

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

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Newsletter Spring 2000

Editorial

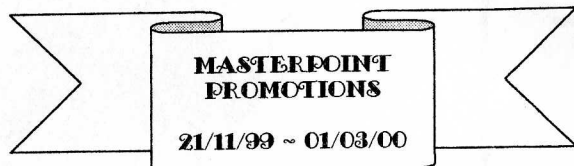
I hardly dare mention this, but Wales are doing very nicely indeed in the Camrose Home International matches. At the time of writing, they have won their three matches against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Only a match against the Republic of Ireland on the 10th/11th of March stands between them and their first ever Camrose victory. The current table is

Wales	179 VPs
Republic of Ireland	164 VPs
England	158 VPs (having played all 4 matches)
Scotland	127 VPs
Northern Ireland	90 VPs

Paul Denning, Peter Goodman, Adrian Thomas, Tim Rees, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff will be playing in Ireland with Jim Luck as npc.



The team that beat England in December

**Club Master**

Mrs Shirley Ash	BR
Mr Clifford Brown	S
Mr David Chadwick	M
Mrs Nancy Charles	CAS
Mr David Clay	D
Mr Andrew Dearing	BV
Mrs Mary Gardner	PN
Mr Colin Haldenby	LP
Mrs Maria Haldenby	LP
Mrs Margaret Hayward	GA
Mrs Eileen Jackson	M
Mrs Liz May	C
Miss Teresa Montoya	A
Mr Norman Ryley	SU

Local Master

Mr Bert Barnikel	T
Mrs Yvonne Baxter	T
Mr Roger Cradick	SU
Mrs Eileen Davies	S
Mr Huw Evans	S
Mr Edwin Jayne	GA
Mrs Frances Masters	H
Mrs Valda Vanloo	GA
Dr Meriel Williams	S
Mrs Pat Williams	NT

County Master

Mrs Jane Allen	WS
Ms Pearl Browning	CBY
Mrs Fortune Brunt	S
Mr Malcolm Cousins	BRE
Mr Ken Edwards	MG
Mrs Gail Evans	AM
Mrs Ann Gimblett	AG
Ms Isabel Good	C
Mrs Audrey Hall	PN
Mrs Jean Hardman	LD
Mr David Hughes	BR
Mr Timothy Kett	C
Miss Enid Rees	MG
Mrs Rosemarie Yates	GA

Master

Mrs Daphne Ball	GA
Mr Bob Cooper	WS
Mr Sid Craven	MB
Mr Julian Evans	R
Mrs Leanne Jayne	GA
Mr Martin Jones	L
Mr Allan Lewis	MG
Mrs Harriett Pearce-Geary	CBY
Mr Phil Reed	CRI
Mr John Roberts	MG
Mrs Kate Wynds	MB

Advanced Master

Mr Alan Ashton	CBY
Mr Adrian Daniel	S
Mr Eric Hitchings	GA
Mrs Marnie S-Dickson	RH
Mr Eric Tebbet	SU

1 Star Master

Mr Graham Ball	CBY
Mr Michael Brunt	S
Mrs Marie George	C
Mrs Judith E Jones	H
Mrs Aileen Lloyd	C
Ms Cindy Middleton	T
Mr Henry Page	LP

2 Star Master

Dr Jane Brook	BV
Mr Denzil Evans	A
Mr Nigel Key	MG
Mr Steve Webb	C

3 Star Master

Mr George B Powell	AG
Mrs Jean M Powell	AG
Mr G Wyn Robyns	M

4 Star Master

Mrs Liz Radcliff Jones	GA
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5 Star Master

Mrs Renate Cater	LD
Mr Kevin Hayes	AG
Mr Peter Haywood	GA
Mrs Marnie Owens	T
Mr John Raymond	OH
Mr Graham Simmons	MB
Mr Joe L Thomas	BV
Mrs Pat Thomas	BV
Mr Gordon Turcan	CR

Tournament Master

Mrs Marjorie Turcan	CR
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Regional Master

Dr Chris Davies	BR
Mrs Sheila Pike	CBY

Premier Regional Master

Mrs Olive Landeg	BSC
Mr Jurek Orlik	F

National Master

Mrs Sandra James	R
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Premier National Master

Mrs Andrea Martin	CN
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Life Master

Mr Philip Dunn	CA
Mrs Annie Favager	PN

Letters**Dear Editor
A VOW OF SILENCE!**

Having shared an experience similar to that reported by Adrian Trickey in the Newsletter of Spring 1999, I too will keep silent when an opponent makes a double which does not meet the normal requirement of a "take out double" when playing the ACOL system. My partner, North opened 1♠ with ♠AQxxx, ♥x, ♦10xx, ♣AK10. East doubled on ♠K10xx, ♥AKx, ♦Q954, ♣Jx! With 1-5-3-4 distribution and six HCP, I was pleased to pass. After 2♥ by West, my partner – not unreasonably expecting a favourable finesse position in trumps – jumped to 3♠, the final contract.

