

Tony Warlow Bridge Breaks offers bridge nearly every weekend

ALL FULLY INCLUSIVE

NO SMOKING BRIDGE ROOM

RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE HOTEL OF YOUR CHOICE

BELOW IS A SAMPLE OF SOME OF THE BARGAINS ON OFFER

WEEKENDS

WITH EXTRA NIGHTS AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED

January	15-17th	Eastbourne	Wish Tower Hotel	£102	01323 722676
	22-24th	Stourport	Stourport Manor	£99	01299 289955
February	12-14th	Worthing	Ardington Hotel	£112	01903 230451

EASTER**HOLIDAY****Stakis Hotel CORBY**Rutland Water Country
Tel 01536 4010204 nights 1- 5th April £209
5 nights 1- 6th April £245**Fortfield Hotel SIDMOUTH**

Tel 01395 512403

4 nights 1- 5th April £249

Director Ron/Lynne Heat
LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE

BOOK EARLY FOR BOTH OF THESE EVENTS

LONGER HOLIDAYS

January	18-24th	6 nights	Bournemouth	Hotel Courtlands	£220	01202 302442
April	19-26th	7 nights	Morecambe	Elms Hotel	£330	01524 411501

1st MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY30th April - 3/4th May
Nr Preston Barton Grange £170/£200**2nd MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**30th May - 4th June 5 nights
Corby Stakis Hotel £219 01536 401020FOR A FULL BROCHURE Tel 01243 528950
AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND POST CODE

Welsh Bridge Union

Editorial

Happy new year to all members, I hope all your finesses work in 1999.

Sisters selected to play for Wales

After the recent training session for Junior Players held at Gwent Bridge Academy, the two youngest members of the WBU, Catherine and Claire Evans, Age 13 & 9 respectively have been selected as part of the team to represent Wales in the Peggy Bayer Trophy - Home International Series for Under 20's - which takes place in Ireland at the end of January. I'm sure we all wish them well, and I hope more parents & grandparents are inspired to start teaching.

Inside this Issue (64)

Results & NTO	2
David Hamilton	3
Noelle Bond	4
Promotions	6
Adrian Thomas	8
Laws	11
Castle BC	12
East	13
Executive	14

ATTENTION Club Secretaries / Master Point Secretaries

A new Welsh Bridge Union Masterpoint booklet is being issued to clubs. One copy per club is due to be distributed with this Newsletter. No radical changes in point scales are introduced, but the booklet lays out the various scales and other factors in handy form. Limited further copies are available from Noelle Bond.

Editor:

Linda Greenland
Tel 01222 25516231 Deri Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF2 5AH
WBU@foxhole.u-net.comWBU Website <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/wbu>

Results Round-up

International Masters:	1st	Filip Kurbalija & Jill Casey	124 imps
	2nd	Diane Kurbalija & Jim Luck	63 imps
Veterans Pairs	1st	Sheila Shea & Margaret Banks	64.39%
	2nd	Mike Hirst & Patrick Jourdain	63.61%

* * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
TENBY CONGRESS – Dates for 1999
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
To be held on June 4th – 6th
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
not May 28th – 30th as published previously
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

WBU SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS – November 1998

1	Mike Downey & John Salisbury	PENARTH	70.20%
2	Tony Ratcliffe & Dean Hardie	MID GLAMORGAN	69.90%
3	Ann Jeremian & Phil Reed	CRICKHOWELL	69.50%
4	Roe Bissett & Maureen Eccles	CRICKHOWELL	68.60%
5	Paul Allsopp & Cliff Rushton	ABERYSTWYTH	67.30%

From Your Friendly NTO

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS PRODUCED AN UNLIKELY HANDICAP RESULT. USING A SCHEME DEVELOPED BY EWBA, THE TWO PAIRS WHO QUALIFIED FOR THESE PRIZES WERE ANNE JONES AND ERNIE MORRIS (RESPECTIVELY PREMIER REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MASTERS) FROM THE CARDIFF CLUB, AND ROY AND JOAN DICKINSON, CLUB MASTERS FROM WEST SHORE. WELL DONE BOTH.

