

### Tournament Director Training

A National course is being arranged, probably for June 20th and 21st. Everyone is invited! The cost to be determined, but probably £50 per person.

Club D courses are being arranged, probably for June 13th and 14th in East and West, and for August 8th and 9th in Mid and North. The North one should actually be a C course rather than a D course. These dates may be shuffled or amended.

C courses are for anyone who has taken an A and B course, and is assessed. D courses are for further training for Club Directors, especially with respect to the new Law book. Even so, **on this occasion anyone may attend any course they see fit: there are no requirements this one time.** These courses cost about £28 each.

None of these courses will take place unless there is sufficient interest. So please get in touch with me at the earliest possible opportunity if you want to attend any of the courses.

Club D courses	June 13/14	East and West
National course	June 20/21	Llandrindod Wells?
Club D course	August 8/9	Mid
Club C course	August 8/9	North

David Stevenson  
63 Slingsby Drive  
Upton WIRRAL  
Merseyside L49 0TY  
Tel: 0151 677 7412  
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# WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Spring 1998

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## NEWSLETTER

### Editorial

I am pleased to say that congratulations are due in this issue on two counts:

Firstly to our Camrose team for their win over Northern Ireland.

Secondly to the Congress committee of the East Wales Congress held in recently in Cwmbran. Pre-dealt boards were used throughout, but in the Swiss teams they meant you could compare your disasters with other people over the meal breaks, and hope for some sympathy (Team mates are strangely unsympathetic I find). Everyone who mentions the event is filled with praise, and looking forward to playing again next year.

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<b>BRIGHTON</b>	<i>The Metropole</i>	June 5 - 7	£158
<b>BOURNEMOUTH</b>	<i>The Highcliff</i>	July 3 - 5	£158
<b>Nr. SWINDON</b>	<i>Blunsden House</i>	August 7 - 9	£147
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**LET THE OPPONENTS DO THE WORK**

By David Hamilton

When you are one trick short of your contract, with no possibility of establishing another, move into the slow lane and let the opposition do it for you.

Dealer South Game All

	♠ 853	
	♥ J62	
	♦ AK76	
	♣ KJ6	
♠ KT742		♠ J9
♥ AQ7		♥ T953
♦ 84		♦ T53
♣ 842		♣ Q975
	♠ AQ6	
	♥ K84	
	♦ QJ92	
	♣ AT3	

South opened 1NT and North raised to 3NT.

West led the S4, and South took the SQ. With eight tricks on top, declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond and led a heart to the king. When this lost to the Ace, West played the SK to clear the suit, and the only thing left to try was the club finesse. Unfortunately, declarer chose to play small to the CJ which lost, and East returned a heart to West's HQ. Three more spade tricks saw declarer two down.

South was too quick to take these opportunities for a ninth trick. A better line would be to cash three rounds of diamonds to rob West of any exit card in that suit then play Ace and another spade.

West can cash his three spade tricks on which dummy discards two hearts, and declarer throws a heart and a diamond. West must now lead a heart or a club to give declarer the contract.

## MASTERPOINT OF VIEW

By Noelle Bond

28<sup>th</sup> February 1998

Christmas must have taken a heavy toll on everyone, for the first few weeks of 1998, I had very few letters but I did hear from one member who fell in his fish pond whilst looking for the fish, on Boxing day. Apparently his wife wanted him to stay soaking in the pool whilst she got the camera but he refused.

I recently had points from a member who declared himself a "new boy, aged 81" and another member told me of one aged 98. Is he or she the oldest person in the WBU, I wonder? It is often said that everyone lives longer these days, and I think that playing bridge helps to keep our faculties sharp and make those later years more enjoyable. I hope so, for I have plans myself to be playing when I'm a hundred. What else can we look forward to now we won't be getting a telegram from the Queen. Many of you will have heard of Julia Chadwick, the EBU member, who was playing at congresses when she was well over a hundred. Although I do remember someone who played with her at that time saying "She doesn't play as well as she used to!"

And now my annual reminder; the WBU master point year end is April 30th, please scurry around, find all your points, total them up and send them off to me before that date, with your record card. Your current holding will then be listed in the next Journal. As this Newsletter should be out in March there should be no excuse for anyone sending their points in late.

Interesting what I get with points; one member wrote his points total on the back of a receipt for a book called "The Bodysnatchers." Brrrrr, frightening! Another wrote on notepaper with an enormous spider drawn on it. Two of our children are intensely arachnaphobic, lucky they did not get it from me, or those points would have been thrown straight out of the window.

