

Your Letters



Dear Friends,

Two years ago I became housebound due to the onset of Parkinsons Disease and unfortunately, this has limited my Bridge playing to three or four hours on a Tuesday afternoon.

Dennis Childs from the Bridgend Club and Barrie Waite of Mid Glamorgan always make sure We have a foursome, calling on players from the Bridgend, Cowbridge L C and Mid Glamorgan Bridge Clubs. Stoutly supported by Frank Hybart, John Hensman, John Moore and others.

Thank you all for the effort you put in to give me some Bridge on a Tuesday afternoon and thank you also to all my friends who send messages of goodwill via the above Ladies and Gentlemen

John White

Dear Sir,

The subject of Junior Bridge is very much in the minds of many of us ancients who rarely see a young face at the bridge table.

My grand-daughter who was 11 in October, played with my son at the Awel-Y-Mor club on the 28th September and scored a very creditable 47%.

She must be amongst the youngest players to have played a full session of normal club duplicate.

Do you know of anyone younger?

Yours sincerely,
Dillwyn Evans

THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Winter 1996 Issue 56

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Once again it's time for making resolutions and this gives me the ideal opportunity to mount one of my hobby horses.

Perhaps it's because I'm getting older and my faculties are diminishing, but I find that I haven't time to take in the cards that have been played to a trick before they are turned over.

Now Dummy has no excuse for this and I would urge you all when Dummy, to ensure that you are the last to turn over your card to a trick and not first as is often the case in my experience.

**NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
ORGANISERS' REPORT**

The Ladies Welsh Cup and The Mens' Team Championship were held at The Metropole at the end of September.

The Ladies event was won by:

D. WILLIAMS, S. WEBSTER,
M. WARBURTON, M. DENNISON

The runners-up were:

M. MOORE, M. MORRIS, L. WOODRUFF, S. INGHAM.

The Mens event was won by:

A. HAWORTH, K. PRATT
R. CHARLESWORTH, A. DISLEY

The runners-up were:

D. HAMILTON, A. CASEY, M. HIRST, A. ZAMAN.

The International Masters Pairs was held in Cardiff Bridge Club on the 9/10th November. The winners were:

PETER GOODMAN & MIKE HAMPTON

The runners-up were:

TOM REDDY & LINDA GREENLAND

The WBU Veteran Pairs competition was held in Swansea Bridge Club on the 24th November. The winners were:

MIKE BAKER & HARRY LEACH

The runners-up were:

PAUL ALLSOP & DEWI JONES

This competition was well over-subscribed. I will try and find a larger venue for next year, but get your entries in early. I am now taking entries for the Graded Masters - it was almost full last year, so be warned.

THE PORTLAND PAIRS: There are two Welsh heats - The Parkway, Cwmbran (Sun 22/3/97) and The Hand, Llangollen (Sat 21/3/97). Cwmbran entries to the NTO; Llangollen entries to Jean Hand, Tel: 01244-830246.

The Force

By Dave Melville

When trumps break unevenly, and the defenders have a long suit, declarer should beware the force. My example from a Swansea Bridge Club duplicate shows that even a stout six-card suit may be unable to survive a forcing attack.

North			
♠ K Q x x			
♥ 10 x x x x			
♦ 4 3			
♣ x x			
West		East	
♠ 9 x x x x		♠ A x	
♥ Q J x		♥ K x x	
♦ 6		♦ A K J 10 7 2	
♣ Q x x x		♣ J x	
South			
♠ J 10			
♥ A x			
♦ Q 9 8 5			
♣ A K 10 9 x			
S	W	N	E
IC	P	P	2D
P	P	X	All pass

Before reading on, how do you proceed after A and K of clubs?

A third club will be ruffed by North and East will discard a spade. This key discard is an effective defence to the force, and also severs N/S communications; North now has no entry and cannot therefore play a third round of spades, which would enable South to make his 9 of diamonds en passant. On this line E/W scored +180.

To defeat 2D doubled, the defenders need to make two tricks in the majors (North has no room for more), two clubs, Q of diamonds and either 9 of diamonds en passant or the fifth club (declarer having been forced out of trumps).

At trick 3 South should play Jack of spades. If East wins, South will play 10 of spades when he regains the lead, North will return a third round of spades, and South will make his 9 of diamonds en passant.

So East ducks Jack of spades, but must now over-ruff the club continuation. South will regain the lead with Queen of diamonds and Ace of hearts, and will each time lead clubs. East has no answer to this, and will duly go one off.