THE VETERAN PAIRS WAS STAGED AS A SIMULTANEOUS EVENT IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS RESULTED IN A TOTAL ENTRY OF 68 PAIRS, UP FROM 39 LAST YEAR, EQUALLY SPLIT BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS.

>

> THE PORTLAND PAIRS IS TO BE STAGED AS A NATIONAL EVENT OVER THE WEEKEND 20-21 MARCH. VENUES FOR WELSH PLAYERS ARE AT THE PARKWAY HOTEL, CWMBRAN OR CHESTER RACE-COURSE. THE EVENT WILL BE MARKED NATIONALLY (VIA INTERNET), AND ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE EITHER FROM ME (01222 693225) OR THE BBL (01787 881920).

Text Book

by David Hamilton

It is not often that a typical text book hand turns up at the club duplicate. When it does happen it seems that the players have forgotten or ignored a relatively simple principle.

Dealer South
N-S Game

♠ 6
 ♥ AK
 ♦ K974
 ♣ AJ10932

♠ 754	♠ KJ1093
♥ Q10532	♥ 964
♦ 1065	♦ AQ
♣ 75	♣ Q84

♠ AQ82
 ♥ J87
 ♦ J832
 ♣ K6

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The bidding at most tables took the same course and all the West's except one led a spade. At the table where West led a heart, declarer won, played a club to the ♠K, finessed on the way back and came to nine tricks with the spade finesse. On a spade lead, declarers won the first trick and invariably cashed the ♠K and finessed to East's ♠Q. An alert East realised that a spade continuation would present South with his ninth trick and switched to a heart. Result one down.

The standard play on a hand like this is to win the first trick and play a low club to the ♣9 and when that loses, declarer still has the ♠K as an entry to the spade winner for the contract. This play was only found at one table so I conclude that most players are lazy to play without thinking as were the defenders who continued spades after winning the ♠Q.

Master Point of View

By Noelle Bond

28th November 1998

After casually enquiring about the oldest WBU member in the Spring newsletter, I heard nothing for a long time, and decided that all must share my mother-in-law's aim of keeping their age a great secret. But now it seems there was just a delay in my enquiry making the rounds, for I hear of ever more senior members. I never know whether they want their names revealed but feel I can tell you about the latest I know of, Kath McSherry, aged 91, and Joy Everard, 93, who play together at Penarth. It was suggested to me that they must at the very least be the oldest existing WBU partnership, (184 years for those who can not count beyond 52). Joy has played at Penarth from the first session in, I'm told, 1972. The WBU had its fiftieth anniversary this year, so there are obviously older clubs than that, and I'd be very interested to hear of those who played in the early days of other clubs and are still playing today. Our own local club being a mere eleven years old, I shall not be putting myself forward. As it seems new clubs are being formed every few months perhaps it would be interesting to know when all the existing clubs began.

Still thinking about counting, one local player recently counted his hand and found sixteen cards. Naturally the others didn't all quite have thirteen each. I wonder if this is a record, and how someone managed to wedge sixteen cards in one slot.

How many people saw that the EBU now has a five year old club master? I realise now that I should have already taught my five year old grandson to play. I shall have to start when he visits next, pity he lives so far away. My other two grandchildren are both under six months old, so I suppose I shall have to wait twelve months or so, before I can begin with them.

The WBU's youngest ranked member, Catherine Evans, (it's all revelations today) is now a local master, with green points as well. She is the third generation of her family playing, and her younger sister, Claire, is now coming along on the outside. We shall all have to look out! To think I didn't know about duplicate until I was, well, somewhat older (there've been enough revelations for one day!)

Of course, some young people seek more physical pleasures: in the supermarket last week, a small girl out shopping with her father, having been allowed to take a pack of Cornish pasties from the chiller, immediately put them on the floor and jumped up and down on them. After stopping this exercise, her father rather sheepishly, put the crushed package in his basket, but we could not help

wondering if he changed it later. (No jokes about them going with mashed potatoes accepted.)

And now another cautionary tale: When the early postman gets me up at seven to sign for Recorded Delivery letters, I have always consoled myself with "At least these points were carefully looked after on their way here." But no more! Recently one member contacted me to say he had forgotten to enclose his MP card with his latest batch of points. I checked my mail book to make a note, and found I had not received his points. "But I sent them by recorded delivery," he complained, and I suggested he contacted the Post Office, for we have had several instances of letter's contents being separated from their envelopes. I always imagine they were found inside sorting machines or down the back of cabinets.

