

Master Point promotions cont.

Issue 62

1 Star Master		Mrs Jean Parry	MB	Regional Master	
Mrs Cath Bailey	GA	Mrs Dilys Thomas	T	Mr David M Evans	LD
Mrs Joan Bakewell	PW	Mrs Elizabeth Trevor Jones	Y	Mrs Sophie Holloway	GA
Mrs Margaret Bancroft	VOG	Mrs Carolyn Williams	F	Mrs Gwen Hurst	W
Dr Jane Brook	BV	Mr David Williams	W	Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson	GA
Mr Christopher Carter	GA	Mrs Dorothy Williams	M	Mr Keith Jones	L
Mr Owen Davies	Y	Mr Ken Wise	CA	Mr Kevin Jones	W
Mr Keith Davison	S	Mrs Josephine Yates	LD	Miss Rita Jones	Y
Mrs Gwyneth Dew	GA	3 Star Master		Mr Clive Malam	GA
Mrs Doreen Dixon	GA	Mrs Renee Braddock	Y	Mrs Wendy Williams	AM
Mrs Brenda Grove	OH	Mr Iorwerth Davies	PD	Premier Regional Master	
Mrs Pamela Higgs	VOG	Mr Ron Daymond	MB	Miss Sylvia Davies	S
Mrs Celia Holt	A	Mr Malcolm Fox	MG	Mr Sid Evans	MG
Mr Graham Jones	MG	Mr Tony Parish	MB	Ms Elaine Gracie	W
Mrs Diana Kendrick	BV	Mrs M Pell	GA	Mr Mick Green	BV
Mrs Yvonne Lewis	S	Mrs Liz Radcliff Jones	GA	Mrs Vera Jardine	MB
Mr Ted Lucas	F	Mr Barrie Waite	MG	Mr Mike Jones	CA
Mr John Moore	MG	Mr Frank Zdzienicki	CN	Mr Norman Large	CBY
Mr Alan Phillips	SP	4 Star Master		Mr Patrick G Maslin	CA
Mr Alun Preece	S	Ms Chris Burdett	PV	Mr Colin Nash	S
Mr John Ryan	S	Miss Colette Davies	L	Mrs Marjorie Paschkes	LP
Mrs Joan Shefford	MB	Mrs Vida Gething	S	Mrs Enfyf Powell	GA
Mrs Gaynor Shenton	MB	Mrs Margaret Hathaway	LP	Miss Tricia Saunders	P
Mr David Teague	C	Mrs Lillian James	S	Mrs Dorothy Stagg	MB
Mr Vaughan Williams	NT	Mrs Peggy Morgan	MB	National Master	
Mr Alec Wood	BV	Mrs Marnie Owens	T	Mr Warwick Horspool	PR
2 Star Master		Mr John Raymond	OH	Mrs Daphne Patrick	GA
Mr Adam Anderson	T	Mr Mark Roderick	BV	Premier National Master	
Mr David Bellis	CN	Mrs Anne Warhurst	LD	Mr Brian Crawford	W
Mrs Mary Benton	S	5 Star Master		Mr Frank McAleavy	W
Mrs Pat Clarke	ROF	Mrs June Broeders	W	Mrs Vera Robinson	P
Mrs Joan Conway	A	Miss Kath Fewster	GA	Life Master	
Dr Chris Davies	C	Mrs Brenda Harris	SP	Mrs Esme Parry	GA
Mrs P Daycock	PT	Mrs Margaret John	L	Mr Joe Patrick	C
Mrs Kay Dyer	BV	Mrs Joyce Joy	A	Mr Richard Thomas	S
Dr H John Evans	VOG	Mrs Lavinia Thomas	S	Senior Life Master	
Mrs Yvonne Evans	F	Tournament Master		Mr Philip Felman	C
Mrs Muriel Fraser	MB	Mrs Margaret W Davies	STD	Dr Ann Hirst	C
Prof Robert Havard	A	Mr Don Francis	L	Dr Simon Richards	C
Miss Eleanor Howells	R	Mrs Corina Grove	MB	Mr Trevor Towers	GA
Mrs Josie Hutchinson	GA	Mr Mike Williams	L	Grand Master	
Mrs Margaret James	A			Ms Gilly Clench	C
Mrs Maureen John	MB				

Welsh Bridge Union

Newsletter

Summer 98



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Please Note:

- New National Tournament Organiser – Frank Scott-Verdon
Tel: 01222 693225

Editorial

The hard disc of my computer died over the Mayday bank holiday weekend, and I faced the grizzly prospect of laying the newsletter out again from scratch. I decided a major overhaul was called for, and I have experimented with layout & style, but I still depend on you all for the content. I hope you like it.