MASTER POINT OF VIEW



9th December 1996

By Noelle Bond

Writing in the second week of December, as the headlong rush to the festivities begins, it is hard not to start with "Happy Christmas", as on almost everything else at the moment, but I have to remember that this will not be read until January.

These last few weeks before the holidays are fortunately always quiet on the Master Point front, I do not know if this is due to members' reluctance to entrust their precious points to the Christmas post, or whether they are being charitable towards me.

After so many complaints about the Post Office it is nice to be able to relate that after I contacted them about some Master Point books which had gone astray they sent the WBU a small compensation cheque. To our surprise, several weeks later, the books were delivered undamaged, with no clue whatsoever as to where they had been, whether left lying dropped in a dark corner or shipped via tramp steamer to Australia, and the cheque had to be returned.

I have noticed that packages of Master Points with groups of points held together with paper clips are more likely to be damaged in transit. This is the result of a purely empirical study, perhaps someone could fund a research chair at the University of Wales to discover how best to protect our mail, or, even better, to make the sorting machines more tolerant. Unfortunately I don't think the WBU has funds for this.

I must apologise for delays in handling points during October, this was due to the confusion caused by having a builder in the house for some weeks. Chaos and mess reigned everywhere; at least this builder did not need to keep a transistor radio playing horrible music through a distorted loud squeaker all day, but he

did try to leave the front door open all the time, despite the fact that he would be working upstairs for hours; even when closing it before going away, he could not bring himself to quite latch it. These traits must be inherent in builders' genes, like their always low-slung jeans. WBU members who are builders always excepted, of course.

The editor has been having trouble incorporating my "Points required for various ranks" list, into the last two newsletters, so I have simplified it. If he can not manage this one, I will have to slip the information in the newsletters one rank at a time, which means you will learn how to become a Grand Master in July 2001. (Please feel free to check my calculations.)

Thanks to all those who sent me Christmas cards and happy New Year to you all.

Sincerely
Noelle

THE MASTER POINT REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH RANK

Master Point totals are made up of Local (LCL) and National (NMP) Points

100 local points (LCL) equals 1 Master Point (MP)

1 National Point (NMP) equals 1 Master Point

For all ranks above Tournament Master a minimum number of NMP is required

Rank	M-Pt. Reqmt.	Rank	M-Pt. Reqmt.
Club Master	2	Tournament Master	400 (< 25 NMP)
Local Master	10	Regional Master	100 (25+ NMP)
County Master	25	Premier Reg. Master	200 (50+ NMP)
Master	50	National Master	300 (75+ NMP)
Advanced Master	75	Premier Nat. Master	400 (100+ NMP)
1 Star Master	100 (< 25NMP)	Life Master	600 (150+ NMP)
2 Star Master	150 (< 25 NMP)	Senior Life Master	900 (300+ NMP)
3 Star Master	200 (<25 NMP)	Grand Master	1200 (600+ NMP)
4 Star Master	250 (<25 NMP)		
5 Star Master	300 (<25 NMP)		

LIST OF PROMOTIONS FOR EACH RANK

Only ranks with promotions are printed. (21/9/96 TO 8/12/96)

Club Master

Mr John Bowley	PC
Mrs Shirley Bowley	PC
Mr R M Dale	PW
Mrs Sylvia Dale	PW
Mrs Betty Dewey	NP
Mrs Beryl M Gibbs	AM
Mr Bryan Morgan	GA
Mr Monash Woolfe	GA
Mr Robert Yates	GA

Local Master

Mrs Rhiannon Davies	C
Mr Martin Green	GA
Mr Noel Griffiths	GA
Mr Ifor Jones	D
Miss Kathleen Jones	S
Mr Ralph Lamb	A
Mrs Sali Meredith	A
Mrs Win Richards	PN
Mr Mark Spalding	CN
Mr Elwyn W Thomas	CD
Mrs Rosemarie Yates	GA

County Master

Mrs Jill Alexander	R
Mr Aeron Evans	C
Mr John Hensman	MG
Mrs Lyn Lamb	A
Mr Graham Norris	CL

Mr Rhodri Phillips	OH
Mrs Sylvia Phillips	OH
Mr David Smith	CN
Mr Victor Smith	LD
Mr Len Wroe	MB

Master

Mr John Akister	PN
Mrs Hillary Cullen	CD
Mrs Janet Davies	A
Mrs Doreen Dixon	GA
Mr Roy Holloway	GA
Mrs Sophie Holloway	GA
Mrs Marie Jones	LP
Mr Jack Loxton	C
Mrs Gaynor Shenton	MB
Mr Steve Webb	C

