



## Dates for your Diary



Please Note: *Italics* indicate dates that have been changed

January 1998	Contact /	At
4 <sup>th</sup> Mid McKinley Cup teams		
10 <sup>th</sup> Gold Cup round 1		
11 <sup>th</sup> All National Open Pairs Final		
13-14 <sup>th</sup> BBL Simultaneous Pairs		Clubs
17 <sup>th</sup> Mid Multiple teams Session 3		
18 <sup>th</sup> East Herbert Thomas teams of 8		Barry Mem.
19-23 <sup>rd</sup> Flitch Week	Gary Martin	Clubs
25 <sup>th</sup> West Area Teams		Swansea BC
25 <sup>th</sup> East Area Final Mens / Ladies Pairs		Cardiff BC
25 <sup>th</sup> Mid Harrop Griffiths Mixed Pairs		
31-1 <sup>st</sup> Graded Masters	Dillwyn Evans	Llandrindod
<b>February 1998</b>		
7-8 <sup>th</sup> Lady Milne Trial 2		Cardiff BC
8 <sup>th</sup> North Area Final Mens / Ladies Pairs		
8 <sup>th</sup> West Area Final Mens Pairs		Swansea BC
13-15 East Wales Congress Cwmbran	Myra Morris	01222 612129
15 <sup>th</sup> North Valance Individual		
22 <sup>nd</sup> National Mixed Final		Swansea BC
28 <sup>th</sup> Mid Multiple teams Final session		
<b>March 1998</b>		
1 Mid Area final National Mens /Ladies Pairs		
1 <sup>st</sup> West Area final National Ladies Pairs		Swansea BC
7 <sup>th</sup> Mid Area Final Teams of 8		
15 <sup>th</sup> Gold Cup round 2		
21 Portland Pairs Qualifier	Jean Hand	01244 830246
22 Portland Pairs Qualifier Cwmbran	Jim Fletcher	01792 898714
22 <sup>nd</sup> East Vera McAndrew Pairs		Gwent BA
26-29 <sup>th</sup> Llangollen Congress		
29 <sup>th</sup> West Area Final Teams of 8		Swansea BC

# THE WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Winter 1997

Issue 60

NEWSLETTER

Lloyd Lewis, 15 Long Oaks Court, Sketty, Swansea SA2 0QH  
Secretary Tel. 01792-296 569

Mrs Noelle Bond, 45 Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EG  
Master -Point Secretary Tel. 01446-733425

Dillwyn Evans, 2 Penylan Close, Porthcawl CF36 3LF  
National Tournament Organiser Tel. 01656 783461

Linda Greenland, Flat 1, 45 Cathedral Rd, Cardiff, CF1 9HD  
Newsletter Editor Tel. 01222 257136

## Editorial

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all. Although officially this issue is due out on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the thought of spending my hard earned break working on the newsletter has led to this early arrival.

Many thanks to those members who have responded to my plea for articles, I have a few already for the next newsletter, but there is still plenty of room for further contributions, so please start scribbling.

This edition includes a report by Adrian Thomas which sets out his views on the structure & organisation of Welsh International bridge that I am sure will provoke a lot of discussion. It is there mainly so that Adrian and the selectors can find out your views, but I am happy to publish letters with supportive or opposite points of view.

**Selectors Report**

**Lady Milne Trial 1** was held at Cardiff BC on 29-30<sup>th</sup> November 1997. Four teams played 32 board matches against each other, with imps converted to Victory points.

Teams 1.

- T1. Maggie Pierce & Diane Kurbalija, Ann Hirst & Ceri Pierce
- T2. Shirley Howarth & Diana Jones, Jill Casey & Linda Greenland
- T3. Diana Panniers & Val Kennewell, Gilly Clench & Diane Harris
- T4. Wendy Wood & Sophy Holloway, Anne Garvie & Annie Favager

	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Total
Team 1	*****	16	7	25	48
Team 2	14	*****	17	18	49
Team 3	23	13	*****	19	55
Team 4	3	12	11	*****	26

The Lady Milne Competition is in June 1998, and will be hosted by the East Wales BA at the Stakis Hotel, Langstone, Newport.

**Camrose Final Trial – 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg** was held at Cardiff BC on 4-5<sup>th</sup> October.

