



The Welsh Foursomes

This year's event was the thirtieth and, sadly, the last one to be organised by Max Powell. It is difficult to imagine the Welsh Foursomes without Max and we wish him all the best in his 'retirement'.



Sixty six teams competed, the first three being:

1. Gilly Clench, Mr and Mrs Draper, G Tredinnick
2. Jim Luck, Mike Hirst, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield
3. Val Kennewell, Steve Kennewell, Diana Panniers, Bryn Gravenor

Ladies' Welsh Cup

1. Ann Hirst, Linda Greenland, Diana Harris and Gilly Clench
2. Mary Moore, Marjorie Morris, Sue Ingham, Laura Woodruff
3. Noelle Bond, Isabel Evans, Eileen Hughes and Irene Thomas

Men's Teams

1. Dean Hardie, Filip Kurbalija, Patrick Joudain and Tony Ratcliff
2. Barry Jones, Kevin Jones, Bryan Edwards and Paddy Murphy

Simultaneous Pairs

The BGB Simultaneous Pairs takes place on Friday 17th November. One quarter of the profit from this event, played in the whole of Britain, will come to the WBU

The WBU Simultaneous Pairs is on 23rd November.

Answers to Quiz in Summer 2000 Newsletter

1. Losing Trick Count
2. Watching the pips
3. Punching Dummy
4. Stripe tailed ape
5. Grand Slam Force
6. Transferring the Menace
7. Criss Cross Squeeze
8. Isolating the Menace
9. Rule of Eleven
10. Rectify the Count
11. Queen of Hearts
12. Flint Pender
13. Dummy Reversal
14. Vienna Coup
15. Little Major

Joint prize winners were Diana Jones and Jim Luck

Newsletter Editor

Val Kennewell, 39 Pastoral Way, Swansea, SA2 9LY Val@Kennewell.freemove.co.uk

WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Maastricht Open Teams
Pages 2 and 3

Maastricht Senior Teams
Pages 4 and 5

Masterpoint Promotions
Page 7

Master Point of View
Pages 6 and 7

Minibrige
Page 10

Welsh Juniors in Turkey
Pages 14 and 15



Newsletter Autumn 2000

Editorial

At the time of going to press with the last newsletter I was unaware that Joe and Daphne Patrick, Don and Eileen Jenkins and Phil and Pearl Duncan would be representing Wales in the Seniors Event at Maastricht. The picture below proves that they did in fact go and found themselves mixing with some famous names.



Talk of Senior's events reminds me that the WBU Council has destroyed the tiny silver lining to the huge cloud that is my forthcoming birthday. In bringing the WBU definition of Senior into line with International definitions, they seem to have deprived me of the chance to participate in Welsh Seniors competitions for the next five years, even if I had found a sixty year old daft enough to play with me!

11th World Bridge Olympiad – Maastricht August 2000

Peter Goodman

History

From Jan 1st 2000, Wales devolved from the rest of Britain for International Bridge purposes. We have now been given the opportunity to field international teams at both World & European Level. This has been both good and bad for our top players, some players who may have qualified to represent GB with non-Welsh partners, have had to make a tough decision to re-align themselves with Welsh qualified partners. On balance the chance of regular competition against the best players in the world can only help raise the level and aspirations of the current Squad members and a growing band of up and coming players.

The Preparation

In the five weeks leading up to the event each player had the laborious task of reading the 51 system cards relating to all of the possible opponents, together with many pages of additional notes provided by most of the partnerships. Screens would be used for all matches and fortunately all the team had considerable experience of these from the Premier league. Seven days of 60 boards a day would be required, even more if we progress to the knockout stages.

The Audience

The venue was excellent, and two very large theatres were used for vu-graph presentation in two different languages. Further vu-graph coverage was available via the internet, using the new e-bridge web site. In future you will be able to follow the performance of Welsh squad members in the new i-Cymru⁽¹⁾ team on the OK-Bridge (Plug: A financial sponsor is urgently required!)

The Event

Wales were drawn in the toughest of the 4 groups, and the pundits could realistically rank 11 of the 18 teams ahead of Wales, even though Wales had been seeded ahead of both England & Scotland by virtue of the previous 2 seasons Camrose results.