But, from the Post Office, he learned that contrary to what we had imagined (because we had not read the small print, I presume) what I now quote here: "Recorded Delivery items receive no special handling. They are sorted and travel with the ordinary unregistered mail."

All that happens is that the postman obtains a signature when the letters are actually delivered, if it managed to arrive. No special care is taken whilst they are in transit. I would suggest that no one bothers to use this service in future to send masterpoints, for it seems a waste of money to me, for I can assure you, that unlike the Post Office, I do not lose letters once they are in my care. The only service which guarantees a better standard of care is apparently the "Registered Letter Service" but I think this may be rather expensive, and is really designed to cover against financial loss, not to look after precious points, however valuable they may be to the owner.

I think the next newsletter will be out in December, so I can end by wishing a Happy Christmas to you all, and of course a Happy New Year. A last thought! I often speak to WBU members who live in Wales but still register their points with the EBU. "I must change to the WBU," they say to me, but I never seem to get their request to do so. "I know who you are!" as someone used to say. Perhaps this would make a good New Year's resolution for them.

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 Audrey Baston	C
Mrs Mary Cartwright	PN
Mr Peter Cotterill	GA
Mrs Gwenda Dagnall	CBY
Ms Margaret Doig	LD
Mr David Evans	PW
Mrs Barbara Howells	R
Mrs Megan Jones	WS
Mrs Ann Roberts	BEN
Mrs Marcia Rogers	MB
Mrs Heather Williams	PN
Mr George Woodhouse	WS

Local Master

Mr Peter Bennett	AM
Mrs Sue Coffin	C
Mrs Maureen Eccles	CRI
Miss Catherine Evans	AM
Ms Jean Flynn	C
Mrs Teresa Goss	C
Mr Roy Hobson	PR
Mrs Margaret Jones	LP

County Master

Mr Sid Craven	S
Mrs Marjorie Dalton-Jones	CBY
Ms Kath Ferguson	C
Mrs Enid Grant	NP
Mrs Phyllis Hancock	BEN
Mrs Jean Herbert	GA
Mrs Eivona James	GA
Mrs Ann Kelly	GA
Mr P J Snaith	L
Mrs Kate Wynds	S



Master

Mrs Dorothy Acton	AG
Mr Graham Ball	CBY
Mr Terry Dolan	BSC
Mr Timothy Perkins	MB
Mr Raoul Van den Broucke	MT

Advanced Master

Mrs Jill Alexander	C
Mrs Aileen Lloyd	C
Mr Ron Pepper	GA
Mr Peter Richards	CR
Mr Richard Turley	MT

1 Star Master

Mr Lawrie Buckland	MB
Mr David Hirst	T
Mr Barrie Jenkins	PC
Mr Rick Law	S
Mrs Louise Orme	M
Mrs June Owen	GA
Dr Terry Reilly	VOG
Mrs Jane Scott-Verdon	R
Mrs Margaret Simpson	LD
Dr John Valentine	STD
Mr Richard Welsford	ROF

3 Star Master

Mrs Joyce Arthur	WS
Mrs Dorothy Bretherton	CR
Mrs Barbara Frost	PR

4 Star Master

Dr Stephen Gorard	C
Mr John Old	LP

5 Star Master

Mrs Sandra Gorst	LD
Mrs Gladys Prescott	PW

Tournament Master

Mr John Henson	BR
Mr Bob Hinton	GA

Regional Master

Mr Rex Acton	AG
Mr Robin Hall	PN
Mr Rupert Preece	LD

Premier Regional Master

Mrs Isabel Evans	C
Mr Fred Moyses	W

National Master

Mrs Andrea Martin	CN
-------------------	----

Premier National Master

Mr Tim Barsby	R
Mrs June Hurst	H

Life Master

Mr Lionel Fifield	PN
Mrs Diana Jones	C
Mrs Peggy McCombie	GA
Mr Barrie Robinson	P

Senior Life Master

Mr Tony Disley	BR
----------------	----

The Welsh Seniors Congress



At the St Davids Hotel & Spa, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
Friday 30th April to Monday 3rd May 1999



The Welsh Bridge Union proudly announces the launch of its first Welsh Seniors Congress. Each player must be at least 50 years of age and the total age of the two players in every partnership must be at least 110. The event is green pointed on a scale comparable to the EBU seniors congress. Points are interchangeable between Home Unions. On the Bank Holiday Monday there is a one-day Swiss Pairs open to all, whatever your age, at the standard scale of green-pointed one day events.