- Team 1: Filip Kurbalija & Jill Casey, Patrick Jourdain & Tony Ratcliff.
- Team 2: Tony Haworth & Keith Pratt, Peter Goodman & Adrian Thomas
- Team 3: Mike Hirst & Jim Luck, Gary Martin & Dean Hardie
- Team 4: Gilly Clench & Richard Trew, Simon Richards & Alex Maddocks

	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Total	Trial 1	Overall
Team 1	*****	8	18	9	35	51	86
Team 2	22	*****	20	25	67	60	127
Team 3	12	10	*****	23	45	33	78
Team 4	21	5	7	*****	33	35	68

**Camrose Team to play England**

- Peter Goodman & Adrian Thomas
- Tony Haworth & Keith Pratt
- Filip Kurbalija & Jill Casey
- N.P.C. Jim Luck                      Reserves                      Patrick Jourdain & Tony Ratcliff.

**A Far Sighted Sacrifice**

By David Hamilton

To deliberately give up a certain trick may be foreign to your principles but it can be the right thing to do in certain circumstances.

Dealer East. Game All

	J8
	J1074
	QJ106
	Q98
Q7542	K63
6	K9853
743	A5
6432	A75
	A109
	AQ2
	K982
	KJ10

East	South	West	North
1H	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the S3, and assured of two spade tricks, South won East's king with the ace and led a diamond. East took the ace and continued spades. West allowed dummy to win this trick since he had no outside entry. South, taking the heart finesse ended up with only eight tricks because when South eventually led a club, East won and with a third spade was able to put partner in to cash his remaining spades to defeat the contract.

South should have refused the first spade trick even if it costs a trick in that suit. West was unlikely to have led from a weak four card suit when partner had opened hearts, and in order to shut him out it was necessary to duck spades to the third round. Now it remains to force out East's two aces and finesse in hearts for nine tricks.

## MASTERPOINT OF VIEW

By Noelle Bond

30th November 1997



From time to time I have the unhappy duty of deleting from the Master Point System the names of those members who have passed away. I was very sad a few weeks ago when Albert Andrew's name had to be removed. Albert was one of the first people I got to know by letter and phone after I took over as Master Point secretary. To use an old-fashioned phrase, he was always a perfect gentleman, and there are few enough of those. I shall miss his kind words.

Now I want to repeat myself (I can hear those groans!) for the benefit of new members: as soon as you have gained one hundred local points you may send them to me for registration, I will then issue you with a Master Point Record card. After this, further points may be sent in at any time, once you have accrued a reasonable number, or have enough for your next promotion. There is no need to wait until the Master Point year end. In fact, I prefer to get points in small batches rather than thousands at a time, they are much easier to handle.

This next reminder applies to the more seasoned players as well. More and more people play bridge when on holiday abroad or on cruises, but unfortunately, I can not accept Master Points unless they are issued by one of the home unions, Wales, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland; Eire may soon be added to this list so don't throw your Irish points away, but ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) and other foreign points are, I am afraid, only your souvenirs of success. As someone who never travels abroad, I find it quite interesting to see all the hard earned Blaupunct Zertifikats (I expect to find I did not spell that correctly), and other unusual items, but once seen I have to return them.

Some sharp eye detected that most master point statements have a small corner cut off, this is because, to save WBU funds, I use sheets of paper cut in half, then the missing corners show me which way to put the paper in the printer. Now I need a use for all those tiny triangles.

Having mentioned once again how much I enjoy getting letters, I received a note from one member on a large cardboard N. Judging the N to be for my name, I now expect an O with his next points, if he can manage cutting around the curves.

Apparently the money found when searching for points, which I told you about in my last letter, has spurred others to investigate their nooks and crannies but so far to no avail. It reminds me of when we were children and would force our little arms down the side of armchairs and settees hoping to find enough coins slipped out of some uncle's trouser pockets to make up for the scraped off skin. There were usually a few. And men still wonder why women carry handbags!

This morning I entered promotions for a batch of Local Masters and one Grand Master but, strangely, nothing in between. This reminded me that we have a couple of Grand Masters hiding their lights under a bushel (or two separate bushels). They have accrued sufficient points but have not been officially promoted, having not yet sent in their points or record cards. This seems most odd, as anyone nearing the more exalted ranks usually phones me up to find out what Green points they need, and having earned them, wing them my way at once. Having been excited by my own recent promotion to a lesser rank, I rather had the wind taken out of my sails when a friend said to me "Now you're a Life Manager..."