Advanced Master

Mr Dave Brook	MG
Mrs A S Gorst	LD
Mrs Jean Greening	PR
Mrs Val Griffiths	BR
Mr Tom Ogden	DM
Mrs Joy Pugh	S
Mrs Anne Raw Rees	A
Dr Anne Thomas	GA

1 Star Master

Mr Rodney Burden	C
Mr Gordon Cameron	NT
Mrs Mair Cameron	NT
Mrs Olwen Ellis Davies	CN
Dr Robert Havard	A

Master-point Promotions continued

1 Star Master

Mrs Christine Norman	MB
Mr Mike Samuel	GA
Mrs Betty Wilcock	NT
Mr Les Wilcock	NT

2 Star Master

Mrs Joyce Arthur	CA
Mr Nigel Baker	BV
Mrs Joan Brewer	CRI
Mr Mel Brewer	CRI
Mrs Ann Cowper	PW
Mr Shelton Cross	PR
Mrs Gwen Dobson	S
Mr Malcolm Fox	MG
Mrs Hannah Roberts	PV
Mrs Mary E Smart	S

3 Star Master

Mr Eddie Urbanski	PW
Mr Glyn Williams	BR

4 Star Master

Mrs Sandra Gorst	LD
Mrs Sue Summerhayes	CL
Mrs Joy Whitelock	SP
Mr Mike Whitelock	SP
Mrs Beryl Wright	STD

5 Star Master

Mr Bob Hinton	GA
Mrs Marjorie Turcan	CR

Regional Master

Miss Dot Constance	GA
Mr Gareth Evans	BR
Mrs Gwyneth Flaye	CD

Premier Regional Master

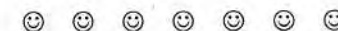
Mr Charles Watson	AA
Mrs Margaret Watson	AA

National Master

Mr Michael Clare	LD
Mr Michael Close	BV
Mrs Sheila Shea	CN

Premier National Master

Mr Philip Dunn	CA
Mrs Mary Moore	BR



LADY MILNE FINAL TRIAL 1st LEG

Placings with total VP's.

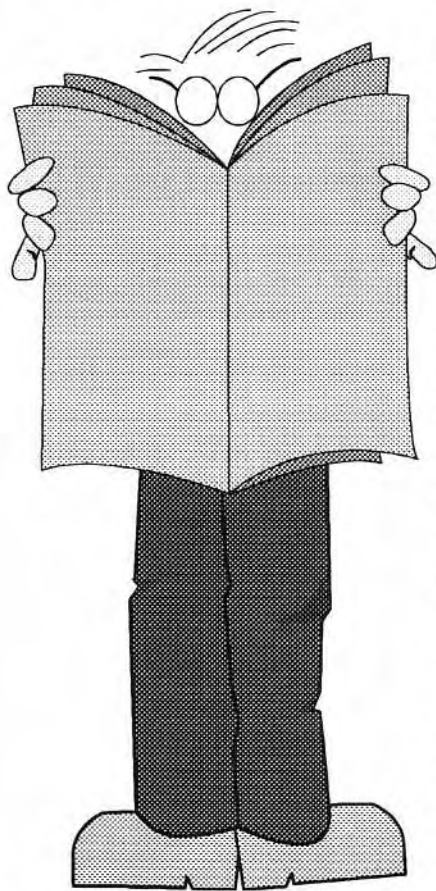
1. M. Pierce, D. Kurbalija,	
M. Pitts, L. Dempster.	62
2. S. Howarth, D. Jones,	
G. Clench, L. Greenland	51
3. A. Fox, I. Thomas,	
L. Woodruff, S. Ingham	41
4. A. Hirst, C. Pierce,	
P. Edwards, K. Stephenson	26

The Visitors Book

Swansea Bridge Club Eaton Crescent and St James Gardens

By Prof. Bryn Gravenor

Was there a Swansea Bridge Club without Roy Griffin? The Visitors Book proves it but there are few around who remember it. Roy was signed in as a visitor in February 1951.



This valuable historiographical record of Bridge in South Wales opens its pages on 1 May 1936, at the start of only the second decade of Contract Bridge World Wide (Autumn 1925 HS Vanderbilt) and probably the first decade of Bridge Clubs in Wales.

Scanning its fading pages tempts one to read between the lines and conjecture:-

Why did D Cullis sign in so many visitors but her long-time partner sign in so few?

Who was the fourth member of the Cardiff Team when G Fox, S Hoffman and E A Roberts signed in on 11 September 1950?

Did Max, Sid, Viv and Brian Ager represent Port Talbot YMCA when they visited 16 December 1957, the same group seemed to have played for Porthcawl and SCOW?