Gold Stars

Noelle has sent me a listing of all the players who have earned Gold Points, unfortunately there are 199 of you, and the bumper crop of promotions this newsletter means I can not publish the entire list. The leaders are:

Tony Ratcliff	61.22	Gary Martin	26.05
Filip Kurbalija	51.86	Diane Kurbalija	25.20
Patrick Jourdain	45.05	Tony Disley	22.64
Dean Hardie	35.57	Stephen Daniel	20.81
Mike Hirst	35.17	John Glubb	19.93
Tony Haworth	35.08	Gilly Clench	19.66
Keith Pratt	33.96	Trevor Towers	19.57
Adrian Thomas	33.59	Ceri Pierce	19.32
Akram Zaman	28.58	Peter Goodman	19.05
Jill Casey	27.29	Tony Casey	15.47
Rob Charlesworth	26.36	Maggie Pierce	13.71

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Results Round-up

Tenby Congress

Championship Pairs	Colin & Hazel Heard
Championship Teams	Renée Cox, June Hurst, Josie Ingram, Beryl Warner
Mens' Pairs	Mike Baker & John Seal
Ladies Pairs	Collette Davies & Kathy Charles
Mixed Pairs	Mike Baker & Carmel Wiseman

Please note next year's Congress will be held at St Bride's Hotel, Saundersfoot.

Perry Shield

Team	VPs
WEST	168
MID	130
EAST	129
NORTH	111

Spickett Bowl

Team	VPs
MID	154
NORTH	139
EAST	132
WEST	114

Congratulations to the Ladies from Mid Wales, who won the Spickett Bowl for the first time.

Cambria Cup Final

1st	F. Kurbalija, D. Kurbalija, J Salisbury, P. Jourdain & T. Ratcliff	
2nd	P. Hand, J. Hand, C. Ryall, J. Murray	by 3400

Welsh Cup Final

1st	T. Towers, A. Thomas, G. Clench, A. Scott, P. Jourdain & T. Ratcliff	
2nd	A. Haworth, K. Pratt, A. Disley, R. Charlesworth, P. Goodman	134-119

Open Pairs	1st P. Felman & T. Towers	2nd A. Dunn & R. McKinley
Mens Pairs	1st A. Ratcliff & F. Kurbalija,	2nd A. Casey & J. Glubb
Ladies Pairs	1st D. Kurbalija & C. Pierce,	2nd M. Moore & M. Morris

Webber Cup

1st	D. Kurbalija, M. Pierce, C. Pierce, A. Hirst
2nd	L. Atkinson, P. Felman, D. Melville, D. Ronson

A Timely Reminder – by David Hamilton

We all need reminding of some of the basic rules from time to time. An experienced player was cross with herself at the end of this deal.

Dealer South
Game All

K7
AK32
8432
Q76

109842
Q5
J6
K943

653
J1094
Q1095
A8

AQJ
876
AK7
J1052

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

West led the S10 and South took stock. The odds were very much against the red suits breaking 3-3 and with seven tricks on top the best bet was to develop two tricks in clubs. Accordingly, declarer won the first trick in hand and led a club to the Queen. East won and continued spades. South now found herself with only eight tricks.

The basic rule to develop a suit like this is to lead twice toward the hand holding two honours. If the suit breaks 3-3 or if East has both missing honours, all plays will win. However, when the suit breaks 4-2, leading twice toward the South hand will develop two winners whenever East has Ax or Kx.

Here declarer should win the first trick in dummy and lead a club to the Jack. West wins and continues spades. Now declarer goes to dummy's HK to lead another club. East's CA is wasted and the contract is made.