This newsletter is for January 1998 but I have been asked to send the promotion list and this letter early as the editor does not want to be editing with one hand and pulling Christmas crackers with the other, so all promotions made during December will be in the next edition. 1998 seems a quite impossibly high number and at the moment still very far away to me, but by making a great effort I have just remembered to wish you all

A Happy and Prosperous New Year.  
Sincerely,

Noelle

## National Tournament Organiser

Dillwyn Evans, the Present NTO is resigning at the end of this season, so we are currently looking for candidates to replace him. The job like all other WBU posts is part time, for a token honorarium. The position involves ensuring the smooth running of the National Competitions, the setting of the Calendar, and ensuring the Annual Journal is produced. Send Applications to the Lloyd Lewis, or contact Dillwyn Evans for an informal chat.

**Masterpoint Promotions** 13/9/97 - 30/11/97

**Club Master**

Mrs Janet Bradley S  
Mrs Teresa Byrne ROF  
Mr Ken Edwards MG  
Mr John Shelmerdine WS

**Local Master**

Mrs Doreen Anthony A  
Mr Bob Cooper WS  
Mrs A Grieveson PV  
Mrs Rosa C Hicks GA  
Mrs Sheila Lloyd R  
Mr Pat Mullally CN  
Mr Mike Padmore PW  
Mrs Zonia Pinnington PW  
Mr David Rowley WS  
Mr Robin Thomas WS  
Mrs Una Thomas WS  
Mrs Janet Turner WS  
Mr Raoul Van den Broucke MT  
Mr Steve Veal BV  
Mrs Mary Williams AM

**County Master**

Mr Ray Amey PD  
Mr Harry Ashton AG  
Mrs Rita Ashton AG  
Miss Anne Davies S  
Mrs Betty Dewey NP  
Mr Brian Gardner SU  
Mrs Ann Holmes NP  
Mr John Holmes NP  
Mr Bill Hunter GA

**Master**

Mrs Muriel Davies PR  
Mrs Con Fielden LD  
Mr Barrie Jenkins PC  
Mr Tony Mitchell NP  
Mrs Louise Orme M  
Mrs Sally Parkes Y  
Mrs Catherine Spalding CN  
Mr Frank Verdon BV

**Advanced Master**

Mrs Hillary Cullen CD  
Mr Rick Law S  
Mrs Ivy Slack AM  
Dr John Valentine A  
Mr Peter Williams CBY

**1 Star Master**

Mr Michael Bond BV  
Mr Steve Webb C  
Mr Hywel Williams MB

**2 Star Master**

Mr Rodney Burden C  
Mr Peter Smart MG  
Mrs Beryl Williams MB

**3 Star Master**

Mr Dennis Childs BR  
Mr Ian G Metcalfe LD  
Mrs Kay Perkins MT  
Mr Ken Perkins MT  
Mr John Raymond OH  
Mr Mark Roderick BV  
Mr Brian Schofield RH

**4 Star Master**

Mr Kevin Hayes GA

**5 Star Master**

Mr Roger Eastwood PR  
Dr Peter Lloyd-Jones MB  
Mrs Eve Parker MB

**Regional Master**

Mrs Ann Cowper PW  
Mr Arthur Gilbert R  
Mrs Linda Saunders P

**Premier Regional Master**

Mrs Liz Commins RH  
Mr Stephen Doubt W  
Mr Bryan Edwards W  
Mrs Patricia Maslin CA

**National Master**

Mr Mike Hampton SP  
Mr Ernie Morris C

**Premier National Master**

Mrs Annie Favager PN  
Mrs Sheila Shea CN

**Life Master**

Mrs Noelle Bond BV

**Senior Life Master**

Mrs Diana Harris BV

**Grand Master**

Dr Akram Zaman C

**REPORT ON WELSH INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE**

by Adrian Thomas Printed at the request of the selectors

Having just been selected to represent Wales after two weekends of trials, I am moved to write a report. My ambition, like that of many players is to win the Camrose, which is a difficult task given the choice of players in England, but the structure of Welsh Bridge could easily improve to assist me in this aim. There can be few grumbles about the trials format, the efforts made by the selectors nor the latest team chosen. The present teams format for trials does not need much improvement, as so many good principles have been established over the last few years. The selectors have worked hard with various analyses of results, including setting pars, butler scoring, teams and cross imping.

I believe that the main areas of improvement can be classified under two headings - development and team spirit.

