

Fit-Jumps.

Now we get to the exciting bit. A jump in a new suit shows at least 4 card support, 5 or more cards in the bid suit and values for a raise to at least the 3 level. It is important that the high card points are concentrated in the 2 suits. This will enable partner to look at his hand and assess how well the 2 hands fit together. Armed with this information he will be in a good position to bid on to game or settle for a part score.

Lets look at an example:-

IC 1H Pass 2S

A typical hand would be S AQJxx
 H QJxx
 D xx
 C xx

Splinter-Bids.

A jump in the opponent's suit shows at least 4 card support, a singleton or void in their suit and values for a raise to at least the 3 level.

A double jump in the opponent's suit shows at least 4 card support, a void in their suit and values to bid at the 4 level.

A double jump in a new suit shows at least 4 card support, a singleton or void in the suit bid and values for a raise to at least that 4 level.

Examples would be:-

1D 1S Pass 3D = singleton or void
 1D 1S Pass 4D = void
 1D 1S Pass 4C = singleton or void

THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Spring 1997 Issue 57

NEWSLETTER

Lloyd Lewis, 15 Long Oaks Court, Sketty, Swansea SA2 0QH
 Secretary: ☎ 01792-296 569
Mrs. Noelle Bond, 45 Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EG
 Master-Point Secretary: ☎ 01446-733 425
Dilwyn Evans, 2 Penylan Close, Porthcawl CF36 3LF
 National Tournament Organiser: ☎ 01656-783 461
Gary Martin, 83 Tir Capel, Dafen, Llanelli SA14 8SR
 Newsletter Editor: ☎ 01554-758 021

Editorial

Once again Wales finished at the bottom of the Camrose table despite playing a total of 6 of the best pairs available. This mix and change policy has failed to work yet again. So is it time for a new approach?

I have long doubted the logic of picking a team based mainly on trials performance. Surely, looking at a pair's consistency over a longer, but recent, period would be a more sensible yardstick?

One suggestion would be for the selectors to choose the 4 pairs that have shown the best form in certain competitions over the previous 6 months - and pick from them for the 3 matches.

What have we got to lose?

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT ORGANISER'S REPORT

National Results

83 Pairs played in the Graded Masters, this was three pairs less than last year.

Section 1

- 1 F Kurbalija & T Casey
- 2 S Jarvis & N Forrest
- 3 C Heard & DM Powell
- 4 D Kurbalija & M Hirst

Section 2

- 1 R Trew & M Close
- 2 D I Jones & C Rochelle
- 3 P Allsopp & D Jones
- 4 P Seal & J Patrick

Section 3

- 1 R McKinley & P Maslin
- 2 D Patrick & E Parry
- 3 Anne Jones & E Morris
- 4 J Henson & G Tinkler

Section 4

- 1 M Whitelock & J Whitelock
- 2 B Harris & T F Evans
- 3 J Ford & P Maslin
- 4 C Warren & R Law

Section 5

- 1 D Thomas & M Rees
- 2 M Tovey & J Parry
- 3 G Williams & M Moore
- 4 S Gorard & S Webb

Section 6

- 1 M Davies & M Jones
- 2 R Burden & B Rich
- 3 Gareth Evans & Gail Evans
- 4 A Davies & K Jones

National Mixed Pairs

- 1 R Trew & N Bond
- 2 R Charlesworth & I Thomas
- 3 M Brooke & G White
- 4 T Reddy & L Greenland

Welsh Cup Qtr Final Draw

- P Hand lost to R McKinley
D Hardie beat A Thomas
(SF D Hardie beat R McKinley)
L Woodruff v J Casey
J Isaac v B Crawford

Cambria Cup semi final draw

- S Edwards v A Thomas
S Howarth v L Sheridan

The rule that never was !!!!

The 50% rule for entry into the next stage of a National event is no more. This rule was rescinded by the Executive at their meeting on 9/3/97.

SIMULTANEOUS SUCCESS AT PENCOED

By Glyn Williams - Sec. Pencoed Bridge Club

I write about the success of two pairs, at opposite ends of the experience ladder, from our club in the British Bridge League Winter Simultaneous Pairs on Tuesday 7.1.97.



Congratulations to Tony Ratcliff and Dean Hardie on winning the British Bridge League winter simultaneous pairs held on Tuesday 7th January 1997.



The high scoring heat held by Pencoed Duplicate Bridge Club at Pencoed Rugby Club also produced fifteenth place for the much less experienced pair of Barrie Jenkins and Greg Williams.