Master Point of View

By Noelle Bond

In my last letter I asked who was the oldest player in the WBU, one member admitted to being 82, but I know he is not the oldest, and no one older came forward, so I suppose we will never know. However, I'm sure I know who is the youngest, for among Club Masters in the latest batch of promotions is a young lady aged twelve. But she may not remain the youngest for long as I heard her eight year old sister was being taken to her first duplicate session a few nights ago. How I envy them! When I was a very young girl I decided that I wanted to learn to play bridge, (I don't even know where I heard about it) and would badger my father to teach me. He knew and played many card games, but had only a sketchy idea about bridge, so that I did not learn to play until after I was married. And only when I moved back to Wales did I discover the joys of duplicate and its master points. If only I could have played from when I was eight, what rank might I not hold now? Ah, dreams, dreams. I suppose this is the same as my daughter complaining that she would be a much better pianist, if we had provided her with a piano when she was eight, as she asked, instead of waiting four years to be sure she meant it.

Some people follow the trail of elastic bands, which the postman drops in my drive, to hand deliver their points, I had not noticed any damaged packages among the year end post, so I had wondered if this was worthwhile, then three members, after waiting some weeks for their M. P. record cards to be returned, called to ask if their points had arrived, and after checking my mail book, I had to say "I'm very sorry, but no!" These points have totally disappeared, no trace of them to be seen. I wondered if it was one Post Office machine at fault, but when I checked the letters were from quite different areas, so it is unlikely to be that.

So, as I have said before, please phone anytime you are worried about points you have sent in. There are always delays at year end, and at some other times (such as when I go into my after-year-end coma) but I can quickly check if the letter has arrived. And do not worry if your points are lost, I can eventually credit them without the slips, for I have the records of points issued. I mention the issuing records in case anyone disappointed with earning only a few locals, decides to phone up and say they sent me 486 green points two months ago and have not heard anything since. (But I know no one would really do that!) If you do lose points in the post, or,

Indeed, anything else, it is worth contacting your local sorting office for I believe they keep the contents of packages whose addresses have been lost.

Whilst on the subject of mail (as I mostly am) using the new First Class stamps on weighty packages can lead to excess postage charges which may mean delay if I am not at home when the postman calls. If an ordinary twenty six pence stamp is used, the Post Office will usually accept the heavy letter as second class.

Among the bridge stories I have received recently were two (yes, two!) about three legged dogs. These were both too good to abbreviate so I passed them on to the editor, hoping she will find room for them somewhere. I can't hear about three legged dogs without remembering those adverts for David's Isopon in the DIY magazines we read when we were much younger and did do it ourselves. Among the uses to which that stuff had been put were "made a new leg for a dog." Of the others, I liked best the one about the person who did not bid to game after partner went "Stop, three hearts" because, as she explained, "You told me to stop!" True, I'm told.

I've seen some interesting addresses recently, "Mrs. Noelle Bond" outside and "Dear Sir" inside, "Mistress of Masterpoints" (I'm not sure about that one) and even "Masterpoint Spice" - I hear there is a vacancy in the group, but I'll need a crash course in aerobics first.

And I have also received several things which have crept furtively into the envelope with the points; a nail file, some used foreign stamps, a Christmas card, and a five pound note. I can guess how that last happened, for my husband keeps his master points (if he ever gets any) in his wallet next to his money (if he has any). The returned fiver was greeted with far more enthusiasm than the nail file. Also on one letter, under the sellotape holding down the envelope flap could be seen, I was told, "my dog's hair".

During the WBU year 1997/98, I registered 2,361,239 local points and 4,935 greens, far more than the last couple of years. I had begun to wonder if points were getting harder to come by. Let's hope we can all earn more again next year.

As I was finishing this off, my husband came to tell me that he had been watching a film which did not have any bridge in it, but did have a three legged dog. Somebody must be breeding them!

Thanks for all the good wishes which so many of you sent me.