This was rather surprisingly made and feeling not at all disadvantaged, I mildly enquired on the nature of the double and suggested that some would consider it a psyche and that the director should be aware of this bid. The reaction of East implied that I was creating an unpleasant situation and that my behaviour was unacceptable. I made no response but later enquired whether the director considered the bid a psyche; although he agreed that the double did not meet ACOL standards, he did not wish to record a psyche.

I know many players are reluctant to pass hands that have opening values but are not strong enough to overcall INT. Partners, I have persuaded to pass by assuring them of my willingness to protect on minimum values. Opponents have been left to enjoy the consequences of such bids – expecting them to be to a handicap rather than an advantage.

Playing bridge for pleasure I am resolved to return to my silence on such matters. However directors might like to consider the problem further. Partnerships who make such doubles regularly will take a different meaning from a double than do their opponents and so will gain an unfair advantage – for it becomes a "fielded psyche". Certainly the system card should describe partnership methods fully. The card should describe such a double as "Opening Values, Any Distribution" – not "Take Out". John Jamieson, Swansea

Dear Editor**Devolution and International Bridge - What is in it for you ?**

Well, quite a lot. Since Wales will now have considerably more international opportunities to build on their recent successes, the Camrose trophy will require many additional new Welsh players. More areas will be able to claim International level players and more beginners and improvers will then have the opportunity to play against international players.

Sponsorship is already available to Junior players via events like the recent "Hero Junior teams" in Holland, where players were accommodated in local organisers homes to reduce the cost to the origination unions. Many of the senior players from all the home nations are already coaching and mentoring players participating in such events. At the other end of the spectrum, Wales will be invited to send teams to the increasingly popular senior events held all over the UK and Europe.

Where should you start ? Any player who plays in the Perry Shield or Spickett Bowl should seek every opportunity to play in the bi-annual European pairs and Senior pairs that are often held in very attractive Cities with cheap travel costs (eg Dusseldorf, Warsaw, Montecatini).

What if you're not selected for the Perry/Spickett/Camrose ? Perhaps the selectors have accidentally forgotten you. If you think you should have been selected, then even more reason to go to events such as the above - if only to prove them wrong. Just set yourself sensible targets, maybe just to qualify for the semi finals would be a great start.

But remember, the main aim of any player participating in Europe should be - not to do anything that spoils the enjoyment of your fellow players, whatever their Nationality.
Peter Goodman

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies

Over the weekend of January 29th/30th, 46 players (aged between 10 and 25) and 8 non-playing captains (of indeterminate age) assembled at The Rest in Porthcawl to contest the Junior Camrose (under 25's) and Peggy Bayer (under 20's) Trophies. Also present were a vast army of helpers, who had been recruited to direct, score, commentate and provide computer graphics and closed circuit TV. Unused to handling Welsh manpower, I had failed to anticipate that most of the 35 volunteers actually wanted to commentate, but after some redeployment the only vacancies remaining were for runners. I am grateful to the President of the WBU, Diana Panniers for taking on the role of Communications Coordination Executive.

Avid readers of the Newsletter will know from Winter 1998 that as hosts we are responsible for transporting visiting teams from the airport and station. "Executive Ramblings" in that issue said that a dim view would be taken of any Area failing in their duty to make this journey as difficult and uncomfortable as possible for the opponents.

Our President, as loyal as ever to the WBU, took her duties seriously and delegated to me responsibility for e-mailing directions for those arriving by road. I felt this to be a great honour, as I am not usually trusted to handle maps. Following my directions, "Turn right when you get to the sea (or is it left?)" the Scottish and English, unfortunately, arrived fresh and ready to play bridge. Diana did have one triumph, however, when the minibus company hired to meet people at Cardiff airport failed to locate the entire Northern Ireland Peggy Bayer Squad. Steve must have read the wrong script, however, as he jeopardised the safe return of one of the Irish team. He volunteered to give him a lift to the airport at 6.30 a.m. without taking the precaution of asking him which room number he would be oversleeping in!