Format of the Weekend:

Friday 30th April 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. A two session qualifier for the Welsh Seniors Pairs.

Saturday 1st May 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. A two session final for the Welsh Seniors Pairs title with a secondary final and other events for non qualifiers.

Sunday 2nd May Noon - 8 p.m. The Welsh Seniors Teams Championship with tea break.

Monday 3rd May Noon - 8 p.m. One Day Swiss Pairs no age restriction, short tea break.

Prices for bridge:

(A) Full Congress, Four Days	£59 per player	Masterpoint awards
(B) Seniors Congress three days	£47 per player	Top award in pairs: 6 greens
(C) Senior Pairs only two days	£33 per player	Secondary Final: 3 greens
(D) Senior Teams only	£17 per player	Teams: maximum award 4 greens
(E) Swiss Pairs only	£17 per player	Swiss Pairs: Standard scale

Priority in application will be given to Full congress players. If you are not a member of a Home Union, please allow an extra £10 to become a direct member of the Welsh Bridge Union.

St Davids is a five-star hotel with five star comfort. There is a luxury spa available to all Hotel residents. Room rates are available at £102.50 for dinner, bed & breakfast, per person sharing a twin or double. Single room supplement is £46.50.

For brochure and entry leaflet please write to:

Nicola Kendall, St David's Hotel & Spa,
Havannah Street, Cardiff Bay CF1 6SD marked Bridge Congress.
Tel 01222 454045 Fax 01222 487056

The tournament manager is Patrick Jourdain who will take enquiries on 01222 628839

The Premier League— A Personal View by Adrian Thomas

This event is now in its 5th year. It is made up of 2 divisions of 8 teams. The 1st division is used to select a team to represent Great Britain in major World/European championships. It has probably replaced the Gold Cup & Spring Foursomes as the most important event in the calendar, although sadly there are no teams from Ireland due to the logistics of travel. Since its inception, I have been struggling to be promoted from the 2nd division into the elite, the winners are guaranteed promotion & runners up play off against the 2nd from last team in division 1. Last year we won 5 matches, but by small margins and finished 4th overall. The event is spread over 3 weekends, with 7 matches of 48 boards. Scoring is imps, but a win is capped at 77 imps, i.e. +90 imps gives winners +77, but losers still get -90. It is a form of scoring I would like to see used more frequently.

This year I was unavailable for the 1st weekend due to holidays. Going into the 2nd weekend, the leaders were on +125, the strongly fancied team of Liggins, Burn, Callaghan, Fawcett were 2nd on +98, & we were 3rd on +7 imps.

However things can change dramatically in this form of scoring, and by the end of the second weekend with 2 good wins of +61 and +43, this last over the leaders, we had moved into 2nd place, but still considerably behind Liggins (111 v 186).

The first match of the final weekend against them was the big one, and I was even more psyched up than usual after a poor performance in the Welsh trial, wanting to impress upon the selectors that this trial should not be the sole basis of selection for the Camrose team. Now for some hands – by board 2 we were already -22 imps down

Problem 1: How does West to make 3NT on the lead of a small club? (answers at the end of the article.) There is virtually a 95% line provided the Ace of Hearts is right, its just a matter of timing. At the other table a precision opener caused a different lead, & the contract was much easier. -10 imps

S	KQ	AJxxx	1C	1S	P	2C
H	10xx	Kx	P	2S	P	2NT
D	AJxxx	10xx	P	3NT		
C	K98	QJx				

The more I play this game, the more I realise how critical opening leads are. Here are two for you:

Problem 2	xxx	After	Partner	Opp	Me	Opp
	xx		2D	P	2H	2S
	Q109		P	2NT	P	3NT
	AQ109x		Do you lead partner's suit, presumed hearts or a club? 4S in the other room couldn't make, since the defence got a second chance.			-12 imps

Could things improve? Not with me on lead!