Sincerely, Noelle

Please send your points to:

Mrs N. Bond, 45 Buttrills Road, BARRY, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8EG

Master Point Promotions

Club Master		Mrs Enid Grant	NP	Mr Jim Morton	CBY
Mrs Pat Ashcroft	BRE	Mrs Mary Ings	C	Mrs Margaret Phillips	AG
Mrs Ann Cann	GA	Mrs Joan Jones	CN	Mr George Poole	CD
Mrs Brigitte Chapman	GA	Mr Allan Lewis	MG	Mr John Roberts	MG
Mrs Moira Currie	BV	Mr Frank Marston	SH	Mr David Rowley	WS
Mrs Anne Edwards	A	Mrs Jean Martin	MB	Mr Mark Spalding	CN
Miss Ann Evans	L	Mrs Jan Morris	MB	Mr Maurice Strivens	PR
Miss Catherine Evans	AM	Mrs Gail Palmer	GA	Mrs Menna Strivens	PR
Mrs Una Gavin	SU	Mr Les Partridge	GA	Mr Elwyn W Thomas	CD
Mrs Vera Harmston	GA	Mr Alan Pettifor	PD	Mr Robin Thomas	WS
Mr L Hunt	PT	Mrs Christine Redman	D	Mrs Una Thomas	WS
Mrs M Hunt	PT	Mrs Jane Reeves	CD	Mrs Hazel Trew	S
Mr Desmonde Jeffries	MG	Mrs Mickey Schofield	CN	Mrs Janet Turner	WS
Mr Bert John	S	Mr John Shelmerdine	WS	Mrs Marijke van der Sluijs	Y
Mrs Angela Jones	H	Mrs Antonia Van Hoof	T	Mrs Christine Wiseman	PN
Mrs Margaret Ann Jones	CBY	Mr John Wain	F	Advanced Master	
Mr Ronald Jones	LP	Mrs Gloria Walters	H	Mr Peter Britten	BV
Mrs Hilary Laurence	BV	Dr Jonathon Watkins	SH	Mr Anthony Carsley	M
Ms Gillian O'Keeffe	C	Mrs Jacqueline Williams	S	Mrs Helen Carsley	M
Ms Ellen Owen	CBY	Mr Ted Wood	V	Mrs Ann Dolan	AM
Mrs Gay Penney	BEN	County Master		Mrs Babs Dunford	C
Mr Ken Petters	LD	Mrs Kirsten Arnott	VOG	Mrs Dorothy Gardner	R
Mr Ray Potter	BEN	Mr Alan Ashton	CBY	Mr Brian Harden	GA
Mrs Rita Potter	BEN	Mrs Barbara Buckland	L	Mrs Marie Hartland	AM
Mrs Bernice Rayer	C	Mrs Daphne Caddy	BR	Mr John Hensman	MG
Mr Jeff Rayer	C	Mr Alan Clegg	WS	Mr John Hinton	GA
Mrs Beryl Sales	PV	Mr Bob Cooper	WS	Mr Roy Holloway	GA
Mr Cec Teague	S	Mr Michael Davies	L	Mrs Hennie Jenkins	CD
Mrs Glenys Thompson	WS	Mrs Mair Davison	S	Mrs Doris Jones	LP
Mrs Marion Vanstone	PN	Mr Mike Dennis	CBY	Mr Leon Katan	CBY
Mr J Woodcock	SH	Mr Adam Dunn	CA	Mr George Kozlowski	NT
Local Master		Sir Herbert Duthie	R	Ms Corrine McIlhagga	PV
Mrs Marion Avon	PN	Mrs Janet Hammett	GA	Ms Cindy Middleton	T
Mrs Mary Blackwell	VOG	Mrs Lyn Howell	C	Mr Martin Morris	CD
Mrs Janet Bradley	S	Mrs Leanne Jayne	GA	Capt John Nelmes	VOG
Mrs Marion Buck	GA	Miss Kathleen Jones	S	Mrs Pat Radway	BR
Mr Malcolm Cousins	BRE	Mr Mark King	MT	Mrs Marilyn Runham	CN
Mrs Liz Crockford	T	Mr Ralph Lamb	A	Mrs Jane Scott-Verdon	R
Mrs Jean Cufley	NT	Mr Patrick Llewelyn	Y	Mr Les J Thomas	S
Mr Clive Dummer	S	Mrs Kath McSherry	PN	Mrs Hazel Williams	PW
Mrs Gail Evans	AM	Mrs Joan Morgan	R		

to 16th June 1998

The Lady Milne 1998 – a nervous wreck's diary

5th June 10.00am. By the time you read this, the Lady Milne will be over, but as I write there are 11 hours till play starts, and I am wondering why I entered the trials. This will be my debut for Wales, but mercifully partner & the rest of the team are experienced old campaigners (mind you, I suspect 2 if not 3 are younger than I am) and I hope they'll get me through. This diary is intended as therapy, if I edit out all my blunders, and spend enough hours trying to find a brilliancy, it might make it as a newsletter article. Now for some flashbacks (these will flow better when I sell the TV rights).