Well done, this result has given the members of Pencoed a big boost and shows that players of all experience levels can enjoy Bridge and be successful.

Tony and Dean 71.25% Barrie and Greg 66.79%

LADY MILNE FINAL TRIAL - SECOND LEG

This was held at Cardiff B.C. on Sat-Sun 15-16 March 1997. Four teams played matches of 32 boards against each other team, with imps being converted to vps.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 61vps | Pam Edwards & Krista Stephenson, Ann Hirst & Ceri Pierce |
| 56 | Maggie Pierce & Diane Kurbalija, Lyn Dempster & Margaret Pitts |
| 40 | Diana Jones & Shirley Howarth, Gilly Clench & Linda Greenland |
| 17 | Laura Woodruff & Susan Ingham, Ann Fox & Irene Thomas. |

The following team was chosen to represent Wales in the Lady Milne in Glasgow.

Maggie Pierce & Diane Kurbalija; Lyn Dempster & Margaret Pitts;
Pam Edwards & Krista Stephenson. NPC: Jill Casey
Reserves: Ann Hirst & Ceri Pierce



MASTER POINT OF VIEW

22nd March 1997

By Noelle Bond

Knowing how our master point system suffers from the quirks of Post Office and its machines, I was horrified to be shown the scathing criticism of the postal service, and complaints of cheques and CD's gone astray, written by the editor of a music magazine my husband reads. We are not alone: well, certainly not in suffering.

Many members have now heeded my advice about not using paper clips and my elastic band collection has built up nicely, leaving me wishing I had suggested that five pound notes would make a secure wrapper.

One member recently came up with a novel way of protecting points; sew all around the edge of the envelope. Unfortunately he also sewed through his SAE, which meant that instead of a quick cut I was forced to carefully unpick stitches, but it did not take long and perhaps the needlework mistress who, when I was about ten years old, complained about the slowness of my work, would have finally been proud of me.

As someone with an interest in psephology, I have on occasions sat up for the election results, surrounded by pens, coloured pencils, and paper, busily calculating swings, completing charts, fascinated by the mathematics of it all. Great excitement one year when I actually attended an election count! 1997's election, however, is doomed to pass me by, for on May 1st the pens, pencils and paper which surround me will be required for the WBU year end; whilst others count polling papers I shall count master points. Any WBU members with political influence please work to get the next election called in mid October, when the master point work slows down.

The pleasure of seeing our daughter married early in March led to a slight backlog, which I did not want this busy time of year; my apologies for any unexpected delay. I have caught up again now and am poised for the year end onslaught. As I know the editor is keen to get this edition of the newsletter out promptly, there should be plenty of time to remind everyone that the year end for master points registration is April 30th. Now is the time to search drawers, handbags, pockets, wallets, knotted socks, and the dark corners of the washing machine (it does happen), for all those green and white MP slips, count them, and send them into me, with a note of the total submitted. Odd how frequently husbands and wives acquire each others points; accident or misappropriation? Happy point finding.

Sincerely

Noelle

Eire Friendly International

This year it's Ireland's turn host what will be third encounter in this series. The match will be played over the weekend 24/25th May in Slane, Co. Meath - which is just north of Dublin.

Six teams will compete in the following categories:- Open Team, Ladies Team, Area Team, Junior Team, Club Team and Officials Team. Each team will comprise of two pairs and applications for consideration are to be sent to Lloyd Lewis the Secretary to reach him by April 15th at the latest.

Members should note that no expenses are provided. Players pay for their own travel - but accommodation will be provided free of charge in Ireland.

LIST OF PROMOTIONS FOR EACH RANK

FROM 9/12/96 TO 20/3/97
(Only ranks with promotions are listed)

Club Master	
Mrs V Bennett	MB
Mr Peter Blackwell	CL
Mr David Cahoon	W
Mrs Eileen Davies	S
Mr Granville Dodd	S
Mr Huw Evans	S
Mrs June Fligelstone	GA
Mrs Audrey Hall	PN
Mrs Leanne Jayne	GA
Mr Malcolm Jones	H
Mrs Georgina Laing	CBY
Mr Ian Laing	CBY
Mr Andrew Mountain	W
Mrs Andrea Nolan	GA
Mrs Nina Park	MB
Mrs Janet Richards	P
Mrs Margaret Ryan	GA
Mrs Andrea Shephard	CN
Mr Richard Shephard	CN
Mrs Hazel Swift	MT
Mrs Dorothy Williams	S
Mrs Pat Williams	NT
Local Master	
Mrs Kirsten Amott	CL
Mr John Bowley	PC
Mrs Shirley Bowley	PC
Mrs Betty Brooke	A
Mr John Cleves	S
Mrs Marjorie Dalton-Jones	CN
Miss Anne Davies	S
Mrs Kay Drake	A
Mrs Hermione Evans	NP
Mrs Regina Evans	PW
Mr Terry Evans	MG
Mrs Janet Hammett	GA
Mrs Leila Jones	S