**DEVELOPMENT**

**THINK TANK**

Instead of relying solely on selectors who would readily admit to being lesser Bridge players than some of the final trialists, a Think Tank should be established of leading players/selectors and administrators, who have an unbiased view of the development of Welsh bridge. They need to establish principles and keep politics off the agenda.

**MENTORS**

A trial finishes after which at least half the players are discarded until the following year. The promising players who did not get through or were not even allowed to play in the first trial may all be considered - at least they cared enough to enter. They could be allocated a mentor who would advise them about Technique and identified weaknesses, System development & Temperament.

In turn, they could be the mentors for the Juniors or the Women. The time involved need only take up Sunday mornings of a Congress or instead of the occasional evening duplicate. It is more complicated to decide on a mentor for top partnerships, as everyone needs a sounding board; ideally a sports psychologist is required, but person both players respect will suffice

**UNSUCCESSFUL TRIALISTS**

Letters are sent out after the trials and those not selected are discarded until further notice, but they should be told how to improve by the think tank including comments as pertinent as: -

Temperament - Maybe the player would be detrimental to the team unless his manner improved to his partner/team-mates - something few would dare to suggest.

Partnerships - These could be told to split up as they were not reaching their potential together. Some partnerships should not enter again unless they proved themselves by winning a major event.

Continued overleaf

### TRAINING

About five years ago, International/English players were invited down to lecture and training weekends were arranged. Players were also told that money was available to enter prestigious teams events, although this was rarely taken up. This should be pursued again, along with more invitational matches with European teams, as was introduced recently with Southern Ireland.

### RANKING

In brief, there will always be disagreement about the ranking of players in Welsh Bridge, but Pool A will normally be the top 4-6 partnerships selected for the Season. The next level down would be those not successful. Pool C would be new or potential partnerships. The Juniors and Women, although not mutually exclusive, would have a similar structure.

### CONTINUITY

It is scandalous that the present selectors are virtually working from scratch with no previous records available for their use. It is imperative that these are kept in the future, from trials, matches and current form.

### TEAM SPIRIT

The benefit of a team spirit that works was visible recently in the Ryder Cup (a golf competition!) where the role of the Captain was of paramount importance. In Wales, team spirit is virtually non-existent as 2 months elapse between the trials and 1st match and nothing happens between matches nor in the Summer recess. There can be few sports with less match preparation, team tactics, harmony or commitment. The players' strengths and weaknesses are not assessed nor verbalised, nor their temperament and ability to take bad boards; there is little goal setting and the role of the captain is undervalued. The team often bond only in the face of defeat over a few beers at the end of the event. Players who wish for individual glory should stick to pairs events as this is always a team effort which is dependent on the weakest link. Other things to look at in this category include:-

### COMMITMENT

Players should show a greater commitment and put something back into the game at other levels. Most players welcome advice and games with better players, but in return for this, they should help those less able. The squad should meet regularly for discussion, play in teams together and try different combinations to improve their game and team morale.

### POSITIVE ATTITUDE

A positive atmosphere needs to flourish, rather than the negative attitude prevalent. Most players have views on the good and bad players and are very critical of those on the circuit. In my opinion, every player in the trial this year has something good to offer and these points need to be built upon. Each player should be set a target and aim for the year and their progress monitored by the mentor, who would submit a report to the selectors.

### REALISATION OF POTENTIAL

We must analyse why our top players do so well in British events but do not live up to expectations at Camrose Level. Trialists this year alone have reached the semi-finals of the Spring Fours and the last 16 of the Gold Cup. Other countries are constantly amazed at how the Welsh team under-achieve in view of our performance elsewhere and maybe professional help is required.

### CAPTAIN/MANAGERS/SELECTORS

There are so many different opinions on this subject. Traditionally there has been a selector from each area so that there is not a bias towards one, normally the East. This seems outdated, but if it is necessary they should select players for the trials and subsequently a squad for the Season and then take an active part in team building. In my view they should then hand over to the Captain, who is often an unsuccessful member of the trials which is fine, but he should be constant for the season and have far greater powers. He could have between 4 - 6 partnerships available and tell them anything as diverse as the number of games they should play together beforehand, or the number of matches they will play in a Camrose season, dependent on form, recent results and other relevant factors. He could even have the power to select a player rather than a pair or to change partnerships. That person could be replaced at the end of the season according to results or stay for the future year either to help with the initial selection or simply in an administrative or coaching capacity.