23rd/24th May The Eire Friendly Match. The Lady Milne squad has been picked en-bloc. Jill has been made Captain, but team mates insist we play throughout. My sense of pride is dashed when they tell me they think I need the practice. Subsequent events prove they are right.

27th May 8.00pm A Team meeting with Jim Luck, Non-Playing Captain, to review the Eire Match, decide strategy for Lady Milne, & practice the team song. Diane suggests team would appreciate being cosseted by NPC, (guided into playing area, making sure we are comfortable, drinks bought etc). Jim is not entirely convinced. He has set defensive problem hands for us to solve, but we raid his wine cellar and get going on the first verse of "Land of my Fathers".

3rd June 7.00pm Final system discussion with partner, covering special defences to strange foreign bidding methods. The system file now runs to 27 pages. I have 23 pages memorised, however I know that 90% of this weekend's bidding will be on the other four pages.

5th June 8.00pm. Pre match team meeting. As home team we play our first four of the eight 16 board matches on Vugraph, starting with England, the toughest of all. I am relieved not to be chosen.

5th June 8.45pm Play starts, - may all the spilt blood be English! Then it occurs to me that I'm English & and decide to treat everyone with suspicion. I learn the first lesson of international bridge, watching is much worse than playing. Ceri Pierce & Ann Hirst bid a slam missed by the English, but in spite of this Wales lose the first match 5-15.

6th June 10.29am It's the crack of dawn & I'm due to play my first board against Scotland in 1 minute. Guided into room and supplied with drink by Jim who is obviously taking the team's welfare seriously. I spot a lurking recorder who is there to note down the bidding and cards played. So much for getting away with anything. Mercifully all I have to do is follow suit on the first board, and my first contract is declarer-proof, meanwhile in the other room Maggie Pierce & Diane Kurbalija bid and make two slams missed against us, so we have won a match.

(Continued on page 8)

The Lady Milne 1998 – a nervous wreck's diary cont.

6th June 2.30pm As a seasoned veteran, well into my second match, I lose concentration, pull the wrong card out on Vugraph, and let a hopeless contract make in front of a bewildered audience. Head in hands, I wonder whether I will be branded an English saboteur & shot at dawn. Whilst privately thinking shooting is too merciful, partner serenely and says "Forget it". Second lesson – get on with the next board. (So much easier said than done).

6th June 4.00pm Wearing a wig, false beard and dark glasses I sneak into the Vugraph room to watch team mates play Eire. One Lucas two opener is kindly described as "the bid of a schizophrenic lemming". Audience applauds defence by Diane & Maggie, unfortunately declarer was inspired & we lost 13imps. Further inspiration means we emerge with no VPS at all from this match.

6th June 11pm. Scoring up after second match against England. Although no-one could point a finger & say that bid / play / decision was dreadful, several marginal decisions went in England's favour and we lost 1-19. A tired and depressed team retire to bed or bar to restore morale.

7th June 4.30am Welsh selectors take their duty seriously by keeping the English players drinking in the bar long after everyone else has disappeared.

7th June 10.30am Refreshed and invigorated English players come out on top form to massacre Scotland. I make a note to discuss an alcohol expenses allowance for the Welsh team with the WBU executive in time for next year's competition. Wales edges into narrow lead over the Irelands in first halves of second round robin.

7th June 4.00pm Worst moment of the weekend, all players brought forward one by one and introduced to the audience, mutterings of "That's the twit who let 3NT through!" can be heard, and I wish the ground would open up. Escape to play final 8 boards each against Scotland/N. Ireland

Final Match Bidding Problem. You hold AK10x, AKQJ9x, x, Qx. Partner opens 1D & you know you are going to slam. The waters are muddied when the next hand bids 2NT showing 5/5 Hearts & Clubs. After the intervention Wales ended up in the wrong slam going off, N. Ireland had a free run at it & stopped in 4H, 13 imps away, and we draw a match we should win. Third lesson – The opposition's NPC will stop you when you attempt to strangle them, so use a long range weapon.