Mr Martin Jones	L
Mr Jim Morton	CBY
Mr Howard Owen	OH
Mrs Betty Rule	NP
Mrs Edna Slater	A
Mr Douglas Thomas	GA
Mrs Jean Thomas	GA
Mrs Patricia Waldon	NP
Mrs Chris Welson	AA

County Master	
Miss Gill Ambrose	PR
Mr Roger Biggs	GA
Mr Bernard Dalton-Jones	CN
Mrs Glenys Dent	AG
Mr Michael Dent	AG
Miss Dorothy Essex	GA
Mrs Valerie Fletcher	MB
Mr Alan Garland	BV
Mrs Anne E Hughes	PR
Mrs Betty Hinton Jones	A
Mr Mike Miles	AG
Mrs Vera Miller	S
Mr Martin Morris	CD
Mr Henry Page	LP
Mr Timothy Perkins	MB
Mrs Betty Plimmer	LD
Mrs Doris Powell	GA
Mr Ken Rees	AG
Mrs Muriel Richardson	CBY
Mrs Wlada Tracz	A
Mr Frank Verdon	BV
Mrs Pat Verdon	PN

Master	
Mr Robin Allan	CRI
Mrs Vera Allan	CRI
Mrs Cath Bailey	GA
Mrs Amy Britten	BV
Mrs Kath Church	MB
Mrs Margaret Davies	A
Mrs Gwyneth Dew	GA
Ms Rosemary Evans	MG

Master-point Promotions continued

Mrs Chris Harper	GA
Ms Linda Miles	S
Mrs Sheila Morris	MH
Dr Terry Reilly	CL
Mr John Rudgley	S
Mrs Mary Rudgley	S
Mr Peter Williams	CBY

Advanced Master	
Mr Gordon Berrey	CL
Mr John R Bowen	T
Mr Peter Bradbury	PW
Mrs Elaine Galpin	LD
Mrs Brenda Grove	OH
Mr Graham Jones	MG
Mr Nigel Key	BR
Mrs Doris McLean	LD
Mrs Pat Roe	A
Mr Nigel Saunders	ROF
Mr Hywel Williams	MB

1 Star Master	
Mr Mike Dando	GA
Dr Chris Davies	C
Mrs Eleanor Evans	PW
Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson	GA
Mr Barry Jones	W
Mr Jim Lewis	BR
Mr Clive Malam	GA
Mrs Jean Parry	MB
Mrs Barbara Saunders	MB
Mr Brian Saunders	MB
Mr Peter Smith	GA
Mrs Marion Stephenson	CL
Mr Peter Stott	PR
Mrs Margaret Tovey	MB
Mrs Beryl Williams	MB

2 Star Master	
Mr Ron Daymond	MB
Mrs Sylvia Parkin	R
Mrs Susan Raybould	CA
Mr Newman Vincent	SP
Mr John Walker	CB

3 Star Master	
Dr Stephen Gorard	C
Mrs Margaret Hathaway	LP
Mr Peter Oeppen	SP
Mrs Marnie Owens	T
Mr Graham Simmons	MB
Mrs Kate Walker	CB

4 Star Master	
Mrs M Church	MB
Miss E M Jones	AM
Mr Gareth Jones	PD
Mr Colin Thomas	S
Mrs Lavinia Thomas	S

5 Star Master	
Mr Robin Hall	PN
Mr Alun W Hughes	L
Mr John D Jones	MB
Mr Richard Wronski	BR

Regional Master	
Mr Philip Dorling	STD
Mrs Dorothy Gilbert	R
Mr Eddie Urbanski	PW
Mr Glyn Williams	BR
Mrs Jill Williams	R
Mrs Pamela Woodhouse	A

Premier Regional Master	
Mrs Megan Taylor	P

National Master	
Mrs Eileen Keirl	BR
Mr John Tremayne	GA

Premier National Master	
Mrs Anne Garvie	GA

Life Master	
Mr John J Evans	STD
Mr Steve Kennewell	S
Robin Parris	S
Ms Ceri Pierce	C
Mr Terry Stanton	R

The Learning Zone

By Jim Fletcher



I recently had the pleasure and privilege of playing in a team event with one of Wales's finest. He shall remain nameless lest it be thought that he is much given to slumming.