What prompted the visit of the University Team, Heard, Quick, Ager and Griffiths 1 March 1958?

Who won when the powerful team Reed, Stone, Rivlin, Fox and Butler came 2 February 1958?

Why did it take so long for a Newport team Hamilton, Wiltshire, Smith and Fletcher to visit 6 December 1964?

Was there a grand party when Hubert Thomas Hon Sec WBU brought 15 members of the Pontypridd Bridge Club to Swansea on 2 June 1954?

I suppose the most prestigious set of Autographs are those of the visiting England Team on 18/19 November 1961. Louis Tarlo, Rixi Marcus, Michael Wolach, Albert Rose, Nico Gardiner, J Collins and John Spurway. I remember the occasion well for several reasons:-

Roy organised the first Bridgerama in Wales, with a team of University students to do the leg work.

Rixi Marcus wore gold Cartier Bracelets but the cuffs of her Dior Suit were frayed by so much card play, she frequently referred to any inferior male bridge player as an "ox".

John Spurway played with a young bridge all action star, the Zia of his day, John Collins and was kibitzed by his younger brother, Paul Spurway who played for Wales at this time.

Perhaps some of the senior citizens of Welsh Bridge could add flesh to these bones so that we can record the history of the early days of the WBU before it is too late.

**NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
DIRECTOR CO-ORDINATOR REPORT**

CLUB TD TRAINING

The first set of courses have been completed, except for the C course in the North which was postponed to March. The numbers were disappointing considering everything, and it is unlikely that the demand will justify any more Club courses for two or three years, except for one D course in West or East Wales. It is still anticipated that a national course will be held late next year.

The list of official Club TDs, who took and passed the C course, and Assistant Club TDs, who attended the A and B course, follows:

WBU CLUB TDs

West Area

Dennis Childs	Janet Hirst	Betty Jones
Martin Morris	Megan Taylor	Kevin Thomas
Bill Turner	Barry Waite	Glyn Williams

East Area

Cath Bailey	Brian Harden	Joe Jackson
Graham Jones	Graham Lawson	Ernie Morris
Bill Parkinson		

WBU ASSISTANT CLUB TDs

West Area

John Bowley	Roy Callan	Dr A Evans
Dennis Francis	Sheila Leyshon	Trish Saunders
John Smith	Kevin Thomas	

East Area

Roger Biggs	Kath Fewster	
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North Area

Sian Ellis	Andrea Martin	Bernard Dalton-Jones
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Anyone who has passed a C course previously, or attended an A and a B course, and would like to be added to this list, please let me know, giving details of where and when the courses were. Courses may be in England or Wales.

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A choice of venues for the early New Year

Stratford Manor, **STRATFORD** Jan 17-19/20 (2 or 3 nts) **£149/£169**

Avisford Park, **ARUNDEL** Jan 31-Feb 2/3 (2 or 3 nts) **£149/£172**

Cheltenham Park **CHELTENHAM** Feb 14-17 (3 nts) **£165**

Swallow Highcliff **BOURNEMOUTH** Feb 21-24 (3 nts) **£165**

The Francis, **BATH** Mar 7-9 (2 nts) **£152**

The Imperial, **HYTHE** Mar 14-16/17 (2 or 3 nts) **£152/£175**

✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

Ralph and Lesley Smith will be delighted to send you their brochure

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THE WBU BANS SMOKING

The WBU has decided to follow the EBU's decision to ban all smoking in the playing area. Under the new total ban, smoking is not allowed in playing areas from 1 hour before an event until the results are announced and the prize-giving has taken place.

In order to cater for smokers, a reasonable area must always be set aside for their use and, where possible, vents can be split into smoking and no smoking sections.

The ban applies to WBU tournaments and events run jointly with areas, but for their own competitions areas and clubs can make their own rules. Smoking is already prohibited in matches played privately - such as the Welsh and Cambria Cups - although this can be lifted if both captains agree.

Dillwyn Evans (4/12/96).

Tournoi Del L'amite Trophee Jacques Maison

By Peter Goodman

The second Jacques Maison memorial trophy was held at the Hotel Metropole in the centre of Brussels. One of the perks of participation in the British premier league is an invite to such events, which were previously reserved for London based pairs.

The event consists of two long sessions, with no evening session, allowing ample time for a leisurely evening meal. Although this format is common in Europe it is rarely seen in this Country where we seem to prefer quantity rather than quality Bridge.

Twenty European pairs and twenty top Belgium pairs were invited to play in an all-play-all pairs format, with 39 two board rounds. The event was scored with 'Butler Scoring', whereby all twenty results are averaged to provide a datum from which each pair scores asimps, with the top and bottom scores left out of the datum.