The most instructive hand of the weekend for me was a 2NT contract by Northern Ireland where lack of thought by declarer at trick one, and good defence by Jill Casey meant declarer went off in a cold contract. On lead with the West hand after the North South Auction 1S – 1NT – 2NT, I led the ♥5 (partner has all the

	♠ A T 9 8 4	NS Vul.
	♥ K 6 4	Dealer North
	♦ A T 7	
	♣ A Q	
♠ J 7 2		♠ K Q 6 3
♥ 7 5 3		♥ A T 9 8
♦ K 8 6 3		♦ 9
♣ J 7 6		♣ K T 3 2
	♠ 5	
	♥ Q J 2	
	♦ Q J 5 4 2	
	♣ 9 8 5 4	

points, I may as well try to find her suit), which was ducked to the Q. Needing 4 Diamond tricks, declarer finessed the 10, cashed the A, and exited with a diamond to my King. I played the ♥7, and declarer realised she had a problem getting to hand to make the long diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy to tempt East to do the same, but Jill won the ♥A and continued a heart as declarer forlornly overtook the ♥J with the King. Declarer now played the ♠10, taken by Jill with the K, heart cashed. Looking at ♠A98, ♣AQ in dummy, holding ♠Q6, ♣KT2 Jill exited with the ♠Q, hoping I had the ♠J, in order to avoid being end-played to give declarer 2 club tricks. I was able to push a club through the AQ, and declarer went down. If declarer had planned the play properly at trick 1, and risen with the ♥K to preserve a heart entry to hand, there is no defence to beat the contract.

7th June 7.00pm All over. England have won yet again and everyone is pleased for them, (Lesson four – Don't get caught letting the English team's tyres down) & Wales finished bottom of the table, undeservedly so I believe, but then I'm biased. We can only work hard and hope for better things next year. East Wales did a wonderful job staging the event, and were rightly thanked for all their hard work. Personal thanks to the rest of the team for their help & support. **LG**

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Another Tale from the Third Division

by Adrian Trickey

Every match in the East Wales League this year seems to throw up at least one interesting slam hand. This was the very last hand of Dyffryn Croquet Club's recent match against the dreaded Mid Glamorgan "Black Team". My Dyffryn team had led by 13 IMPs at the interval. Subsequently, Full-of-Cake Syndrome had affected us rather more severely than the opponents. The match was in a very delicate state.

♠ 6		All Non – Vul.					
♥ A765		Dealer South		Bidding			
♦ AT3				W	N	E	S
♣ KQ853							1♥
♠ T9832		♠ K754	Pass	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass		4♠ ⁽²⁾
♥ 92		♥ 4	Pass	4♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass		4♥
♦ KJ76		♦ Q84	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass		6♥
♣ 96		♣ AJ742					
♠ AQJ							
♥ KQJT83				⁽¹⁾ Singleton Spade, 4 Hearts			
♦ 952				⁽²⁾ Cue bid			
♣ T							

How would you allocate the blame for going overboard? We should have been able to recognise the duplication of values in spades, the lack of adequate control of diamonds as well as the club loser. Suffice it to say that North thought South's 4♣ promised the ace (we normally show first-round before second-round controls) while South very much hoped that North had the ace for his 5♣ cue.

No doubt there will be theorists able to demonstrate that we both bid it wrongly, but this isn't really a story about bidding. Tim Barsby, South, now had to make this contract to win the match. No lead will give you the contract instantly, but any lead except a diamond gives chances which, on the actual layout, will work. South will give up a club to the jack and subsequently use his entries to dummy to lead the king, queen and eight, ruffing out the ace and throwing two diamonds from his hand.

John Moore found the brilliant opening lead of the six of diamonds from K J 7 6! No, the card wasn't selected because it was the fourth highest of his longest,

strongest suit! The cue bids had told him the ace would be on his left. If partner has the queen, the lead will establish tricks immediately. If declarer has it, he will be very reluctant to stake his contract, at trick one, on the position of the king, which he will be inclined to think is probably in the East hand, so he is very likely to rise with dummy's ace. An excellent shot.