The top four teams in each group progress to the knockout stage. The Welsh team contained players of considerable international experience at Camrose level, but only time would tell if this would be adequate preparation for the teams we would meet. Wales would play the bookmakers' favorites, Poland, in their 2nd match.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

▲ A J	▲ -	▲ 10 9 8 7 3 2
♥ Q 8 3	♥ K 6 5	♥ J 7 4 2
♦ A J 5 2	♦ K Q 10 6 4	♦ 3
♣ J 10 8 7	♣ K 9 6 4 3	♣ 5 2
	▲ K Q 6 5 4	
	♥ A 10 9	
	♦ 9 8 7	
	♣ A Q	

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

Match 5 saw Wales face the section leaders, Belgium. How would you have played hand 18 after the 3♥ lead. In practice you have very few losing options.

But ... Zvi Engel pulled out the Q♥! . Not surprisingly the Welsh declarer placed Zvi with the J♥, he drifted 1- off, 11 imps and the match to Belgium.

Conclusion

Our lack of experience in competitions of this quality can be used as an excuse for a series of poor results in the middle of the event. On the positive side it was good to have a strong finish in the last 5 rounds, where we outscored many of the highly fancied teams. The highlight, probably, was our convincing victory against Canada.

The Future

I hope we continue to support our international teams, at this level. Some of our players have given up a fair size chunk of their annual leave to represent their Country in these events and we all very much appreciated the partial financial assistance offered by the Welsh Bridge Union and former British Bridge League for this event.

It is well within the capabilities of a Welsh team, playing at (but probably above) their ability to qualify for the latter stages of these events. Ireland, who only narrowly pipped Wales to the British title a few months ago, missed qualification by a mere 6 VPs.

Overload

We draw to the end of our first season as a full bridge nation, and can look back on the most successful season in the history of Welsh international bridge. The Welsh squad members have been amongst the most successful players in British bridge this year, and fully support the squad system introduced last year to reduce the commitments of our senior players. Next years' international calendar is looking busy again, but the opportunities are now available for many more people to participate.

It was very refreshing to see Joe Patrick's team make their international debut at Maastricht in the Seniors' team, an event littered with former world champions and other celebrities. I look forward to seeing many more of you at the European Pairs in Sorrento next March. – no selection required.

(1) For further details about bridge on the net:- email iCymru@btinternet.com

The Welsh Ladies Team – Maastricht 2000

The Welsh Ladies team competing in Maastricht finished seventeenth in their group, winning seven and drawing one of their nineteen matches.

South Wales National Congress Porthcawl

9th – 12th November 2000
Green pointed Pairs and Teams

Contact: Diana Panners 01792 297081

Maastricht 2000 11th Bridge Olympiad – The Seniors Team

Joe Patrick

We accepted the invitation to play in the World Olympiad for the Welsh Seniors with some trepidation and not a little fear. The team consisted 3 married couples who between us had 143 years of married bliss!!! The team was Joe (captain) & Daphne Patrick, Don & Eileen Jenkins, and Phil & Pearl Duncan. Fortunately Linda Greenland (WBU Treasurer) was very helpful and guided us through the problems of Hotels and WBF convention cards. So the day arrived when we boarded the flight from Cardiff with a change at Amsterdam. Of course the inevitable happened and we arrived with no luggage. However the Dutch Bridge Federation were there to meet us and helped us to register our loss with KLM and take us to our Hotel. Already we were meeting bridge players from all over the world who were immersed in bridge magazines and books, which didn't help our confidence. Saturday was spent telephoning KLM and replacing our wardrobe, which was no chore for Daphne. Then Don & Eileen arrived - with no luggage, of course. We attended the spectacular opening ceremony rubbing shoulders with the elite of the world's bridge players in the evening. Sunday - All luggage has arrived and we go to the MECC centre proudly wearing our polo shirts proclaiming to the world that the Welsh Seniors Team 2000 has arrived. Joe attended the Captains meeting before the commencement of the tournament.