### FINANCE

It may be a problem to fund these ideas. Perhaps this can be resolved through fund-raising activities, putting aside a budget from our WBU resources or even the successful English idea of a sponsored team.

### CONCLUSION

Although we have a comparatively small group of players to draw from, what we lack in ability we can make up for in team bonding. English players suffer from extreme rivalry and competition for places. They do not mix in the same circles as much as the Welsh players nor are they such friends, but in recent years the Welsh team has been less together, which I think is sad. Please can we pull together at all levels. I am sure I am not alone in my willingness to put something back into the game, although this would not include serving on current committees. With devolution, Wales may eventually compete in European and World events and I submit this report for consideration and action and hope that it provide a much needed spark to better prepare for the future. Please let me know your views, so that I can collate and pass them on and hopefully help to implement a few changes before next year.

**Adrian Thomas**

The selectors are also keen to have your views. Please write to Lloyd Lewis.

## RESULTS ROUND-UP

### Ladies Welsh Cup at Llandrindod on 27 / 28<sup>th</sup> September

1.	C. Pierce, A. Hirst, D. Kurbalija, J. Casey	294 VP
2.	D. Harris, A. Favager, A. Garvie, T. Byrne	292 VP
3.	M. Pitts, J. Keen, G. Clench, L. Greenland	288 VP
4.	N. Bond, E. Hughes, I. Thomas, I. Evans	280 VP

### Mens Teams at Llandrindod on 27 / 28<sup>th</sup> September

1.	D. Hamilton, M. Hirst, A. Zaman, A. Casey	231 VP
2.	J. Cox, D. Melville, N. Forest, J. Fletcher	215 VP
3.	F. Kurbalija, T. Ratcliff, P. Jourdain, J. Luck	199 VP
4.	M. Climer, K. Richardson, P. Seal, J. Patrick	190 VP

### Porthcawl Congress on 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Dewi Sant Teams J Durden, J Remington, M Horlock, J Amor

Men's Pairs M Walsh & A Thompson

Ladies' Pairs A Hirst & R Goldenfield

#### Red Dragon Championship Pairs

- 1 T Cherrett & R Alexander
- 2 P & M Langston
- 3 B Cornelius & A Mould

#### Little Dragon Consolation Pairs

- 1 A Thomas & G Tredinnick
- 2 M Hoskins & A Southwell
- 3 P Shawdon & R McRobert

Seagull Cup Teams P Scares, J Hare, M Close, P Cunningham

Mixed Pairs J Casey & I Pagan

#### Porthcawl Championship Teams of Four

- 1 T Pike, M Pryor, R Alexander, A Cherrett
- 2 C Pierce, A Hirst, G Clench, T Ryan
- 3 M Hampton, A Scott, G Tredinnick, A Thomas

Tusker Rock B & R Goldenfield, C J Luck, A Williams

Sker A O'Sullivan, P Cunningham, J Higgins, G Roxburgh

### International Masters at Cardiff BC on 8/9<sup>th</sup> November

1.	Patrick Jourdain & Tony Ratcliff	62 IMPS
2nd	Tony Haworth & Keith Pratt	61 IMPS
3rd	Jim Luck & Diane Kurbalija	57 IMPS

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ASSESSMENT

by David Stevenson

WBU TD Co-ordinator

I have sent out a form to all TDs who are interested in directing for their Area or for the WBU in events or congresses. I have only sent forms to anyone of whom I am aware. If you have not received a form, and wish to be assessed and considered, please send me a message with your Name and WBU number or address or email address. There is no minimum ability and experience to be considered and assessed.

Please send the message to:

David Stevenson Tel: 0151 677 7412  
 63 Slingsby Drive Mbl: 0378 40 99 55  
 Upton WIRRAL Phone before Fax please  
 Merseyside L49 0TY Eml: [wbu@blakjak.demon.co.uk](mailto:wbu@blakjak.demon.co.uk)

This is the current official list of WBU TDs with their ranks:

WBU Tournament Directors				
RANK	NAME	AREA	NAME	AREA
NATIONAL	David Stevenson	N	Mike Amos	N
CONGRESS	Glyn Ellis	N		
REGIONAL	Liz Stevenson	N		
SENIOR AREA	Ken Richardson	E	Rory McKinley	M
	Anne Jones	E		
AREA	Sara Oliver	-	Val Kennewell	W
	Steve Kennewell	W	Dillwyn Evans	W
ASSIST. AREA	Ernie Morris	E	Geoff Fielding	M
SENIOR LOCAL	Adrian Trickey	E		
LOCAL	Glyn Williams	W	Kevin Thomas	W
	Bill Parkinson	E	Tony Haworth	W
	David Hamilton	E	Jim Fletcher	W
	Eric Favager	E	Shelton Cross	N
ASSIST. LOCAL	Lloyd Lewis	W	Peter Hand	N

There are additionally WBU Club TDs. A list of those were published in an earlier Newsletter. However, these TDs should be added

RANK	NAME	AREA	NAME	AREA
CLUB	Joan Conway	M		
ASSIST. CLUB	June Teychmann	M	Anne Raw-Rees	M
	Sali Meredith	M	Dewi Jones	M
	Betty Brookes	M	Robert Harvard	M
	Betty Hinton Jones	M		

## The One That Got Away, Twice

By Adrian Trickey

On this hand, played in a local league match, both declarers thought the cards had been unkind to them when actually both were in a position to save themselves from disaster, in different ways.

	A 2	Dealer S, N/S vulnerable
	A J 8 4 2	
	10 9 8 2	
K 3	K Q	10 9 8 6 5 4
Q 7 5		10 9 6 3
Q J 6 5		void
10 7 6 5	Q J 7	9 4 3
	K	
	A K 7 4 3	
	A J 8 2	

At one table N/S bid to 6D. After winning the club lead with the K, declarer played a small diamond to the A, discovering the bad news -- apparently two trump losers. The only hope was that West could be end-played -- forced to win the eleventh trick with one of her trump honours to lead away from the other at trick twelve. For this to be possible, declarer needed West to have to follow suit to eight non-trump leads.

The first six must be: club to the Q, cash A of spades, heart to the K, A of clubs throwing a spade, J of clubs throwing a heart, and 7 of spades ruffed in dummy. Then, if declarer thinks West started with three hearts and two spades she continues with A of hearts throwing a spade and another heart, ruffed low in the South hand to achieve the necessary trump reduction. By great good fortune, four clubs, two spades and three hearts was exactly what West had been dealt to go with those four annoying diamonds, so the coup works.

However, if it is thought that West was dealt two hearts and three spades, the continuation after ruffing the spade must be a heart ruffed in hand, followed by a second spade ruff in dummy. The throw-in is then executed by leading dummy's last trump. The 7 of diamonds in declarer's hand has become critical in this end-play. In fact declarer played for this line (there does not seem to be more than a shade of odds between them) and was unlucky when West was able to ruff the third spade ahead of dummy and get off lead with her last heart. South must have wished she had been dealt the 6 of diamonds in place of the 7. Then she would have had no choice but to go for a winning line.

I was declarer at the other table where we blasted into the much inferior contract of 6NT. The club lead, and my play of a diamond at trick 2, were the same as at the other table. However, an end-play would be impossible for me as I could not use the device of ruffing in hand to reduce my diamond length. I would have to rely on the spade finesse and setting up four heart tricks. To do this I needed one opponent to hold exactly Q x x in hearts. Doubleton Q would be no good. That would give me a third heart trick but not four. Lo and behold, West has exactly the required holding. After cashing the K and later the A, a small heart from dummy establishes the suit for the loss of one, affordable trick and 6NT comes home with two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and four clubs.

So, did my team chalk up an undeserved swing on this board? Up to a point, Lord Copper. You may have noticed that East has an opportunity to deflect declarer from the successful line in 6NT. I said that it was necessary to find a defender with Q x x in hearts, but actually 10 9 x will also suffice. The probability of the latter is much lower, and there is no reason to play for it unless the 9 (or 10) appears on the second round. Then declarer, if he thinks the 9 is a true card, might be tempted to play for 10 9 x rather than Q 9 x by leading the J from dummy in an attempt to pin the 10. If only East had false-carded with the 9 on the second round and I had miss-guessed the position! It would, somehow, have been almost satisfying to go down, falling for defender's deception, rather than have to admit that actually I mishandled the communications between the hands. Although I established the hearts I found myself cut off from them at the end, so a flat board. If fate had not rewarded our opponents' superior bidding, at least it had not penalised them, in the end.