Despite the late withdrawal of the Polish world champions, a strong field was headed by anti-post favourite, several times World champion, Paul Chemla. After the first session a local Belgium pair had a healthy +83imps, we were 'lurking' in 4th place with 49imps and Chemla was nowhere with +2imps. A strict time limit of 14 minutes per round required careful tactics. Continental pairs are very accurate at the game level, but sometimes a little sloppy in the part-score area, at 6imps a swing MIKE POWNALL and myself set out to extract our imps from this area.

20,000 Belgium francs (£400) rested on this defensive decision:-

	North		East	South	West	North
West	♠ Ax		Pass	Pass	1C*	Pass
♠ KQx	♥ xx		1D	2H	Pass	3C
♥ Kx	♦ AKxx		Pass	3H		
♦ xxx	♣ AJxxx					
♣ KQxxx						

* Natural, or 12/14 balanced.

You lead the KC and declarer wins and plays a small Heart to your Ace, What next ?

- a) Examine opponents convention card, in French no doubt, to find he could have opened a weak 2H. Hence, he probably has 6H & 4S.
- b) Does Partner have the Ace Hearts ?, yes, if declarer held AH he would have played Ace and another Spade for nine tricks, via a Spade ruff.
- c) Declarer is not aware that you have 5C, you could have had any weak NT shape. With 2D & 1C he would again have played Ace and another spade in an attempt to set up a long spade.
- d) So your best hope is partner has a singleton club. Although the KS might still give you a chance to defeat 3H, declarer might now judge to play AK diamonds throwing his losing club, the winning play is a SMALL club allowing partner to ruff cash AH and exit with QD!.

Alas, we didn't perform all the above analysis in the allocated 7 minutes and a small spade allowed the contract home. Despite this hand, which may have moved us to 2nd place, we were more than content to pick up a further 8imps in the 2nd half and hold on to 4th place and 20,000 francs.

The winners, Chemla & Reingold (France, £1200) scoring 88imps in the final session.

Your Letters



Dear Sir

In reply to Paul Gagne's letter last issue. I have been co-opted onto the Selection committee at the end of this years pre-trial (for one season only). Having played in 20 recent Camrose matches, British Trials, and captained Wales on many occasions I feel qualified to respond and offer advice and guidance to players in a similar position. This is my personal view and does not necessarily represent the view of the rest of the selection committee.

Thirteen years ago I was turned down by a Welsh selection committee, despite considerable teams success. Although disappointed I worked on our system file and watched the Welsh trials to assess my future opposition - within two years we had won a pre-trial , final trial and our first Welsh cap. Since that time the selectors have introduced regular pre-trials in order to 'give pairs experience of what trials are all about'. However, the final trial should not be used for that purpose. These trials are now, at last, scored purely as teams, you must be able to command respect & confidence from your team mates (I can remember being overlooked after a British pre-trial for a similar reason).

Although I certainly agree there were many things wrong with this year's pre-trial, 'Selector Bashing' is an easy game. The selectors are always willing to listen to constructive advice, my guidance to future trialists would be:-

- 1) Obtain good results as a pair, first. (All trialist players should have a good track record)
- 2) Find compatible team mates and get consistent results in Welsh & English events. It is not the selectors primary job to find pairs suitable team mates.
- 3) Apply for a pre-trial with these team mates.

- 4) If you fail, go along to watch - you'll benefit the following year.
- 5) Ask some ex-trialists if they think you would benefit from the pre-trial. The pre-trial should not be thought of as a congress weekend.

What you should expect to find at a pre-trial:-

- 1) Several pairs entered as teams, teams formed by selectors as a last resort.
- 2) A few players from the previous seasons Camrose (sometimes)
- 3) Cross imping only if 6+ tables - it just doesn't work with less.
- 4) A few, but not all, the Welsh selectors should be present at this stage.
- 5) No half tables - possibly a last minute reserve pair.
- 6) New pairs/teams having to perform particularly well to proceed to the main trial.

Its a tough, and sometimes unfair world in the Welsh trials, but the door is much further ajar than ever before.

What we really want are the views of the WBU members, who help to finance the Welsh teams and enjoy watching Camrose matches but have no pretensions of participating themselves.

What do you think ? How would you pick the team ?

Peter Goodman

Overseas Events

European Open Pairs & Seniors Pairs

in The Hague On 17-22 March, 1997.

The World Junior Pairs 11-13 July, 1997. Italy.

Junior Camp 14-22 July, 1997. Italy