The facilities at The Rest proved to be ideal. With playing areas all at ground level Mark was able to appear on Viewgraph for the first time ever. The snooker table was in use day and night. Poor Lloyd Lewis had to wait patiently in the bar until 5 a.m. to get to his turn to play. Bridge was also played day and night but only 90 hands really counted. The English dominated both events to the extent that in the final stanza they tried to play against themselves in the Junior Camrose competition. At this moment we were truly thankful to our expert commentary team who were quick to spot that England were playing NS in both rooms, and only two extra boards had to be prepared. The final results were:

Junior Camrose England 177, Scotland 131, Wales 128, Republic of Ireland 97
Peggy Bayer England 203, N. Ireland 127, Scotland 123, Wales 74

The Welsh under 25's were in second place until the final stanza when being a mere team of four began to take its toll and their stamina flagged. I didn't see a single hand of bridge played all weekend but, thanks to Chris Davies, I do have the hands, the bidding and leads stored in Excel format for all matches, if anyone is interested.

Many thanks to everyone who helped. Many thanks to Paul Cunningham and Jon Seavers, the Welsh nps. Congratulations to Mark Roderick, Mike Cleaton, Daffyd Jones, Jake Dunn, Catherine Evans, Claire Evans, Grace Thacker, James Backer, Tom Hillier and Ieuan Ward, who represented Wales so well.

VAK

Who would have thought that of the forty-six participants in the Junior Camrose that the biggest troublemaker would have been Mark Roderick, but when a card fell from a board and into the path of the wheels of his chair, trouble was bound to follow. Let the following correspondence be a warning to anyone who even thinks of crossing "Duplimate Queen", Anne Jones.

MURDER MOST FOUL

MARK RODERICK, You are charged with a crime most heinous.

THE INDICTMENT. Mark Roderick, you are charged that on the 29th day of January in the year 2000 at 5.30 in the afternoon, you, with malice aforethought, and using an offensive weapon, viz. your wheelchair, were guilty of the murder of the King of Diamonds. The King at the time of the crime was resident of Red board 29, in the pocket of your right hand opponent, a neighbour of yours.

THE SENTENCE. Mark Roderick you are sentenced to 3hrs hard labour. On the afternoon of Thursday 4th February in the year 2000 you will play bridge in the Cardiff Bridge Club with Irene Thomas.

THE APPEAL. I have recently had the misfortune of being found guilty of murdering the King of Diamonds with my wheelchair and because of this I was sentenced to 3 hours hard labour at the Cardiff Bridge Club chained to Irene "The Take Out Double" Thomas. Not only that but the concentration camp warden Anne Jones is particularly strict. In mitigation I can claim the following:

[A] I did not murder the King of Diamonds with my chair but with the Ace of Clubs.

[B] I did it out of anger when I found him in bed with my wife the Queen of Hearts.

[C] I have heard stories that the King of Diamonds was always offside whenever a finesse was taken against him. (For this alone I should be congratulated for doing a service for the community).

A POEM IN APPRECIATION OF THE APPEAL BEING ALLOWED

I was accused of a terrible crime
 I was scared of doing the time
 They said I killed the King of Diamonds
 This I learned by reading the summons.

The prosecutor said the weapon used was my wheelchair
 My solicitor said that this was totally unfair
 He was good, his name was John Glubb
 And he told them it was the Ace of Club.

After two weeks in court the jury found me guilty
 'Oh no who made my tea, it is far to milky'
 I was sentenced to 3 hours in jail
 They did not even allow me bail.

I did not know how to feel
 But John Glubb told me to appeal
 Very soon we were back in court
 It was tough but we really fought.

The Judge said that in the light of the new evidence
 That he would quash my very harsh sentence
 The court decided to give me compensation
 This I await with eager anticipation.



Mark Roderick, pictured at the Porthcawl Congress with WBU President, Diana Panniers.

Master Point of View

I've just realised why it was decided to make the year 2000 a leap year, it's because it's going along at leaps and bounds. I can not believe that it is March already and in a week or two the year end points will begin to flood in. At least I hope they will, it is so much easier to cope if there is a steady stream, than if everyone waits until the last minute.