Problem 3	Q10xx		2C	P	3NT	
	A987x		All P	2C is Precision,		
	Ax		either 6 clubs or 5 clubs + a major 11 – 16 HCP, 3NT bidder could have enquired but didn't.			
	Ax		So is it a heart or spade?			-13 imps

Fortunately after our start the rest of the set was flattish with Fawcett contributing to our cause by going off in 4NT. (An overstretch towards 6?, not really he went 7 off). We were 15 imps down, but had 3 significant gains in the 2nd set. Peter Goodman contributed this – all vulnerable: A10xxxx

Q10x
xx He'd read my previous article on abysmal
Kx Twos, so this was a solid 1S opener!

The auction proceeded: 1S – (2H) - 2S [will be 3 card support] - (4H), and now Peter continued thinking this was a good hand and bid 4S! (yes, a sacrifice) and would have gained some, but gained considerably when over Burn's double (which incidentally had the good meaning of "I have a value 4H bid") Callaghan misjudged to bid 5H (-1 v 4H✓) +12 imps. Next after Peter's 2S opener (7-11HCP spades and a minor) I held QJx, 109x, Kx, K109xx Perhaps I should bid 4S straight away, but I made a tactical bid of 2NT (strong enquiry), Peter showed a minimum with Diamonds, & I bid 3S (Forcing Peter felt – Any views?), he then cue bid 4H and we subsided in 4S which went off, but team mates were allowed to play in 4H making 11 (5 – 5 fit). +11 imps. We were also able to right side a 3NT contract to gain 10. The following was a big decision.

Problem 4	Axx	Burn	Goodman	Callaghan	Thomas
	Q98xx	3C	4C	P	4H
	109x	4NT *	5H	6C	Your go?
	Qx	* not blackwood, & not crazy so strongly minor suited			

Anyhow, at the end of the 2nd stanza we were 6 imps behind.

Our team mates had been steadily solid until now, something Peter & I are not used to, and they continued in this vein for the next 2 sets. Peter & I had only one costly opening lead, (6 imps this time). The following board saw gains at both tables:

	KJx		E/W vul – South Dealer
	A		
	AQxx		
A9xxx	Kxxxx	Q10x	
KJ9xx		Qxxx	At our table, South opened 2D, weak with D or H, I had a fair idea which but could really only overcall 2S, raised to 4 by partner. North showed remarkable restraint in not doubling; -
xx		x	they clearly play 2D as abysmal.
Q	xx	AJ109x	AH led, club switch run to Q. Small spade towards dummy, N went up with the K and under led the Ace of Diamonds. One off? No
	xxx		- South was temporarily out, & returned a club.
	KJxxxx		
	xx		

At the other table the contract was more spectacular:

P –	P – 1C (precision) - P
1D(neg)	X All Pass

Clearly E/W were on different wavelengths as to the meaning of the double. +14 imps. After another misunderstanding by the opponents & a slam failing on a finesse – I think the 50 % rule needs to be changed as my experience indicates that when you are playing well and

Interpretations of the Laws from Lille
By David Stevenson, Chief Tournament Director

While the Law book has not been changed there have been some new interpretations given to the WBU by the World Bridge Federation Laws Committee meeting in Lille. Some of the interpretations have helped us with difficult situations: one or two have come as a surprise. The following are the most important ones, and Welsh TDs are advised to make a note of them.

1. Every so often a player makes an insufficient bid, and then tries to correct it in some way before the TD reaches the table. For example: a player bids 1D over his opponent's 1NT, and then tries to change it to 2D. Well, the Laws tell you what to do with the 1D bid [see Law 27] but what about the 2D bid? The answer is that it is cancelled, though it is unauthorised information for partner. Note that this is different from what the EBU has previously said.

2. Very occasionally a player will try to change his bid after he has made it. Of course, Law 25A permits a mechanical error to be changed without penalty, but sometimes a player will want to change it when Law 25A does not apply. Law 25B apparently allows this change [with dire penalties] but the Committee in Lille said that such a change should only be allowed if it corrects a stupid mistake, such as passing a cue-bid or a Blackwood response.