If I could award a prize for handwriting (perhaps the WBU will?) it would have to go to the member who writes to me in a beautiful "copper plate" hand. He almost tempts me to dig out my old fountain pen, replace the perished rubber sack, and fill it with ink again, but I can't think how I would attach it to this computer.

I frequently get phone calls from newer members about registering their first points, here's my answer: You may register your points with me when you have accrued 1 Master Point, which is 100 local points, and to appear in the Journal listing you need to have earned a total of 2 Master Points, which is 200 local points, which will also promote you to Club Master. A list of all the points needed for all the various ranks appeared in the Newsletter for Winter 1996. Let me know if you want it reprinted.

That was just to save people phoning me, but please remember I am always happy to answer any queries or concerns you may have. Members sometimes apologise for phoning to check if I have received their points but there is really no need. I know after that dispatching hard earned points into the void of the Post Office it is hard not to worry about them. Lately, I have had very few damaged letters, whether this is due to an improvement in the Post Office sorting machines or members taking my advice about packing letters carefully, I do not know. Try to keep your packages as flat as possible, the machines seem to delight in attacking any lumps or bumps. I was horrified to learn recently that vandals had set fire to a post box in the town, fortunately it was not one I ever use.

During the busy year end period, when mail sometimes arrives by the sack load, there is often a fortnight's delay before I can return your record card, but I enter all points into my book as they arrive, so can quickly check if I have received them, if you are worried.

We all know new brooms sweep clean, but they don't always sweep faster. Although our new editor asked for my material for the last edition of the Newsletter earlier than usual, I must admit I never thought that meant the Newsletter would be out earlier as well. So when it was distributed early in December, I felt bad that I had not wished everyone a happy Christmas. So I'm now going to end by wishing you all a very early "Happy Easter."

Sincerely, Noelle

Masterpoint Promotions 16/12/97 – 28/02/98

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 Mr Graham Gerrard C  
 Mrs Margaret Gerrard C  
 Mr Edwin Jayne GA  
 Mrs Sally Jones WS  
 Mrs Barbara Lister MB  
 Dr Jurek Lister MB  
 Mr John Mancey NP  
 Mr Frank Mottram WS  
 Mrs Shirley Williams MG

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 Mrs Lee Collier H  
 Mr Sid Craven S  
 Mr Mike Dennis CBY  
 Mr Jacob Dunn CA  
 Mr Ken Edwards MG  
 Mrs Jean Hardman LD  
 Mrs Leanne Jayne GA  
 Mrs Dian Jones AM  
 Mrs Lynne Jones WS  
 Mrs Georgina Laing CBY  
 Mrs Shirley Muntz NP  
 Mr Dewi Thomas S  
 Mrs Rachel Thomas S  
 Mr Harry Woolley WS  
 Mrs Kate Wynds S

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 Mr Terry Evans MG  
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 Mr Noel Griffiths GA  
 Mr Ian Laing CBY  
 Mrs Beryl Marke PN  
 Mr Reg Mealings CBY  
 Dr Lorrie Murphy CBY  
 Mrs Irene Norton AM  
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 Mrs Ann Thomas VOG  
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 Mrs Barbara Mustoe BR  
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 Mrs Georgina Jones SH  
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 Mrs Jean M Powell AG  
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 Mr David Stephenson VOG  
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**Premier National Master**

Mr Michael Close BV  
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**Grand Master**

Mr Colin Heard BR  
 Mrs Anne Hyatt BSC

Larry who?

by David Burn

It appears that the most significant bridge book to emerge in recent years is something called The Law of Total Tricks. This work is said to have revolutionised competitive bidding among experts and average players alike, and it even has a sequel called Following the Law. The third volume in the series, Lesser Breeds Without the Law, ought to be out in time for Christmas.

The Law itself is more or less worthless, since the total number of tricks taken by anyone almost never equals the total number available to them, regardless of how many trumps they might have. That is why, in his second book, Larry Cohen was at pains to develop the theme of "adjustments". The current version of the Law of Total Tricks is:

"The total number of tricks that North-South and East-West can take in their respective best trump fits is equal to: the total number of trumps they hold, minus one for the number of holdings such as Qx and Jxx in any of the hands, plus one for each card over eight in a side suit held by the partnership, minus a half for every honour held in a short suit, plus a half for having most of your honours in your long suits, with a tendency towards a negative assessment if the opponents bid one of your long suits, but a tendency towards a positive assessment if your hand does not contain impurities."