WELSH BRIDGE UNION  
TOURNAMENT & MASTER POINT COMMITTEE  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**  
XVII. TOURNAMENT AND MASTER POINT COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and updating the WBU Competition rules, and the rules for individual competitions, as laid down the WBU Competition and Master Point Journal, published annually by the WBU.
2. The Committee shall judge any contravention to the above rules, and decide on any action deemed necessary. Any Individual, Pair or Team, affected by such a judgment may appeal to the Executive Council of the WBU.
3. The Tournament and Master Point Committee shall deal with any other competition or master point matter, as designated by the Council.

## The Adrian Thomas Gold Star for Imagination

By Mike Close

I'm sure that you and your partner have lots of agreements in constructive auctions, but what about when the opponents have the temerity to interfere? Try this hand.

You are playing in the Welsh Foursomes at Porthcawl, with an unfamiliar partner (who shall remain nameless). You have done reasonably well so far, and your next opponents are Trevor Towers and Adrian Thomas. Sitting North, with no-one vulnerable, you pick up the following hand:

S : A Q 9 7      H : K 8 4      D : A K      C : 6 4 3 2

and playing Strong NT and 5 card Majors, you make the obvious bid of 1NT. Trevor on your left bids 2C (Hearts and another) and partner doubles. Do you know what this means? Is it:

- a) Lebensohl (good raise to 2NT - ♥ stop?)
- b) Penalty double of 2H
- c) Showing Clubs
- d) Showing a good hand, but not sure what to do
- e) Its our hand partner!
- f) I wanted to bid 2C as Stayman partner (?!)

We had not discussed this, except that partner did not want to play Lebensohl as he didn't know it well enough, ruling a) out. Adrian now bid 2H. The auction so far :

	N	E	S	W
	1NT	2C*	Dbl	2H
	?			

Now Adrian is showing genuine heart support here, at least 3 cards (Pass would probably deny 3 and ask Trevor to bid his second suit), so you can rule out option b) as well - you have 3 cards in hearts, so partner can never have more than 2. So what are your agreements here - what do Pass, Dbl, 2NT and a suit bid here mean? Is Dbl takeout or penalties? You can look pretty silly at Teams when you don't know, and 2H doubled makes at one table, and 3NT/4S is made your way at the other!

As we had no agreement, I follow the rule that I will bid out my shape and allow partner to make a sensible decision - you may not get the best result possible, but you won't have a disaster! I bid 2S. Then Pass, 3H from partner, Dbl from Adrian :

N	E	S	W
1NT	2C*	Dbl	2H
2S	Pass	3H*	Dbl
?			

Now you have two extra bids available - Pass and Rdbl! What do they mean? In suit sequences, when partner bids their suit, and one opponent doubles, redouble shows first round control of their suit, and pass says nothing, but allows you to let it run round to partner, who can also redouble with first round control (nice of the opponents to double and let you show this!), perhaps this is not the best use here - a possible alternative is to use it to show half a stop (Qx or Jxx).

Now Adrian is telling his partner to lead hearts against a No Trump contract, but it looks like partner has asked you for a stop in hearts, you've got one, so you bid 3NT. After a think, partner now raises to 4NT. Blackwood - or Natural ? Your bid!

Did you alert? Many players settle for the rule that 4NT is always Blackwood, because its easier to remember, but others play 1NT/2NT - Pass - 4NT as Quantitative! Your bid!

Well, if you want to send Adrian to the bar in raptures, asking any Grand Master within earshot what they would have bid at this point, you will bid 6C (yes! a new suit on four to the 6, at the six level!), because the world and his wife is bidding 6NT.

Think about it. The opponents have about a 10 count between them to intervene, but partner has invited a slam - what can he have? He didn't bid Blackwood over your 2S, so no spade fit, ergo he must have a good, long suit as a source of tricks. If they were diamonds, he would have bid them over 2C, so he must have Clubs, lots of them! (And c) above was right!)

Partner's hand :

S : K 5      H : 9 3      D : 10 8 6      C : A K Q J 7 5

You have given partner an alternate place to play at the six level, and right-sided the contract to boot (the King of Hearts is protected with the lead on your left). You deserve 13 IMPs!

HA! Partner alerts 6C (interpreted as 'some deviously clever answer to Blackwood showing a weakness in Clubs') and bids 6NT (maybe his trumps weren't good enough....). Queen of Diamonds lead, the heart Ace is wrong, no J 10 of spades doubleton, so one off - for a flat board.

Still.... you got a Gold Star from Adrian.