I have to admit that when I turned on the Master Point computer for the first time in January 2000 I was fearful the Millennium bug would bite, but all was reasonably well. Of course, we had fiddled with the dates on the computer last year, pretended it was already 2000, and made some tests and changes to the program. Some old programs I use for our club work did give me problems though: "last modified in 1990" one said. Obviously even then my husband did not believe in the year 2000. When I've finished writing this I have to try the promotions program for the first time this year (fingers crossed! I don't want the Newsletter editor complaining I'm late) and after that the Gold Point program must have its annual run in May. I'll be glad when we are safely in 2001. We were surprised to hear people complaining that as no serious problems arose, the money spent preparing for the Millennium Bug was wasted. Surely it would only have been wasted if there had been trouble. My husband's very old computer now thinks it is 1980 and can't be persuaded otherwise.

Hoping to save members the bother of phoning to find out, I'll give my usual reminder: the last day for registration of masterpoints is the last day of April. I'm sure someone will now mutter "Thirty days hath September, April, May... etc." (Whenever did I last write, "hath"? Sounds as if I'm lithping.) When you send your points in, please remember to total them for me, and make sure there is enough postage, otherwise they may languish in the main post office until I can get there to collect them. If you are not sure if your letter is overweight, put a 26p. stamp on rather than a "1st". It seems to me that the Post Office are much more critical when first class stamps are used.

I remember mentioning a long time ago that people sometimes confuse the new-ish First Class stamps with one penny stamps, thus wasting their money. Recently I saw the reverse, a letter arrived not with a Second Class stamp but a two penny one; I can not imagine how this crept through the Post Office's marvellous machines without being noticed. Someone saved 17 pence there. I was amazed by this as I find excess postage is so often demanded for letters only a fraction of a gram (bring back our ounces!) over the weight allowed by the stamps. Although I suppose I should not criticise the Post Office too much, for recently a parcel was delivered normally, even though most of the stamps, which had been stuck on to the plastic wrapping, had fallen off.

It has been fairly quiet on the master point front lately, all to the good as I have been adapting myself to help to care for my granddaughter. On one occasion, when I was about to drive to Hampshire for baby-sitting and thinking how good I was, a member phoned with a query and then told me she was also just off to baby-sit. But to Istanbul! I decided I'd lost that contest.

As if to remove all doubt about who is the oldest Welsh bridge player, Wilson Warhurst of Llandudno club recently had his hundredth birthday. He is no longer a member of the WBU but still plays regularly. I was sent a photograph of Wilson and the ten cakes, each with ten candles, that were made to celebrate. They were all arranged on a small table, (or they were very large cakes) and presumably the new centenarian had to work his way around to blow them out. Twelve with the first breath, I was told.

It is a long time since I heard of any peculiarities at the bridge table. This one I saw myself from dummy's seat, late one Tuesday night. One of the last cards of a suit was led from dummy, ruffed by the next opponent, under-ruffed by declarer, then over-ruffed by the other opponent. Obviously time some of them went home to bed.

Just as I was finishing this a great pile of letters came through the door, it looks as if the year-end rush has started already, so I'll have to get busy.

Sincerely,

Noelle

Welsh Bridge Union Secretary

Interested parties are invited to apply for the post of Hon. Secretary to the Welsh Bridge Union. Nominations should be made in writing by April 16th 2000, signed by the applicant and proposer and sent to:

Linda Greenland, 31 Deri Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF2 5AH.

The Responsibilities of the Secretary are as follows:

1. To prepare and distribute the agenda, in consultation with the President, of all meetings of the Executive Council and the AGM
2. To record the minutes of the meetings referred to in 1.
3. To liaise with other unions when we have matches against them.
4. To look after correspondence.
5. To answer queries about Congresses and Green Pointed Events.
6. To issue licenses for holiday events.
7. To order and distribute WBU diaries.

**Impressions from my first Camrose:
Wales v England by Tim Rees**

My first Camrose match for Wales was to be against England at Newport on 4th/5th December. Wales got off to a good start by having matching red shirts with a WBU logo (supplied by Mike Hirst), which generated a good team spirit from the outset.

Patrick Jourdain put Peter Goodman and myself on Viewgraph for the first set; the set went reasonably smoothly and the scores finished level. The first match ended with Wales winning 60-56 (16-14 in VPs).

There was an interesting play problem at the start of the second match:

Love all, Dealer N

♠A96	
♥Q	
♦K98743	
♣K95	
♠Q543	♠J8
♥KJ9	♥6432
♦J62	♦AQ5
♣742	♣J1086
♠K1072	
♥A10873	
♦10	
♣AO3	

The auction was the same at both tables:

Dhondy	Thomas	Pagan	Denning
Goodman	Senior	Rees	Ray
W	N	E	S
-	1D	P	1H
P	2D	P	3NT
P	P	P	

The lead at both tables was the S3 to the 6, 8 and 10. How should declarer play?