No wonder it doesn't work. And even if it did, no one would have a hope of understanding it. What I am going to present in this article is a far simpler rule, with the following absolute guarantee: If you never again violate Burn's Law of Total Trumps, your results will improve enormously.

That may sound a grandiose and wholly unjustifiable claim, but it is not. I have conducted the most comprehensive and painstaking research in order to verify my theory. At the Olympiad in Rhodes, any one of forty teams would have won but for the fact that at some point they violated Burn's Law. Chinese Taipei, for example, would have been in the final instead of France had they not done this.

In the Open Room the bidding was short & effective

South	1NT	out of turn but no-one noticed
North	2C	Stayman
South	2NT	Both majors
North	4D	Transfer to Spades
South	6S	A purit, fingers crossed.

Cont. overleaf

NS Vul     ♠ A K 6 5  
 Dealer N   ♥ 10 9  
            ♦ 9 3  
            ♣ A K 8 5 3

♠ 7 2             ♠ J 9 4  
 ♥ J 8 7 6 4 2   ♥ 3  
 ♦ K J 10 2     ♦ Q 8 7 5 4  
 ♣ 7             ♣ Q 10 6 4

♠ Q 10 8 3  
 ♥ A K Q 5  
 ♦ A 6  
 ♣ J 9 2

In the closed room the auction was

W	N	E	S
	2C (1)	pass	2D (2)
pass	2S (3)	pass	3H (4)
pass	3S (5)	pass	4D (6)
pass	4H (7)	pass	4S (8)
pass	5C (9)	pass	5D (9)
pass	5S (10)	pass	6C (11)
pass	6D (12)	pass	6H (13)
pass	pass (14)	all pass	

It may help to set out the two different versions of this bewildering auction:

Bid	Meaning according to N	Meaning according to S
(1)	I've 5+♠, perhaps a major, and 11-16 points	North has 5+ ♠, perhaps a major, and 11-16 points.
(2)	A relay	A relay
(3)	I have 4+ ♠	North has 4+ ♠
(4)	5+ hearts	Well, I ought really to have hearts, but I am a bit fixed because 3♠, is not forcing, 4♦ is splinter & 4♠ is feeble
(5)	No diamond guard.	No diamond guard.
(6)	4 <sup>th</sup> suit, looking for somewhere to play	Cue bid, hope partner realises this agrees ♠, but why should he?
(7)	Heart support	Heart support
(8)	cue bid with ♥ agreed	Spade support
(9)	cue bid with ♥ agreed	cue bid with ♠ agreed
(10)	cue bid with ♥ agreed	Sign off in ♠
(11)	cue bid with ♥ agreed	♠ support, it might be argued that taking 6 rounds to support partner's first suit is excessive, but in view of time it took for S took to support ♠, not surprising
(12)	Grand slam try in ♥, asking for good trumps	cue bid with ♠ agreed
(13)	Sign off in ♥	Grand slam try in ♠, asking for good trumps
(14)	Oh well!	What the *@\$&!

Six spades made, six hearts went five down, and France took the lead in the match for the first time in the final set of sixteen boards.

Shattered by this blow, the Chinese Taipei men could not recover, and all because they had failed to obey Burn's Law of Total Trumps:

**"When you are declarer, the total number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by your opponents."**

Britain would have been in the knock-out stages but for this auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
No	3♣	4♣	All pass

This contract went 5 down (it is an interesting corollary to Burn's Law that almost all violations of it go 5 down).

In true Larry Cohen style, I have already written the sequel to Burn's Law of Total Trumps. It is called **The Rule of Eight**, and it is for those of you whose bidding methods are already geared to the avoidance of 3-0 fits, but whose judgement at the higher levels of the auction may be a little suspect.

I make the same guarantee for the Rule of Eight as I made for the Burn's Law of Total Trumps. If you never again violate it, your results will improve immeasurably.

The rule is similar to the well-known Rule of Eleven, and is applied in three stages:

1. During the auction, ascertain how many aces are held by the opponents.
2. Subtract this number from eight.
3. **Do not bid at the level given by the answer.**

The third book in the series will cover advanced topics in card play such as putting down the dummy. To whet your appetite, here is an important principle:

If your side has bid and supported a major suit during the auction, but finished up in no trumps, you should put the major you were bidding on the extreme right of dummy as it appears from declarer's point of view.