3. Some people have noted that Average-Minus in Law 12C1 is now 40% or less: apparently this just means 40% or their session average, whichever is less, and is meant to complement the similar rule for Average-Plus.

4. The reason that a penalty card is played is now unauthorised information for partner. Thus if the SK is led out of turn and becomes a penalty card the partner is permitted to use the information that if a spade is played partner will have to play the king but he is not allowed to deduce that he has the queen because he led it. The TD's standard 'spiel' for an opening lead out of turn "You have five options" should be altered to include this: if the opening lead is not accepted then something should be said along the lines of "Partner must not draw any conclusions from this card having been led."

5. For there to be an appeal, both members of a pair must agree. However, in a team game, an appeal will go forward if the captain wishes it, and not otherwise, whatever the views of the actual pair!

The above is meant to cover all the items that TDs will normally come across. However, it is not exhaustive. A much fuller list of extracts from the minutes of the Committee at Lille is available in the laws section of David Stevenson's Bridgepage at http://www.blakjak.demon.co.uk/brg_menu.htm#brglws. This list is also available from the Secretary of the Laws & Ethics Committee.

bid a slam on a finesse it works, but when you are not playing at your best the finesse fails. (OK so this is my imagination!) So at the end of another 24 boards we'd gained 39imps to win by 33. From being 75 behind overall we were now only 9 behind. On to the penultimate match. The vagaries of the draw meant we had to play the nearly all-Welsh team (Jourdain & Ratcliffe, Kurbalija & Casey, Denning & Cornell). They'd had a small win the day before but this was without Fil & Jill fresh from their triumph in the International Masters – again showing that more than trials should be considered. I had no lead problems so Peter provided the fireworks in both directions showing a net loss of -3, with team mates solid again and gaining on bits 7 pieces we were 14 up overall on the first set. 2nd set saw 3 big swings go to the good guys (I'm biased). Peter found the correct defence against 3NT on this hand.

Problem 5	P	P	1D	1NT	
	P	2C*	P	2D	* Stayman
	P	2NT	P	3NT	Partner leads JD You can see:

Dummy	Your hand	
KQxx	xxx	Plan your defence.
xx	KJx	
xx	A1098xx	[Did somebody say this isn't an opening hand?
QJxxx	x	Bidding was identical at other table]

Problem 6 Vul. Pass from partner, 1S by opp, you hold Axx, AQxxx, xxx, Ax. Do you bid or not? I could be a missed game or -800 Take your choice, if you are wrong it is -13imps. Further gains in the next set: 1 misdefence, 1 misjudgement. Patrick & Tony showed admirable fighting qualities in the final set but we gained imps after a rush of blood to the head on the final board by opposition (not living in S. Wales), emphasising Patrick's tip that the last board of the match is often costly, since players often switch off 1 board too soon. We won by 56, and overall we were leading by 11 with one match left. However that was the end of my involvement, as a league rule now came into effect (write this article and pray). Each member of a team has to play 12 sets, so the 5th member of our team played the final day with Peter. After a tense day I'm afraid I'm still clinging on to my wish to play in division 1. Team mates won by 20, but Liggins had a great final set, gaining 43 imps and pipping us by 7 imps overall. Its often not over until the final card has been played, we're awaiting the selector's decision but a play off place looks likely.

Solutions:

Problem 1 Win Club in hand with the K, & return a club, Keeping your KQ of spades as entries to lead a heart towards the K, and going against the general principles of unblocking the suit.

Problem 2 A club lead loses 12, anything else gives a flat board.

Problem 3 Anything but a spade lead loses 12, played the other way up at the other table a spade lead is more automatic.

Problem 4 I bid 6H, Mad? -not really, If declarer plays QJxxx opposite Axxx for no losers he makes it. I'm glad I didn't leave Burn to get it right or wrong. The cost if he'd made it would have been -10, as it was we gained 6.

Problem 5 you need to rise with the Ace and return a high heart (Jack from Peter). Partner has 5+ hearts on the bidding (including the Q and a club honour), - you can recover from my leads sometimes!