Declarer can play on hearts (either small to the queen or cross to table to run the queen) or diamonds (either run the ten or play to the king). For Wales, Paul Denning chose to play a small heart at trick 2; when the nine came down on the second round he had three hearts, three spades and three clubs for nine tricks. The defence could not take more than two hearts and two diamonds.

For England, Steve Ray ran the D10 (playing for West to hold QJx, Jx or Qx). This lost to the jack and a spade was returned to the ace. When the DK did not drop the jack, dummy did not have the entries to set up and cash the diamonds, so declarer had to play on hearts. Before declarer could make 9 tricks, the defence had three diamonds and two hearts available for one down. In fact, when West played a club through, East played a playful 10, to offer declarer the chance to finesse the 9 to get to his diamonds after all. He tried this, so went two down. The Viewgraph audience was asked "How do you play Kxx opposite AQx for three tricks?"

At the end of the first 20 boards of the second match, Wales had a narrow lead of 6 IMPs. I had been warned that the last set of Saturday night was where Wales traditionally lost a lot of IMPs. The score on this set turned out to be 46-4, but to Wales! Wales gained 17 IMPs when they bid a better slam than England, and the other swings mostly came from accurate defence defeating English contracts. The result of match 2 was 76-29 (23-7 in VPs).

- ♠Void
- ♥AJ963
- ♦AQJ942
- ♣AJ

On Sunday, although we only needed a few VPs to win the weekend and take the Pierce Cup, we were determined to win the last match as well. What I thought was the most interesting bidding problem of the match came up during the first set:

You are third in hand at game all, and partner opens a weak 2S (thank you, partner!). What is your plan for the auction?

You could pass 2S, but this is rather pessimistic, and even 2S may go down. You really want to find out if partner has a fit, and if not, whether you can make 3NT. One approach is to bid 2NT as an enquiry – whether this is useful depends on your methods for responding to 2NT. If you play that opener shows his points/suit quality, the reply will be useless for finding a fit. If opener shows features or singletons, you may be able to deduce a fit. Unfortunately, if partner has a bad hand, he will bid 3S and you won't know where to go next.

The other approach is to bid one of your suits. Both players who held this hand (Pagan and Rees) bid 3D. When I bid 3D, this was invitational. Peter Goodman bid 3S (showing a good spade suit but a minimum) giving me a further problem. I hadn't come this far to pass, so I had a choice between 3NT and 4H. As partner could have bid 3H to show a feature, I bid 3NT. This was passed round to my right-hand opponent who doubled. In my younger days, it would have been considered cowardly not to pass (or redouble!). I thought discretion was called for, so I removed to 4D, which ended the auction. The full deal was:

Game all, Dealer W

♠KJ2	
♥KQ42	
♦73	
♣Q873	
♠Q1098753	♠
♥108	♥AJ963
♦K5	♦AQJ942
♣42	♣AJ
	♠A64
	♥75
	♦1086
	♣K10965

When South led a heart, 4D made ten tricks for +130. Even with partner having the DK, 3NT would have been one down on a club lead. At the other table, when Ian Pagan bid 3D it was forcing, so Jeremy Dhondy had to bid 4S to show his extra spade length. Pagan had nowhere to go, and 4S went one down on the HK lead. Wales gained 6 IMPs. Wales were a few IMPs ahead throughout the final match, which finished 80-63 (18-12 VPs), making the score over the weekend 57-33 to Wales.

All that remained was the celebration dinner and speeches, followed by drinking into the night...

From a player's point of view, the match went very smoothly. Linda Greenland and her team of helpers worked hard behind the scenes to make sure that the players only had to worry about the bridge problems. The Viewgraph theatre was full for both afternoons, with computer graphics to display the hands.

I am looking forward to many more wins, and perhaps even for Wales to win the Camrose trophy for the first time.