A number of interesting situations arose that were tests of judgement, which after all is what our game is really about. I'll tell you what I did, the question is, was I wrong? If so, what should I have done? You decide.

HAND A. - Neither side vulnerable, - IMPS.

Partner (N) opens 1S and RHO doubles.

You hold : S 8432, H A9763, D Q72, C 5.

You've an 8 loser, 4 trumps, a 1st and a 2nd round side suit control, not much in defence. So 3S must be right, (2NT would show a better hand).

LHO then bids 4C, pass, pass, back to you. Now you've bid this hand once, (could it be argued that you should have 4S the first time an avoided this dilemma?), and face the prospect of bidding twice on the same values. But no!, things have changed a little. Your hand 1S a touch better than the rubbish you would normally have for 3S, but more important, if they have values in CLUBS, partner's points are liable to be pulling their full weight.

So you consult the LAW, (Of total tricks that is!). We have a 9 or 10 card fit and it looks as though they have the same, that makes the total trick tally about 19.

So if they have 10, 4C gets us -130, and 4S (if I bid), gets us -50, because I doubt anyone is going to double at IMPS, so bidding looks good. But there's more. If they have 9, 4C gets us +50, whereas 4S gets +420, that's odds of 8:1, and you can rely on this partner making the most of his assets. So you bid 4S.

All this mental arithmetic becomes a waste of time, when after 2 passes, RHO bids 5C.

These were the hands :

	N	
	S AKJ96	
	H T42	
W	D AJ3	E
S 75	C 96	S QT
H Q5		H KJ8
D T85		D K964
C KQ8732	S	C AT94
	S 8432	
	H A9763	
	D Q72	
	C 5	

Contract 5C by W. down 3. +:150 and 5 IMPS to N/S.

The 'results' merchants may argue that the end justifies the means! Do you agree?

But there is a bit more. Should I have 'chopped' the final contract on the basis of my HA and DQ? I say, no way Jose. In a settled partnership maybe, yes. But here was I, playing in elevated company, trying to do the right thing, (or at least not making a complete b***s of it), worried that there was a very small chance that I'd pushed them into a making game. so I chickened out. Really I ask you, what would you have done?

I have asked for an expert comment :

EXPERT OPINION provided by Peter Goodman

Peter's verdict:

I would have bid 4S in the first place.

Hand is much better than xxxx, Kxxxx, Qxx, x - another 8 loser Partner is now well placed to double 5C

However, if I had bid 3S I would pass 4C & double 5C - since I have 6 points in their suits & partner has opened the bidding.

HAND B. E/W Vulnerable. Dealer S. IMPS.

As S, you hold : S AK3, H A, D Q987532, C Q3. and open 1D.

The bidding then goes, pass, 1S, 2H, and its back to you. Well with a 5 loser, your hand is worth about 3 Diamonds, but with such a hairy suit, 3D is as much 'offence' as it's worth, at this stage. Then 3H, pass, 4H, and it's back with you.

I've always believed that a double, in this situation, when you have no suit agreement, is not strictly a penalty double, but shows a hand that is 'good' on the basis of the bidding so far, and with undisclosed defensive values. In addition if partner has long spades with a CLUB value, and bates the double, you won't mind if he removes to 4S. For sure he doesn't like diamonds. So you double, which is passed out.

The full bidding was :

S	W	N	E
1D	Pass	1S	2H
3D	3H	Pass	4H
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Would you have done it differently sitting South?

You start with 4th high diamond and you see :-

	Dummy (West)
South	S 52
(YOU)	H KJ87
S AK3	D K6
H A	C K7542
D Q987532	
C Q3	

The lead runs to declarer's AD, partner playing the 10, which at this point can show 1, 2, or 3. Declarer leads a trump, which you perform win. Now what?.

You lead the AS, and partner shows an even number, if it were 6 he surely would have bid 4S, Well I think so! Then cash the KS because the CLUB suit looks a bit of a threat. (Declarer can ruff the others anyway). Now what?. You decide it's unlikely that partner has three diamonds as he might have bid 4D over 3H, so if he has two his hand could be :

S QJxx, H xxx, D JT, C Jxxx

and he could just, have scraped up a bid and been stuck thereafter, or he might have five clubs and two hearts, either way the defence looks a bit sick. If he has a singleton diamond, that's what I must lead, for the ruff. The only other trick possible is the AC, and that can't run away. WRONG! I continue with a diamond and that was -790.