Match 3 was very close against **Netherlands Antillens**. We thought the match had been lost through clever declarer play on one hand

However after the match in the evening when discussing the hands with the print-out. It became clear a card appeared to be missing from another hand when N.A had sacrificed in 7 ♣, namely the 8 ♦. The hand which caused the problem is given below:- the bidding went

N / NS	♠ T9765	1♠	3♣	4♣	5♣
	♥ K7	P	P	5♠	6♣
	♦ AKJT	P	P	6♣	7♣
	♣ Q7	P	P	×	P
♠ 8		♠ K			
♥ T945		♥ QJ43			
♦ Q752		♦ 8			
♣ T93		♣ AK86542			
	♠ AQJ432.				
	♥ A82				
	♦ 9643				
	♣				

The A♥ was led- then small to the K. Eileen switched to the K♦ which was ruffed by declarer, who entered dummy twice to ruff 2 more ♦, eventually showing an all black hand and conceding a spade. Joe contacted the chief T.D. at 11pm who agreed to a review the next day. The investigation resulted in

the result being reversed. However N.A. appealed stating the A♠ had been led and then the Q resulting in a ruff & discard. The appeal committee upheld the decision of the T.D and so 16 VPS to Wales

Match 8 v Egypt

This was the match the ladies had been waiting for. It was decided a coin would be tossed to see who would be sitting next to Omar Sharif in the open room. Pearl won the toss but Daphne was not to be out done and asked Omar if he would have his photo taken with her. He was charm itself and put his arm about her for the picture.

The match was lost (not surprisingly). However there was one redeeming feature. You are North in 4♠. How do you play for 10 tricks? The lead is the 2 of spades.

S/EW	♠ J965	
	♥ AT97	
	♦ 43	
	♣ AK8	
♠ K		♠ 842
♥ K53		♥ J82
♦ KJ765		♦ AQT8
♣ J972		♣ T43
	♠ AQT73	
	♥ Q64	
	♦ 92	
	♣ Q65	
The bidding was	1NT- 2H(transfer)	
	2S-3S	
	4S	

After considerable thought Joe went up with the A♣. The trumps were drawn and clubs eliminated. A diamond exit and Egypt had to open up the heart suit eventually. In the open room Omar was in 3S making

Match 15 v U.S.A

This was an improvement losing to the eventual winners of the Cup 11-19 VPS a team which included Bobby Wolff. We gained 11 imps on this hand:-

N/EW	♠ A2				
	♥ K846				
	♦ 52				
	♣ KQ654				
♠ K63		♠ J98754			
♥ AQ3		♥ 6			
♦ J874		♦ KT63			
♣ T92		♣ A3			
	♠ Q7				
	♥ JT975				
	♦ AQ9				
	♣ J87				

The bidding in the open room was
 1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 2♣
 3♥ 3♣ 4♥ 4♣
 P P P with Wales playing for one down
 In the closed room Wales were allowed to play in 4♥ making

Wales were 23rd with 220 VPS. They were above Venezuela who had 156VPS but below Netherlands Antillens with 224 VPS.

This was a wonderful experience and we are all convinced our Bridge has improved!

Tournament Director Coordinator

Ken Richardson has been appointed as Tournament Director Coordinator. Anyone interested in going on a Directors Course should let their Area Secretary or Ken know.

Master Point of View

NOELLE BOND

In early September, I played in the Welsh Foursomes' weekend at Porthcawl, I have done so many times before, but this time, mainly at my husband's urging, I stayed there overnight instead of travelling back and forth. Much more relaxing, and more time to enjoy talking to others who were there. As my husband came with me, I think he may have just wanted a little holiday himself. For once I had the chance to congratulate a newly promoted Grand Master before he knew himself. Some points directly entered into the computer had taken John Glubb to this rank but it seemed he had not realised promotion was so near, and was quite surprised, which surprised me. I find that people usually know when they are near a promotion, and often call me to find out exactly how many more points they need. For the higher ranks, of course, people are usually looking for Greens, but occasionally a person who plays more at weekend events than at a club has plenty of Greens, but is trying to gain the requisite number of humble Local points. I wish it were like that for me!