Wales verses the World

Peter Goodman shares his diary of events in Bermuda, when he played in the team captained by Jeremy Dhondy. Goodman, Dhondy, Kay and Pownall were the only all British team participating. (final position 9th / 76)

The Transnational Teams is a fairly new event that was first held in Tunisia in 1997, and will now be played alongside the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup every 2 years. Each team consists of between 4,5 or 6 players, they can belong to any NCBO and do not have to belong to the same national organisation. The event consists of 14 rounds of 10 board Swiss Teams after which the top 4 play a knockout event to determine the overall winner. The remaining teams play a further 2 round to determine their overall rank. Welsh interest was represented, as in Tunisia, by Patrick Jourdain & Peter Goodman although they were competing in different teams. This is one of the highest quality events that is open for anyone to enter.

Saturday Jan 15th Teams that fail to qualify for the last 8 of the Bermuda Bowl join the Transnational teams at this stage, including World Champions France and European ladies champions Great Britain. Other teams include the Hackett Twins, Omar Sharif & Paul Chemla.

Sunday Jan 16th Rounds 1-2 Normally all the foreign teams play an American team in round 1 and follow a normal Swiss movement after that. After scoring 23 vp in our first match we met Patrick Jourdain's GB/Sweden team and scored another 23vps, to lead the field after 2 matches. Maureen Dennison for Patrick's team had to bid after

Pass Pass 1H 3NT

With ♠Q, ♥xxxxx, ♦AKQxx, xx, she choose 4H and found her partner with ♠Axx, ♥AKJxx, ♦Jxx, ♣Ax and missed 6H. West held ♠Jx, ♥-, ♦xx, ♣KQ109xxxx for his 3NT bid.

Monday Jan 17th Rounds 3-6

Round 3 saw the Dhondy team lose 16-14 to the top Canadian team led by Katz. Round 4 saw a 17-13 loss to eventual runner up Milner, a team containing at least one former World champion.

Round 5 resulted in a 15-15 draw against Bermuda Bowl's Bulgarian national team who eventually came 4th. Round 6 saw a comfortable 25-5 win against a top Canadian team containing the Elkabads. Once again Dhondy's team found themselves at the top of the leader board.

Tuesday Jan 18th Rounds 7-10 A match against the GB/American team led by Paul Hackett resulted in a 17-13 win for Dhondy.

Wednesday Jan 19th Rounds 8-10 The next two rounds saw a 16-14 win and two 20-10 losses, Dhondy's team had slipped to 21st place as the field were catching up. The reward for reaching the depths of table 13 was to meet former French world champions "Peron & Moulet". This resulted in a 20-10 win. Dhondy now had to play the South African national team on table 10, and a 23-7 win moved them back up the leader board.

Thursday Jan 20th Rounds 11-16 A poor start to the final day saw Dhondy's team slip out of contention and they found themselves in 9th place needing to beat current World Champion Paul Chemla in the last round to stay in the top 10. When the World champions played on a 3-3 fit at the four level (doubled), Dhondy's team had recorded a notable win



The View from the top table at the Transnational Teams

Mike Pownall shakes hands with John Armstong as Peter Goodman peeps over the screens.

Obituary

Ken Cornish who died in February was one of the great "behind the scenes" workers of Welsh Bridge. When his wife Barbara was Masterpoints Secretary, they worked as a team, he added the points and she recorded them. For many years, he was Equipment Officer for the Porthcawl Congress, a task that involved making up umpteen sets of boards.

He was married to Barbara for fifty seven years and we wish to express to her the sympathy of her many friends in the bridge community.

Useful Addresses

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val@kennewell.freemove.co.uk

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 Telephone: 029 2069 3225 frankscott@verdon37.freemove.co.uk

Masterpoints Secretary

Noelle Bond, 45 Buttrills Rd, Barry, CF62 8EG
Noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk

Apologies to Frank for my mistake in the previous issue and even more apologies to the people whose telephone number I gave instead of Frank's.

Where Now?

In 1997, the WBU decided to hold all its National Finals at the Metropole Hotel, in Llandrindod Wells. This decision was taken in order to "share" the travel and accommodation burden among the four Areas, since even most members of the Mid Wales Bridge Association have to stay overnight for a two-day event. The events staged there are :-

- The Mens and Ladies Teams in September
- The Graded Masters in January
- The Mixed Pairs in February
- The Open Pairs in March
- The Mens and Ladies Pairs in April
- The Webber Cup in May
- The Teams of Eight in June

At the end of the two year trial, there are mixed opinions about whether:-
 (a) the National Finals should continue to be held at The Metropole Hotel; or
 (b) the National Finals should continue in Llandrindod Wells at all.

Over the past year, some criticism of the Metropole Hotel has been heard, but it also has strong supporters. Its positive benefits include generally adequate space for our events, whilst its negative aspects include its sometimes apparently cavalier treatment of players in respect of food and coffee facilities.

