East's nine and South's ten. Ratcliff won with the Jack and played a small spade. This was won by South's King and South led a spade to North's Ace, East showing an odd number.

Next a small heart from North, a card showing an odd number from East, and the Ace from South. The card to this trick?

Counting South's points, he has already shown up with 11 (playing a 12-14 NT?). He has 14 with the DK and so cannot then have the HQ. In addition, Declarer hasn't taken a heart finesse, so this indicates that it's likely that he hasn't got the HQ, but instead the DK for his points, and thus a diamond continuation will be wrong.

Therefore you should throw the King of hearts under the Ace, playing partner for the Heart Q. If you play low you get thrown in with the King of hearts next round and are endplayed to give declarer a ruff and discard in clubs or enable declarer to have no diamond loser by leading into his tenace.

This hand was played at a critical time in the match when Wales could not afford a game swing out, so when Tony, after considerable thought played the king under the Ace, the partisan Welsh crowd roared!

When we saw Patrick on video give Ratcliff a big cheesy grin the crowd roared again!

Full Deal

♠ A Q 9 4
 ♥ J 7 5 2
 ♦ 9 5 3
 ♣ K 6

 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ Q J 4 2
 ♣ A J 8 5 3

 ♠ T 6 2
 ♥ Q T 6
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ Q 9 7 4

 ♠ K J 8 7
 ♥ A 8 4 3
 ♦ A K T
 ♣ T 3