Otherwise, as one poor soul discovered in Rhodes, your partner may fall foul of Burn's Third Law:

**You cannot make 3NT on a crossruff.**

## The "F" word

I know what it means. I know how to spell it. I think I was about 10 years old when I was fascinated enough to look it up in a dictionary, and yes, it was there!

I have heard it used many times since then, and have even used it myself on occasion. Having worked in a hospital casualty unit by night for many years I have heard it used to describe anything and everything from a big toe, to a burly 'bobby'.

However I am aware that its' use offends many people, so I was most surprised when I was at a Congress recently for a few hours to hear this word used as an expletive on four occasions.

Bridge players in general have a very good vocabulary when it comes to discussions of their system, so why is it that their vocabulary seems to be unable to cope with descriptions of other peoples' bids, lines of play, officers of the Union and certain Grand Masters.

As Bridge players we have a duty to show respect to each other. In a wider society we have a duty not only to be respectful, but to protect the reputation of our fellows who tend to be adjudged by the company they keep.

So a request to the few, on behalf of the many. Please will you stop using this word unnecessarily, in company where it may offend.

(The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997.

Law 74 (1). A Player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times)

Anne Jones

Chairman. W.B.U. Laws and Ethics sub-committee.

## Bushy Tales



You either love or hate computer-generated hands. Playing a Swiss Pairs match recently this freak came up and posed 3 problems.

First Problem: what do you open with:

♠AKQxxx ♥ AKQJx ♦x ♣x. The range of possibilities are a scientific strong 1♣/2♣ to my partner's pre-emptive but gambling choice of 4NT, Specific Ace Ask.

Second Problem: In response I held ♠xxxxx ♥ - ♦xxx ♣Axxxx. I sat & thought about how you show the A♣, Is it 5NT or 6♣? (this is one of those conventions on the card that comes up so rarely, I forget). I also had a heart void, is that an Ace as well? Since it was almost certainly partner's suit, & not useful, I crossed everything and bid 6♣. When partner bid 6♠ over my reply, I nearly fell out of my tree! Still looking at the heart void, I thought about whether or not to bid the grand. Fear prevailed.

At another table, friends held the opposite hands, and the auction was more exciting. Over a strong 1♣, they had time to discover their ♦ fit, and found the good sacrifice in 7♦. In vain, since this pushed the opposition into 7♠ which was doubled and redoubled.

Third Problem: What do you now lead from:

♠x ♥xx ♦AQxxxx ♣KQxx? Reasoning logically that they would never have bid the grand and redoubled with a ♦ loser, the ♣K hit the table, and declarer wrapped up 13 tricks, discarding the diamonds on the hearts. The A♦ would have stood up. The difference between a glorious top +400, and an ignominious bottom -2940 lay in that one card. Good job it wasn't a Cambria Match, it would have been much harder to laugh about. True, we laughed about it more than they did, but they're coming round.

**Keeping up with the English**

By Adrian Thomas

Having recently wandered outside Wales it has become apparent to me that the weak two / Multi has ceased to exist and been replaced by something much scarier.

The requirements for it at the two level are roughly a 5 card suit of some nature, in a hand containing 13 cards (& a 10) and a user who dislikes putting a green card on the table. Normally it is played non-vulnerable. I shall christen it the **ABYSMAL TWO**. The rules of 300 & 500 are replaced by the rules of 1100 & 1900.

I'll try to give you a flavour for it. Picking up ♠Qxx ♥J9xxx ♦x ♣KTxx I passed like a mouse. All the other tables opened an abysmal 2, I was playing against the room.

These are some of the others that followed over 3 weekends.

- A. ♠Q98xx ♥Txx ♦QT98 ♣x - 2S
- B. ♠KTx ♥QT9xx ♦xx ♣xxx - 2H
- C. ♠QJTxx ♥Txxx ♦Ax ♣xx - 2S so much for not holding other major.
- D. ♠JTxxxx ♥JTxx ♦Q ♣xx - 2S As opposition I played in 6♥, and didn't get the trump suit right.
- E. ♠Qxx ♥x ♦QJTxx ♣Jxxx - 2D – Yes, even abysmals in ♦!
- F. ♠QT9xx ♥x ♦Axxx ♣xxx - 2S – Although by this time I was beginning to think this might be too good, it had a defensive trick.
- G. ♠Jx ♥Qxxxxx ♦xx ♣Jxx - 2H – the 6 card suit offsetting the poor distribution & lack of a ten.

Now playing ABYSMAL ♠KQJxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣QT98 is clearly far too good.