Problem 6 To overcall gets you to game, but pass doesn't. I suspect most of you would have got this right, I wouldn't have.

EAST WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONGRESS

**Friday 12th to Sunday 14th
February 1999**

at The Civic Suite
County Hall

Cwmbran, Near Newport
Monmouthshire

Friday evening - Championship Pairs
& Novice Pairs

Saturday/Sunday - Swiss Teams

This is a National Green-Point Congress

PRIZE FUND £ 3,000

Duplicated Boards

A Duplimate machine will be used to deal boards, so all teams will play the same hands.

Chief Tournament Director
John Pain

Entry Fee £ 120 per team
(provided entry received before 1st Feb)
Full congress £120, Friday Pairs only £5

from : **Myra Morris**
8 St Aidan Crescent
Heath Cardiff CF4 4AU
tel 01222-612129

OUR BABY IS 1 YEAR OLD - CASTLE BRIDGE CLUB WELSHPOOL

The newest Bridge Club in the WBU & MWBA has just celebrated its 1st anniversary. On Wednesday 21st October, at the Flash Centre Welshpool, the adopted home of Castle Bridge Club, The Mayor of Welshpool, Mrs L.J. Thompson, was the guest of honour to preside over the prizegiving. From a standing start, founder and now Chairman/Organiser, Neil Lancaster, has built up the membership to 24 regular local members and 8 affiliated members who attend from Newtown.

Considering at the outset, none of the players had ever seen a bidding box, because of the members total support, they have acquired their own equipment to accommodate 8 Tables, and their own Computer Bridge Scoring Program. They already enter national Simultaneous competitions and are always willing to field players for Teams events for various WBU & MWBA organised congresses wherever and whenever possible.

The winners of the prizes received superb trophies, with plaques for each individual partner in 1st, 2nd & 3rd positions.

A magnificent cake, in the form of a card-table top, and decorated with the Castle Bridge Club logo was the centre piece of the occasion and champagne bucks Fizz flowed freely, culminating in a fun individual competition to complete the evening, the champagne causing the players to meander around the room totally lost, resembling a chaotic musical chairs without the music. No doubt the bidding was equally chaotic, but it was all worth it.

The winners were as follows:

Welshpool Pairs 1st	Alan Screen & Chris Blackman
All-comers Pairs 1st	Pat & Geoff Fielding
Individual Winner	Geoff Fielding
Most Improved Player	Freda Green

Delighted by the response to the Bridge Club, Neil is now in the process of organising the 1st Powys Bridge Congress, to be held in Welshpool, on the 27th June 1999, Details of which will be sent to WBU and MWBA members as soon as they are finalised.

Out of the East

by **Adrian Trickey ATO**

Each autumn the season starts in East Wales with the club heats and then the finals of our two green point competitions, the Stan Berger Trophy for pairs and the Louis Lermon Cup for teams. This year the EWBA decided to reduce the entry fee to £1 per person in an attempt to increase the number participating. Perhaps as a result of this policy, there was a 30% increase in the number of competitors in the Stan Berger (112 pairs taking part). Several clubs that had not offered heats in previous years decided to allocate a club evening to these events. There was also a modest increase in the teams entry.

Perhaps a similar policy of price reductions might be considered by the WBU for its various pairs events. The present fee of £1.75, if it is charged in addition to club table money, is perhaps a deterrent to some clubs holding heats. We need to remember that some 70% of players who enter these competitions do not progress beyond their club heat. It may seem to them that there is little added value, over and above the pleasure of their regular evening's bridge at the club, in return for the entry fee.

Twenty-six pairs competed in the final of the Stan Berger. Run-away winners were Linda Greenland and Ken Richardson, a pair very much in form recently, who scored nearly 62% over the two sessions. They were followed home by Tim Barsby and Adrian Trickey. Enfy Powell and Keith Williams were third. (It was nice to be able to "borrow" Rory McKinley from Mid Wales to direct the final, and useful to have some interchange of directing skills between areas).

The final of the Louis Lermon was contested by twelve teams. The holders, David Melville, Geoff Evans, David Ronson and Philip Felman, had only just squeaked through the first round, taking the last qualifying position in the final. However, they got it together when it mattered (and that is what distinguishes the stronger teams from the rest) and won the final ahead of Sandra James, Allan Powell, Peggy McCombie and Esme Parry in second place.