One of my team mates at Porthcawl, who has not played much lately, needed just a fragment of a Green point for a promotion, which put pressure on the rest of us, especially as we did not do very well on Saturday. Fortunately we were a little better on Sunday, and she could be heard crying out loudly in excitement as we scored up.

Do you remember Sheila Shea's story about meeting a fairy and being told she could have a wish granted? It was printed in the newsletter but perhaps I should remind you. First Sheila asked if the fairy could repair her three-legged dog, but the fairy said that was far too difficult. So then Sheila asked if she could be made to play bridge like a Grand Master. "Hmm," said the fairy, "Let me take another look at your dog." Whilst my husband was sitting on the sea front at Porthcawl, he noticed a dog, with one front leg missing, running about on the grass in a sort of quickstep and bounce. He said he knew Sheila must be playing there (which she was) and that next time she should find a better fairy.

Whenever I play anywhere outside the local clubs, I usually take a box for people to put their master points in to save them postage, so I had this with me when playing in the Ladies' teams at Llandrindod Wells recently. Whilst we were sitting at a table, towards the end of the evening, one of the others there asked if I would take her points. I said of course, and pointed out my box on a shelf, expecting her to produce a Master Point card wrapped around a thick wad of points. She dug around in her handbag for a while then carefully laid on the table a solitary green slip. I said, "Is that all," and picked it up expecting to read some high number, but found it was for just ten locals. My partner and I collapsed in laughter. (Weren't we cruel?) I had another single ten local points sent in earlier in the year (although I think that was in fun). I hope this is not the beginning of a trend. Entering all the millions of points people earn ten at a time would mean the 2000/2001 year end would probably not be finished until about 2020, though I hope to have retired by then.

Now I want to be serious for a moment. Like many people, I suppose, I always think of January and February as the worst time of year for, especially during a hard winter, we seem to lose so many of our loved ones and friends then. But now I wonder whether it really is, for in the last month or so, I have heard of so many WBU members who have died recently. It seemed that every few days I got a phone call or a letter with more bad news. Some were people I knew well, others I knew from letters they sent with their points, others I did not know, but it was always sad to hear about them. Then one morning my heart skipped a beat, for among the mail was a letter addressed to me in the distinctive handwriting of a member whose death I had heard of a little while before.

When I opened the letter, almost afraid to read it, I found it was from his son, whose handwriting bore a remarkable resemblance to his father's. He enclosed his father's last master points, and asked if I would enter them into the system. His father had been saving them up hoping to, as the letter said, "spring from Four Star Master.... straight to Regional Master" and his family wanted to know if he had managed it. I have had others send in their late spouse's points, even when they do not play themselves. Even when we don't share an enthusiasm it can become an inseparable part of the people we love.

I do not want to hear that we have lost anyone else for a long time, so please take care of yourselves.



Club Master		Advanced Master		5 Star Master	
Mrs Cecilia Byrne	WS	Mrs Joan Davies	S	Mrs Kay Perkins	H
Mrs Lorraine Clement	MB	Mrs Joan Jenkins	SU	Mr Ken Perkins	H
Mr Peter Clement	MB	Mr Robin Thomas	WS	Mrs Beryl Williams	MB
Mr John Freeman	GA				
Mr Paul Richardson	GA	1 Star Master		Regional Master	
Mr Lawrence Smith	GA	Mr Terry Dolan	BSC	Mr Brian Harden	GA
Mrs Mae Williams	SU	Mr Terry Evans	MG	Mr Alan Thomas	AG
		Mrs Anita Jones	A	Mr Colin Thomas	BSC
		Mrs Joy Pugh	S	Mrs Lavinia Thomas	BSC
		Mrs Catherine Spalding	Y		
Local Master		Mr Mark Spalding	Y	Premier Regional Master	
Mrs Joan Cater	WS	Mr Glyn Thomas	C	Mrs Betty Lewis	BV
Mr Brian Griffiths	C	Mr Raoul Van den Broucke	MT	Mr Peter Swinger	SH
Mr Colin Haldenby	LP	Miss Hilda Williams	MB	Mrs Joy Whitelock	H
Mrs Maria Haldenby	LP	2 Star Master		Mr Mike Whitelock	H
Mr Kenneth Jenkins	P	Mr Anthony Carsley	M		
Mr Ken Millington	LD	Mrs Helen Carsley	M	National Master	
Miss Teresa Montoya	A	Mrs Ann Dolan	AM	Mr Mick Green	BV
Mr Andrew Parker	GA	Mr Graham Jones	MG		
Mr Alan Richards	MT	Mr Peter Richards	CR	Premier National Master	
Mrs Jill Smith	W	Mrs Gaynor Shenton	MB	Mr Howard Edwards	H
Mrs Jane Young	BRE	Mrs Marion Stephenson	VOG	Mrs Mary Edwards	H
				Mr Warwick Horspool	PR
County Master		3 Star Master		Life Master	
Mrs Kath Edwards	DM	Dr Jim Arthur	WS	Mr Eric Favager	PN
Mrs Regina Evans	PW			Miss Nancy Gibbon	R
Mrs Margaret Ann Jones	CBY	4 Star Master			
Mr Len Kendrick	DM	Mrs Joyce Arthur	WS		
Mr Evarard Kerslake	BV	Mrs Hannah Roberts	PV	Grand Master	
		Mr David Stephenson	VOG	Mr John Glubb	C
Master					
Mrs Barbara Beeston	S				
Mrs Betty Rule	NP				
Mr John Wain	F				