The other two hands were:-	PARTNER
	S JT84
	H 5
	D JT4
	C AJT98
	DECLARER
	S Q976
	H QT96432
	D A
	C 6

Should I have worked it out? Letting the game through was bad enough but we had 5D on, just to make things worse.

Peter's verdict:

Prefer to double 2H straight away, if this shows 3Spades, then after you double the final 4H (action double) partner may take the winning action and bid 5D. I suspect he would defend with an outside Ace. This means you sometimes have to pass 4H with full-blooded penalty doubles.

Assume you lead a Top spade, a Diamond seemed premature, partner can then help you count/attitude is of no interest so he can indicate club preference with a small Spade. Then cash another Spade and play a small club in case declarer has Jx and a guess.

HAND C. Dealer E, Both Vulnerable.

Dealer passes and sitting S, holding

S A43, H QJT3, D 852, C J96,

you have nothing to say.

W opens 1C, (Alerted and explained as the better minor, playing 5 card majors, or natural). Partner passes and E bids 1D. You pass and so does W!!!.

Partner now bids 2C, passed by E, to you.

What is going on? The only explanation I could come up with, was that W had CLUBS and DIAMONDS and maybe a 15 count, didn't fancy bidding to a minor suit game, opposite a passed partner and bailed out. Surely W would have bid a major if that were the reason for the 1C opening.

I think partner, (because we are not playing weak overcalls - Ghestem, Michaels etc.,) has come up with a brilliant bid on something like

S QJxxx H Kxxxxx, D -, C xx

and has used the lower cue bid to show the better suit.

With no real defence and a diamond void, he didn't want me passing a T/O double with diamonds and not much else. Crystal clear, so I bid 2H.

I felt a grade 1 pratt, when dummy appeared with :

S 52, H A75, D J3, C AK7532,

and compounded things by playing it in much the same vein, to go 1 off for -5 IMPS. I've not yet had the nerve to ask how he knew W had NOT got a fistful of CLUBS.

Would you have got it right?

Just to add insult to injury, playing a 12/14 no trump, W had opened 1C on :

S K976, H K84, D AT9, C QT4.

Surely a recipe for disaster, but it sure fooled me.

Peter's verdict:

Partner is showing Clubs, I'm afraid. West is 3rd in Hand and could have decided not to open a Weak NT with many balanced hands. Partner will have short diamonds and 10+ point on this auction, there is only one reason for him passing,



I have developed special techniques for playing 3-3 fits and could offer further advice on the card play.

ADVANCES IN BIDDING

By Dean Hardie



Responding To Partner's Overall

Let's assume partner overcalls one of a major. How do we respond? The modern trend, when we have support, is to make life as difficult as possible for the opponents by using preemptive raises and as useful as possible for partner by using constructive raises, fit-jumps and splinter bids. Without primary support and values we bid naturally.

No trumps.

The simplest method is natural:-

1C	1S	Pass	1NT = 10-12 HCP
			2NT = 13-14 HCP
			3NT = 15-19 HCP or less with a good source of tricks

Some players use a jump raise to 2NT as showing a balanced raise of partner's suit, 4 card support and values to raise to at least the 3 level. This would be by partnership agreement.

With a natural 2NT raise one has to go through the unassuming cue-bid first and then bid notrumps. We shall look at the unassuming cue-bid a little later.

Simple Change of Suit.

This is natural and can be played as either constructive, but not forcing, or strong and 100% forcing. The partnership needs to choose which method they want to play. If the constructive method is chosen then hands which are stronger have to go through the unassuming cue-bid as jumps show something else as we will soon see.

Simple Raises.

Simple raises are most effectively played as preemptive. Raise as high as you dare, the more trumps you have the higher you can afford to go. Bid in a similar fashion as when partner opens one of a major and the next hand makes a takeout double.

The Unassuming Cue-Bid.

When your hand is 'too good' to make a preemptive raise in partner's suit one has to go through the unassuming cue-bid. This is a cue-bid of the opener's suit. The message it gives is that you have at least 3 card support, 10+ points and essentially a balanced hand or a less balanced hand which is not suitable for a fit-jump or splinter bid as described later. The unassuming cue-bid can also be used on strong hands, without primary support, where more information is needed from the overcaller before taking control of the auction.

In response to an UCB the overcaller describes his hand as accurately as possible. He assumes partner has a 10 point raise and bids accordingly. The weakest bids are a rebid of the major or a bid of a lower ranking suit without raising the level. All higher bids show a stronger hand with some hope of game.