The shot went right home. Declarer had to win the ace because a club loser was unavoidable. Now the only hope was to draw trumps and finesse in spades, playing East for precisely K-x. This would allow two diamond discards from dummy. Success was unlikely, to say the least, as West, who had not intervened over 1♥, was placed with a seven-card spade suit. However, nothing better was on offer.

On the actual lay-out the play was doomed to failure. But this is a Tale from the Third Division, and down there no-one gets their just desserts. For some reason, East rose with the king of spades on the lead of the six from the table; so declarer had his two discards and made the contract; "dim problem".

In the other room the contract was four hearts, making six (and no-one could remember where the twelfth trick came from). Eleven IMPs to the croquet players. If Tim had gone down in the slam, the Black Team would have gained eleven IMPs.

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Master
Points

Two (Shaggy) Dog Stories

(courtesy of Noelle)

Just before Xmas 1997, I played my first Bridge at Llanelli Bridge Club with a new partner, who brought along his 3 legged pet whippet lurcher, Henry. I just knew it was going to be a special night. During the first half of the night everything was normal, Henry sat along side his master, but as the night wore on Henry was getting restless.

Next thing I knew, my partner has Henry on his lap & we were bidding towards my first Grand Slam, 7NT. Was I sweating? – Yes, I was using my white hanky, Were my knees trembling? – yes. Was I concentrating, well yes & no. Did I make the Grand Slam, happily Yes, despite a growl from Henry when I threw away the Ace of Hearts from hand.

Later, my wife asked me about the play, well there were spots of gravy on my hanky, and Henry had more hair than my partner.

During the scoring, the lady sitting west was making a fuss of Henry, so the dog blew in her ear & kissed her, I had to tell her "If I did that you would have slapped my face".

I shall always remember my first Grand Slam, and shall never forget Henry.

Picton Davies

Like all bridge players I am superstitious about changing anything & that even includes my dog. He is 28, with one eye, 3 legs and half an ear bitten off in a fight some years ago. As I was taking him for a walk, I happened to kick an old bottle. At once a genie appeared and offered me 3 wishes.

Great I thought, Can you give my dog back his youth & good looks? The genie pondered and thought that was pushing it a bit – how about something else?

Could I have a stack of cash to go to bridge congresses? Not a problem – Done!

Could my three boys go to college? Not a problem – Done!

Could I win the next five major bridge events I entered, and get more gold points than Tony Ratcliff? Well, said the genie – show me your dog again!

Sheila Shea

Beware Doubling to give the game away!



Playing in a club duplicate recently, holding Queen Ten to 4 trumps and an outside Ace, West doubled my contract of Six Clubs. The auction had proceeded:

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	2♥	P
3♣	P	4♣	P
6♣	X		

I wasn't sure where to go after 4♣; with my void I knew Blackwood wouldn't help me, and I've got into trouble in the past cue-bidding a void in partner's suit (Where do you go after they bid stop 6♥, 6NT is not always a success?) Partner's Jump-shift promised either good hearts and a diamond fit, or solid hearts, so I hoped I'd be able to discard some spades and leapt optimistically to 6♣ but I wasn't confident enough to redouble at the end of the auction.

	♠ x	N/S Vul.
	♥ AKQJxx	Dealer South
	♦ AJ	
	♣ KJ8x	
♠ Axxxxx		♠ QJx
♥ xx		♥ Txxxx
♦ 8		♦ 9xxx
♣ QTxx		♣ 9
	♠ Kxx	
	♥ -	
	♦ KQTxxx	
	♣ A532	

West led the Ace of Spades, and I was greatly relieved to see Dummy. A diamond was played at trick two. I won in hand, and pondered the double; it could only be based on good trumps. So I laid down the Ace and noted the fall of the 9 from East.

Now was the time for death or glory, I played a low club to the 8. It held, so now it was easy to ruff a heart back to hand and finesse the ♣J. Twelve tricks rolled in but I would never normally have played it that way.

It may seem tempting to double an over-ambitious bidder if you think the contract is going off, but resist if the information you are giving away helps declarer to make the contract.

CONVERSATION PIECE

by W.E.NICHOLLS

"We've got a problem."