Forthcoming EBL and WBF Events for WBU Members
Enjoy Sorrento or Tenerife with bridge attached

A number of events run by the European Bridge League and World Bridge Federation are open to all those eligible who wish to enter (subject to approval by their National Bridge Organisation). The WBU has decided it is not able to provide direct financial support for those taking part but in certain circumstances it will pay, or contribute towards, the entry fees for those competing as Welsh Bridge Union representatives. The idea is twofold: to encourage WBU members who have not previously considered competing in EBL or WBF events, to do so; and to encourage entries to Welsh National events of those seeking the extra reward. EBL and WBF events can be combined with a great holiday whilst being in the company of fellow bridge enthusiasts and many of Europe's top players.

Winners of Welsh National Championships starting after 1st September, 2000 may have their Entry fees paid by the Welsh Bridge Union for the subsequent equivalent EBL or WBF event.

The next two qualifying events will be the WBU International Masters and WBU Veteran Pairs in November. The winners can apply to have their Entry Fee paid for the EBL Open or Senior Pairs next March. For the EBL Open Pairs you must both be eligible to represent the same National Federation Wales in this case. For the EBL Senior Pairs you must also both be over 55 years old. Both events are to be held in Sorrento, Italy from 19th to 25th March, 2001. Details will shortly be available from the websites of the European Bridge League or Italian Bridge Federation. The Programme includes a "Bridge For All" event aimed at those who enjoy something less competitive than a European Championship.

The winners of the next WBU Ladies Pairs (decided in April 2001) can apply to have their Entry Fee paid to the next EBL Ladies Pairs. This is to be held in Tenerife next June from 16th to 19th, at the start of the EBL Championships that include the Open, Ladies and Senior Teams ending on 30th June 2001.

The winners of the 2001 WBU Mixed Pairs can apply to have their entry fees paid for the next EBL Mixed Pairs, and the winners of the 2001 Cambria Cup for the EBL Mixed Teams, both in the calendar for the last week of March 2002. For EBL Mixed Team events all partnerships must be Mixed so a team with only one player of a particular gender would not be eligible.

The first WBU National Championships to carry such a bonus were the WBU Men's and Women's Teams in Llandrindod Wells in September. The winners will join other winners of Welsh national team events (the 2001 Welsh Cup and Webber Cup, for example) as candidates to have their entry fee paid to the WBF Open or Women's Teams. Where more than one team applies there will be a method for determining how the budgeted amount will be distributed.

If your aim is to represent Wales in one of the team events restricted to one per National Organisation please contact the Secretary of the WBU Selectors, Monica Garbett-Edwards (Tel: 01686 688 254). The next events are the Open, Ladies and Senior Teams in Tenerife from 16th - 30th June, 2001. A grant will be available for the Open and Ladies Teams, and the entry fee of the selected Senior Team will be paid. The Open and Ladies Teams are expected to need a non-playing captain and a recorder/coach who will be required to score at the table in most matches.