ANSWER: The **ABYSMAL THREE** Other examples:

- ♠QJxx ♥x ♦T98xxxx ♣x - 3D (would have wreaked havoc, but his partner, obviously unfamiliar with the methods raised with Jx, which even I can see must be foolhardy.
- ♠J98xx ♥x ♦- ♣T9xxxxx My favourite. Not an abysmal 2S, but an abysmal 3C which propelled the opposition to 4S. Isn't bridge a fun game?

Of course all of this affects your one level openers:

- ♠QJxxxx ♥Qxxx ♦- ♣Kxx The mouse passed, others opener a weak two (seems bizarre to me) and of course the ABYSMAL player opened 1S (although not successfully on this occasion).

I **don't** intend taking these methods up (It must be my age & being brought up in the Patrick Jourdain school of pre-empting, - although even he mildly approved of ♠x ♥xx ♦JT9xxxx ♣Kxxx recently). But if you should be partnering someone who does, remember to put your pass card on the table when its your turn to bid (you need 5 card support to raise). Please don't get cross or mock partner's disasters because these methods can work on the right hands (yes I'm eating humble pie to one of my partners). Those that wish to add it to you repertoire, I wish you every success, but I hope I'm in opposition when it follows the rule of 1100.

Happy Bridging **Adrian Thomas**

**RESULTS ROUND-UP**

**National Mixed Pairs Results**

1. S. Edwards & P. Edwards
2. R. Charlesworth & Mrs. I. Thomas
3. Mrs. S. Leyshon & J. Murray

**Flitch Pairs Results**

1. Bernard & Marjorie Dalton-Jones
2. John & Betty Isaac
3. Patricia & Parick Maslin

**Graded Masters Pairs Results**

- Section 1: A. Casey & J. Glubb
- Section 2: J. Evans & D.I. Davies
- Section 3: Sue Ingham & Peter Millar
- Section 4: J. Fletcher & C. Nash
- Section 5: Chris Davies & Martin David

**East Wales Congress**

- Teams F. Kurbalija
- Pairs K. Richardson & L. Greenland

**So Near and yet so far by Trevor Towers**

This year's Junior Camrose (U-25) and Peggy Bayer trophy (U-20) took place in Worcester at the end of January. The line up of the teams was as follows:

Under 25: Jon Seavers, Adam Dunn, Mark Roderick, Kevin Hughes  
 Under 20: Dafydd Jones, Jake Dunn, Mark King, Thomas Hillier.

Wales started well, after the first set of 3 matches the scores were:

Under 25: Wales 42, England 38, Scotland 38, N. Ireland 2  
 Under 20: Scotland 39, Wales 36, England 36, N. Ireland 9

Dunn & Seavers were on Vugraph in the 4<sup>th</sup> set against England, and put in a very good performance on some difficult boards in a swingy set. Wales emerged with a 12-8 win. They were on Vugraph again in set 6 against Scotland. After 5 boards Wales had a 26 imp lead, but a bidding misunderstanding and a misdefence reduced it to 1 imp when the last board was put on the table. The Scots pair bid these cards to 5C:

♠ KQT763	♠ J	
♥ -	♥ AQ	
♦ 65	♦ AQJ9	The Welsh pair had
♣ K9865	♣ AJT732	the following auction:
W (Dunn)	E (Seavers)	
2D Multi	2NT Forcing enquiry	
3D 8PT D or Weak 2S	3H enquiry	
3S Spades	4C natural ?	
4H Cue bid agreeing Clubs	6NT Fearless	

Not the most convincing auction, but you can not argue with success and a 15-5 win. We were gaining momentum and feeling very good. We were disappointed to win only 16-4 against N. Ireland. Going into Sunday the position was:

Under 25: Wales 85, Scotland 76, England 71, N. Ireland 8  
 Under 20: England 95, Scotland 80, Wales 56, N. Ireland 9

After an inconsistent set England beat us 3-17. A slam that Scotland made on a finesse, went down when Wales played for a squeeze meant we lost match eight 5-15. The final scores were:

Under 25: England / Scotland 118, Wales 110, N. Ireland 14  
 Under 20: England 148, Scotland 117, Wales 80, N. Ireland 15

This was the closest result, and best results by the Welsh Junior team who sadly could not keep up in the last few matches. However with more time practice & self belief perhaps next year the same team can do even better. May I, on behalf of the Juniors thank the members of Gwent Bridge Academy who let us use their club for training and provided refreshments, and Patrick Jourdain for his help.

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