"What sort of a problem?"

"Well, you remember a few months ago at a Committee meeting when we said that we were not getting a sufficient return on our money?"

"Yes."

"Well we are."

"Are what?"

"Getting a good return on our money."

"What are you talking about?"

"We've made about £6700 this year, and we've gone and put the price of Master Points up 11 % to £20 a book. The clubs won't be at all happy!"

"Good heavens, don't worry about things like that. All we have to do is move the figures around a bit."

"How do we do that?"

"Provisions dear boy, Provisions. Stick some of it into Provisions."

"But it could be argued that with assets of £53,000 we don't need provisions."

"Not need Provisions! I've never heard anything so ridiculous! Where are we to hide the profits if we do away with Provisions? Now let's see. We could stick £2250 against the Eire thingy."

"Members were cribbing last time about spending their money subsidising a jaunt to Ireland."

"Public relations old boy! Besides, we take some of them with us don't we? And stick another £500 on Master Point replacement."

"Oh really, do you think we should? That will put it up to £1900 and we only spent £700 on them last year."

"You worry too much - nobody will notice. Now, another £500 somewhere - Camrose grants will do. What does that bring the profit down to?"

"£3700"

"That's a bit better. Of course the Master Point increase will bring extra profit this year, so we must keep that in mind. A friendly match against a team in the South of France would be nice. Oh yes, whilst you are about it, have a quiet word with the Treasurer will you?"

"What about?"

"Well, last year she pointed out that only 17% of all expenditure was spent on the general membership. That sort of statement only make the natives restless, bad for morale and all that!"

"OK, I'll have a word. See you in the bar later?"

"Yes, see you in the bar."

The Treasurer's Reply

With my editor's hat on I smiled when Bill's article arrived, as Treasurer I am concerned that his feelings are shared by more clubs and members. Although I stand up at the AGM and explain what has gone on during the year, there are very few members there to hear my pearls of wisdom, & the AGM minutes arrive at clubs a year later, when the issues are forgotten. In future I will enclose a report to the members as part of the Accounts.

I have been beaten up several times about the rise in price of master point books to £20, and it has been pointed out to me that the EBU have only just raised their charges to £17 per book. I agree, but that is for 50 slips, not 100 as in the WBU books, we would be charging £34 per book to be on a par with them. (And an annual affiliation fee for each club, which was £16 per annum when I was last involved with it in 1990). This year the price rise for Master points was known about long before it happened, and as a result clubs stocked up to save a few pounds. Noelle sold over £2200 more than usual in the period Jan-March 1998, and I am aware of one club buying 3 years supply. This was extra profit last year, but will leave a hole in the current year when sales will be lower.

The aim of the WBU is to break even on a trading basis, and let the interest earned maintain the value of our assets. So we set our charges accordingly, and barring surprises that is how it works. Unfortunately our expenses do not come in even chunks. Last year for example, I paid only £1000 to areas in Camrose Grants, in the current year it will be £6500, next year it will be £4000. I can not recommend that one year the WBU subs will be £1, and the next year they will be £8, year after that £5. Provisions are how I balance the books. At the end of the current year the Camrose Grant provision and the Eire "thingy" provision will both be nil, but no-one will comment if the provisions disappear.

The introduction of Eire into the Camrose, and the loss of Macallan sponsorship, mean that the WBU International match costs will on average be £4500 a year more now compared to two years ago. Faced with this I persuaded a reluctant executive to drop the Eire Friendly match, even so we will still be £2000 a year worse off, hence the rise in prices. No one regrets this more than I do since it means a bigger proportion of our income will be spent on a few, but what are the alternatives? Pull out of the internationals entirely (we'll save a fortune), or let the Areas make huge losses hosting matches (we'll soon run out of hosts) or only pick players who are prepared to pay their own expenses. These radical alternatives have not been considered by the executive, perhaps they should.

The area treasurers and I have always taken the view, that if there is a good idea for a way to spend money for the benefit of the average WBU member we would be in favour, and try to persuade the executive to agree, but where are the good ideas? Its not easy spending money on you all. Suggestions would be welcomed!

Wales' basic problem is that we are a minnow, swimming in a pond with much larger fish, and with the exception of administration which is done very cheaply, we have all the big fish costs.