Juniors wishing to apply for a grant towards competing at the World Junior Pairs (or attending the European Junior Camp that follows the Pairs) in the calendar for next July in Europe, should contact the WBU Junior Co-ordinator, Paul Cunningham.

Calendar of EBL and WBF Events with Unrestricted Entry 2001

MAR 19/25	European Open & Senior Pairs, Sorrento, Italy	EBL
JUN 16/19	European Ladies Pairs, Tenerife	EBL
JUL	World Junior Pairs, and EBL Junior Camp	EBL
OCT20/2 nd Nov	WBF Transnational Teams, Bali	WBF

2002

MAR	European Mixed Pairs and Teams	EBL
JUL	European Junior and Schools Teams	EBL
AUG 16/31	World Bridge Championships, Montreal	WBF

Eligibility Rules

The EBL and WBF have four headings under which a player can become eligible to represent a National Federation. These are birthplace, citizenship, residence or first allegiance. The interpretation of citizenship is not clear for England, Scotland and Wales, but is being taken as birthplace of a parent. If in doubt please contact our Secretary who will provide you with the exact wording.

The wording of eligibility for the Home Internationals is:

Each nominated player must be a member of the NBO for which he is selected to play, and must satisfy one of the following criteria to qualify to represent that NBO

- he was born in the country governed by that NBO
 - he has a natural parent who was born in that country (parents by legal adoption replace natural parents, but parents by marriage do not)
 - he has been a bona fide resident of the country governed by that NBO for at least two years prior to nomination
 - he has previously represented that NBO as a resident and has since moved away, but retains membership of that NBO and has not subsequently represented any other country
- Players who have represented a country and wish to change allegiance to another country for which they are eligible have to wait a period of some two years. Juniors may represent their country of fulltime education, but, on completing their course, do not have to wait two years before representing another country for which they are eligible.

Qualifying Welsh National Events

EBL/WBF Event	When	Where	Qualifying WBU National Event(s)
EBL Open Pairs	Mar 2001	Sorrento	Nov 2000: WBU International Masters
EBL Senior Pairs	Mar 2001	Sorrento	Nov 2000: WBU Veteran Pairs
(EBL & WBF Senior events require all players to be over 55)			
EBL Ladies Pairs	Jun 2001	Tenerife	April 2001 WBU Ladies Pairs
EBL Mixed Teams/Pairs	Mar 2002	Not known	2001 Cambria Cup and Mixed Pairs
(In the EBL Mixed Teams, all partnerships must be mixed)			
WBF Open Teams	Aug 2002	Montreal	Welsh Cup & Webber 2001, Mens Teams 2000 & 2001
WBF Ladies Teams	Aug 2002	Montreal	WBU Ladies Teams 2000 and 2001
WBF Open Pairs	Aug 2002	Montreal	2001 WBU Nat Pairs, Mens Pairs, Int Masters
This list also applies for the EBL Open Pairs 2003, but candidates may opt for which to apply.			
WBF Ladies Pairs	Aug 2002	Montreal	WBU Ladies Pairs 2002.

At most one team or two pairs in each event will have their entry fee paid, and where more apply, there will be a method for determining how the budget is distributed.

Teaching Minibridge to School Teachers and Young Players

By Patrick Jourdain, Trustee for Wales on the Educational Trust for British Bridge

The Educational Trust for British Bridge exists to support the learning of bridge by young players in fulltime education. This includes assisting the training of volunteers to teach bridge or minibridge in schools. In Minibridge play is identical to normal bridge, but the bidding consists only of saying how many points you have, and declarer gets to see dummy before choosing trumps. Minibridge is designed for children aged 10 to 16.

Mike Whittaker, of Blue Chip Bridge, has written a computer program that allows you to play minibridge on a computer. Over a year ago the Educational Trust agreed to pay for up to 50 diskettes with this program, for the Welsh Bridge Union to use in teaching children, or school teachers, minibridge. I informed the WBU at the time, but until recently this offer had not been taken up. The English Bridge Union sells teaching packs containing a manual and the diskette, to minibridge teachers. A reduced price for the WBU to take account of the fact that the WBU was entitled to the diskette in the pack has been agreed.