Two weeks previously, the up and coming players of the area were competing for the Julius Ernst Shield. This is a competition for teams of eight. No pair may have a combined holding of more than 200 master points. Only four teams entered this year, but the competition was keen and the event enjoyed by those who took part. It does seem to be very difficult to get teams of eight organised. Club committees! You might like to start thinking now about who will play for your club in next year's team. This year's winners were the Gwent Bridge Academy combination of Jim Kinge, Cath Bailey, Roy Holloway, Chris Carter, John Hinton, Paul Relph, Leanne Jayne and Ron Pepper.

Coming events in East Wales include club heats of all the WBU pairs competitions.

REMEMBER the East Wales Congress at Cwmbran, 12th to 14th February 1999

Now rated a National congress. More generous green point scale than in previous years.

Entries to Myra Morris 01222-612129

Executive Ramblings

At 10.30 on Sunday 13th December, the Council of the Welsh Bridge Union held its last meeting of 1998. Mild panic filled the room when Frank Scott-Verdon, the National Tournament Organiser arrived carrying an overnight bag, but dispersed when 2 files emerged.

A review of the last set of minutes led to the confirmation of the dates for the next season of internationals.

4/5 December 1999	England	East
8/9 January 2000	Scotland	North
29/30 January 2000	West	Junior Camrose

Finance Report

The Treasurer expects the WBU to break even in the current year. The recent home international match against Eire cost roughly £3400. Away matches are cheaper.

Proposals to AGM: WBU subscription 2000/2001 £5.00

Other proposals:

Grants Camrose £2200 / Lady Milne £3500 / Junior £4500

Honoraria: Last increased 4 years ago, now by 10% except Masterpoint Secretary and NTO due to increased workload.

Selection Committee

Having picked the winners of the trials to play Eire, we lost by 12-48. 4 different players have been brought in against England in early January.

Tournament & Masterpoint Committee Report

The Veterans pairs in 2 venues was a great success, but lost money due to food being booked for several pairs who backed out at the last minute. Frank has decided to send out garish notices to clubs, to attract entries. Club secretaries beware!

The change of date for Porthcawl Congress (Nov 11-14th) was noted.

Having contributed fully to the proceedings thus far, Patrick Jourdain then began the BBL report. The committee took one look & decided to take a break, only to be whipped back in after lunch. The BBL finances are fine as long as Britain fails to qualify for any World Championships.

Rules of international eligibility for Juniors have been expanded to include parent's birthplace. The possibility of Bridge in the Winter Olympics & Commonwealth Games was discussed. Bridge seems a much more natural partner for the slippery slopes of bobsleighbing than the smooth run of the 100m. (Well it is at my table!) Welsh delegates to BBL committees were nominated, and since most were not there to defend themselves, voted in.

Other Items

BBL 1 day events probably in Cwmbran in August 2000.

The Welsh Camrose team looked very fetching in polo shirts provided by a new sponsor.

Visiting teams will be transported from the local airport/ station by international match organisers. Preferably several punctures, a roundabout route, and a chauffeur with flu will mean visitors are not in peak condition at start of play. A dim view will be taken if any area fails in this duty.

An EBU Kit "bridge for all" was approved for use for an experimental period by teachers if interested.

Entry fees & table money for members under 20 to be reduced by 50% in WBU competitions (not congresses).

The newsletter editor pleaded insanity & was seeking a replacement.

The meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.

* The WELSH BRIDGE UNION has 2 vacancies. *

* Interested parties are invited to apply for the positions of: *

* Hon. Secretary *

* Lloyd Lewis, the present secretary wishes to retire at the AGM in May. *

* Anyone interested in taking over can contact Lloyd for an informal chat about *

* what is involved on 01792 296569, and nominations should be made in *

* writing by 18th April, signed by applicant and proposer, and sent to Lloyd *

* Lewis, Hon. Sec WBU, 15 Long Oaks Court, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 0QH. *

* Newsletter Editor *

* If you are interested in being newsletter editor, you are welcome to contact me *

* and apply in writing to Lloyd, preferably by 28th February. *