Within Llandrindod Wells, there are other places that we can use. These include the Pavilion, which has recently been refurbished and whose management seems quite keen to have us there.

Should it be decided to move away from Llandrindod Wells, two alternatives have so far been considered (but no decision reached). The first is to revert to the pre-1998 practice of spreading the finals among the Areas on a strictly rotational basis. The second is to allocate them over a period of time in proportion to the number of members in each Area: in crude terms this means that Mid and North Wales would stage one final for every three in East and West Wales.

Whilst any decision will be too late to affect the venues for the 2000-2001 playing season, the WBU Executive is keen to hear members' views before reaching a decision. If you would like to express an opinion, would you please complete the form below, or send your views on no more than one side of A4 to me – Frank Scott-Verdon, 37 Heol Hendre, CARDIFF, CF14 6PL – or e-mail me at WBU.NTO@u.genie.co.uk

Llandrindod Wells		Outside Llandrindod	
Metropole	Yes/No	Straight rotation in Areas	Yes/No
Elsewhere in Llandrindod	Yes/No	Proportional to Area numbers	Yes/No



**NORTH WALES
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

Spring Congress

*Friday 7th - Sunday 9th
April 2000*

*St. George's Hotel
The Promenade, Llandudno
North Wales*

**A TWO-DAY GREEN-POINTED
SWISS TEAMS EVENT**
(Saturday and Sunday)

MENS PAIRS & LADIES PAIRS
(Friday Afternoon)

PRE CONGRESS PAIRS
(Friday Evening)

Contact:
Jean Hand
15 Chester Close
Shotton
Deeside CH5 1AU

01244 830246

Lady Milne Trophy 2000

The following ladies have been selected to represent Wales in The Lady Milne Trophy in May.

Margaret Lane and Liz Atkinson
Ann Hirst and Linda Greenland
Gilly Clench and Diana Harris

**Seniors International Cup
Maastricht**

Entries are invited from Seniors teams (all members over 55) to represent Wales in the Senior International Cup in Maastricht. The qualification stage takes the form of a round robin, played from 27th August to 2nd September 2000. The WBU will pay the entry fee for the team \$1400, but the players make arrangements for travel & accommodation at their own expense. Applications should be made to Linda Greenland, 31 Deri Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF2 5AH by April 21st.

**East and West Wales Bridge
Associations
Green Pointed Weekend**

Saturday 5th August Swiss Pairs

Sunday 6th August Swiss Teams

County Hall Cwmbran

**Details from Ken Richardson, 31 Deri Road,
Cardiff, CF23 5AH 02920 255162**

Executive Ramblings – extracted highlights of the December Council meeting

The meeting opened at 10:30 am with a chorus of "Guide me O thou Great Redeemer" in celebration of the result of the glorious Camrose Match against England – In case you missed it: Wales 57 – England 33.

After the minutes, matters arising, and a finance report, the Chairman of Selectors introduced himself. Chris Rochelle does not often admit to this role in public, but had judged that now was a good time to "come out". The Welsh team to play Scotland in January was to be: Thomas & Denning, Goodman & Rees, Jourdain & Ratcliff, NPC Hirst. Council hoped that the match result would enable the selectors to join them again in March.

The NTO then took centre stage and reported on the success of the Veteran pairs, won overall by Liam and Maureen Sheridan. The executive also agreed to run a heat of the Portland Pairs in Cwmbran, to be administered centrally from now on by the EBU. A long discussion took place on the suitability of potential venues for events, in particular the Graded Masters. Since moving to Llandrindod, the number of entries has dropped by an average of 20 pairs. This was an experiment that has not yet proven successful; a venue in West Wales will be sought for the Graded Masters in January 2001, and a decision as to its final resting place taken afterwards. The subject of prize money was raised, and prize money will be raised in future.

The BBL delegate's report caused West Wales to accuse East Wales of gazumping and cornering the market in duplimate machines, however since a member of the Laws & Ethics committee was present, this was amended to "alleged gazumping". Upon being questioned, Eric Favager, chairman of East Wales reluctantly admitted the charge, but in defence said he didn't know what he was doing at the time. No one in council was going to argue with that!

The constitution of the WBU was briefly discussed. An amendment that allows us to play international matches outside Wales will be put to the AGM in May.