In early August the Vale of Glamorgan ran a Numeracy Course for all 10/11 year olds who wished to take part. The Maths Adviser for the Vale, a bridge-player, suggested to Maggie Pierce and myself, that, as part of the course, we run an hour and a half session teaching the children Minibridge. The WBU acquired ten teachers' kits for the Welsh Junior Co-ordinator, Paul Cunningham.

Mrs. Pierce and I went to sessions of the Vale's Numeracy Course at four different schools. A total of 52 children attended from some 20 different schools. The sessions were very popular and minibridge was seen by the teachers present to be highly useful for training the children in sequencing, mental arithmetic, logic, and co-operative skills. The Maths Adviser for the Vale of Glamorgan has agreed to arrange a session open to all Maths teachers in the Vale who take after-school clubs, to learn minibridge, with a view to introducing it to the after-schools clubs. The Adviser believes funding can be obtained for after-schools clubs to cover the cost of the Training Packs and other expenses.

These are the most encouraging development in Schools Bridge we have seen in Wales and East Wales is seeking to progress the scheme. Other Areas of Wales should seek such opportunities and be aware that the Minibridge packs and diskettes are available for use.

The World Bridge Federation has a Minibridge Teachers' Course available free of charge on its website from where it can be downloaded. This is the French Minibridge Course, unfortunately not quite the same as the British, translated into English. If teaching Minibridge in Wales, please use the Teachers Manual provided by the Welsh Bridge Union, so all learn the same rules.
Contact: Paul Cunningham

North Wales is sad to record the death of Joyce Arthur, who died peacefully after a long series of illnesses on August 7th

Known throughout Wales, Joyce will be remembered as a selfless, caring and vibrant person. Famed for her 'tea parties' and her legendary hospitality, she leaves very many friends saddened by her passing.

Bridge was a passion with Joyce. She was a stalwart supporter of all Welsh events and she gave much help and encouragement at local level.

From Rhos on Sea, she leaves a devoted husband who supported her in all her ventures.

Corrections to the Journal

The team that played against Scotland in the Camrose included Jourdain and Ratcliff not Hirst and Luck. Hirst was non-playing captain.

Mold Bridge Club now meets at the Darby & Joan Club, Grosvenor Street, Mold on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7pm.

Mitchell Troy Bridge Club has changed its name to Monmouth Bridge Club

Change of Dates

The final of the Open Pairs will now take place on March 3rd/4th

The meeting of Council will take place on 11th March

New Webmaster

Mark Roderick is now in charge of the website which is at: www.wbu.org.uk

Mark's email address is mark.roderick@ntlworld.com. Please ensure that up to date information about your club and area is featured on the site. Mark sent me this poem.

Gary Martin created our WBU website

It has pages of information for all to see

Compared to all the others, ours is the brightest light

Now Gary has retired and the reins have been passed to me.

I won't change much just bring it up to date

Hopefully this will be done quite soon

All I will need is a bit of luck and the help of a mate

So be reassured it won't end in doom.

I was offered this position by our Secretary Mike Brunt

He said it will be easy - not really much to do

If I had known what he meant I would of answered with a grunt

But I'm proud to be here to work for my country and each and every one of you.

National Selectors' News

The Camrose trial (yes, there has been only one this year, the petrol crisis causing the cancellation of the first one) resulted in Junior International Dafydd Jones and his father Gary being the leading pair. They have been added to the International Squad along with Jon Seavers and Adam Dunn (also graduating from Juniors quite recently) and Filip Kurbalija and Mike Pownall. The four pairs who performed so well in last year's squad were pre-selected.

Now it's the chance for specialists in Ladies' events; the selectors have decided that the trials advertised as 'Lady Milne' will also serve to help decide membership of the Ladies' team for the European Championships. The entry date has been extended to November 10th, and entries are sought from all Ladies' pairs with an interest in playing international bridge. The first trial will be held on November 25-26, and the final trial will be held on February 3-4 (not the date in the WBU Journal). Contact Monica Garbett Edwards, the secretary to the Selectors (01686 688254) if you wish to be considered for the Home International competition or for the European Championships.