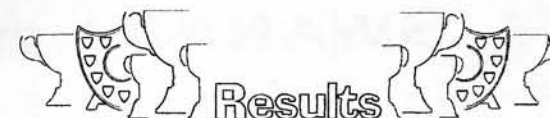
The Treasurer was appointed to the Congress committee for the "Not-the-BBL" Llangollen Swiss Teams, and given permission to twist arms to find other committee members; volunteers are also welcome, so please make yourself known if you want to help.

Mid Wales were particularly pleased to report the discovery of another Welsh Junior player. This brings the total up to 9; the race is now on to reach double figures. The junior co-ordinator will be invited to the next council meeting to discuss strategy and the imminent junior championships in Turkey.

Forthcoming home Camrose matches were confirmed as 6-7th Jan 2001 v NIBU – East, 24-25th Feb 2001 v CBAI – Mid, 23-24th Feb 2002 v EBU – North, 9-10th March 2002 Single Venue Final East/West joint venture (possibly – if the duplimate wars have ended by then).

Max Powell expressed the opinion that the office of President, which is intended to be an honour for services to Welsh Bridge, is currently more of a burden due to the workload it imposes and the complexity of running the WBU. By the time you have got to grips with it, it is somebody else's turn. Areas were asked to consider the merits of appointing a "chairman" to run the WBU for five years, and making the President a figurehead. Whether you can find somebody suitable and willing to take on this unenviable task is another matter entirely.

On this thought the meeting was officially closed at 2:30 pm: a new record.

**Graded Masters****Section 1**

1 Simon Edwards	Trevor Towers
2 Gilly Clench	Laura Woodruff
3 Tom Reddy	Rob Charlesworth

Section 2

1 Joe Patrick	Chris Rochelle
2 Phillip Dunn	Patrick Maslin
3 Beryl Warner	J Hurst

Section 3

1 Noelle Bond	Nigel Baker
2 Barry Jones	Kevin Jones
3 Gwynne Maddox	Kevin Maddox

Section 5

1 Colin Thomas	L Thomas
2 John Walker	Kate Walker
3 John Wain	J Orlik

Section 6

1 Pat Crowley	Vivienne Price
2 Michael Brunt	Fortune Brunt
3 Lee Collier	Gloria Walters

Winners of the Thomas James Cup.

M Banks and B Schofield

National Mixed Pairs

1. L.Greenland, K.Richardson 58.64%
2. D.Kurbalija, F.Kurbalija 57.10%
3. L.Woodruff, M.Close 57.01%

International Masters

1 David Hamilton	Philip Felman
2 Patrick Jourdain	Tony Ratcliff
3 David Birt	Geoff Evans

Veterans Pairs

- 1 Maureen and Liam Sheridan
- 2 Joe Patrick and Philip Felman
- 3 J Orlick and J Wain

East Wales Congress Swiss Teams

1 M HIRST	J LUCK	B GOLDENFIELD	R GOLDENFIELD
2 S STRACHAN	H INGHAM	A BOOTHROYD	P SCARES
3 C DRAPER	G CLENCH	A SCOTT	M HAMPTON

East Wales Congress Pairs

1 PAUL CUNNINGHAM	BJORN THORLAKSSON
2 TREVOR TOWERS	ADRIAN THOMAS
3 CAROLYN FISHER	JANE HALL

East Wales Congress Novice Pairs

1 BOB MARRIOTT	PETE CLARK
2 JOAN ANDREWS	ANGELA HOLLAND
3 MARGARET GERRARD	GRAHAM GERRARD



SWANSEA
Bridge ♦ Congress
Charity Event

**in aid of the Teenage Cancer Care Unit
Singleton Hospital**

Reg Charity No. 1050866

To be held at

Swansea Bridge Club

22 St. James Gardens, Swansea

Tel: 01792 466965

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2000

Prize Money - 25% Entry Fees

Saturday 17th June

2.00pm Pairs

7.30pm Pairs

Challenge Cups - Overall Winners
& Top Mixed Pair

Prizes to 3rd place

Sunday 18th June

1.00pm Swiss Teams

6 X 8 board Rounds

Round Prizes and Prizes to 3rd place

Entry Fee £16.00 per player

Car Security.

Refreshments available if required or bring your own.

Prize giving Sunday 7.30pm

Sponsors: Boots the Chemist

Entries to: Diana Panners, 13 Llewellyn Street, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AL. Tel: 01792 297081

Name: Telephone No.

Address:

Partner:

Team Members:

Entry: £16 per player

Cheques to be made payable to Swansea Bridge Congress