Kind hearts and coronets - continued**Laura Woodruff**

In the interests of détente, here are a few random suggestions for improving relations between those for whom bridge is a pleasant pastime (on the one hand) and those who work for a living only to finance their real lives at the bridge table (on the other), as well as the great mass of keen amateurs in between. For the expert players:

- Say hello to your opponents, unless you happen to know they are as unsociable as you are. In particular, say hello before you take a machete to your partner for misdefending the previous hand.
- Tell your opponents what basic system and no trump range you are playing – for one thing, it means the opponents don't have to ask half way through the auction. Make sure they can see your Convention Card even if they haven't got one themselves.
- If your inexperienced opponent asks you what a bid means, don't say "it's Helvic" and leave them to wonder if that's a Swedish adjective meaning "too complicated for the likes of you": explain what hands partner might have and what you are required to do in response. Your opponents will be happy, and won't be obliged to try the patience of your fellow experts at the next table and the table after that by asking again.
- Don't claim quickly and put your hand back in the board. Explain carefully to the opponents what line of play you were going to take, especially if it involves something advanced, like a squeeze. If you don't, the opponents are likely to leave the table feeling a) demoralised and b) as if you've pulled a fast one on them (and after all, you may have made a mistake).
- Don't tut or look pointedly out of the window as your opponent painfully plays out a nursery contract. They are entitled to play at their own speed (within reason), and will not be encouraged to do well against your rival experts at the next table if you have reduced them to jelly by your intolerant behaviour.
- If you call the director for any reason, explain why you are doing it. At all costs avoid a discussion about the problem. You have a duty to your team-mates and the rest of the field to make sure that the result at your table has not been affected by any unauthorised information they may inadvertently conveyed to their partner during such a discussion.
- Do call the director (nicely) for technical problems such as leads out of turn. Even if you (think you) know what to do, the opponents will feel better if it's explained by the director than if they have to take your word for it. In any case, you are not really allowed to give rulings.
- Try to aim for the opponents to leave the table thinking what nice people you are, even though you've just taken 17 IMPs from them, and especially if they've just taken 17 IMPs from you.

For the tournament virgins:

- There are many rules which are not enforced in clubs, but will be enforced in tournaments. These include the following:
 - You must leave the board in the centre of the table, with the correct orientation (i.e. North pointing to North). This is for the very good reason that the hand is likely to be misboarded if the board is moved.
 - You should leave your bids on the table until the opening lead has been made: for one thing the leader's partner has to have a chance to ask questions, and for another it helps to avoid leads from the wrong hand.
 - North is normally in charge of the boards and scoring. Don't put the boards on the table or pass them to another table without North's permission – if something goes wrong, North may be penalised for your mistake.
 - You should wait until your right-hand opponent has put his STOP card away before bidding.
 - You must alert all bids that are not natural (yes, even Stayman). You must also alert bids that

are natural and would be forcing in standard Acol, but are in your system non-forcing (and vice versa).

- It is your job to make sure your opponents have seen your ALERT card.
- You should try to avoid giving your partner unauthorised information, even by accident. For example:
- By making a slow pass or double. You might say, "Oh, but I had to think about what to do". That's fine, but it has told your partner you have something to think about, and he now makes a marginal bid or lead at his peril: if his action is not absolutely clear-cut (such as doubling 4S holding AKQJ10), the director might well rule that the bid or lead could have been suggested by the unauthorised information, and adjust the score in your opponents' favour.
 - By indicating to your partner, by coughing or squirming or exclaiming or staring fixedly, that they have forgotten to alert your bid, or that they have given the wrong explanation.
 - By slamming your double card down for penalty doubles, and playing it normally for take-out doubles.
 - By asking what a bid means when it's not your turn to bid. You have the right to ask any questions when it is your turn to bid or play, but not otherwise. You shouldn't in any case ask during the auction what a bid means unless you've got a reason to ask. The only possible reason is that you might want to bid yourself. Idle curiosity is not a good enough reason.
 - You must not do anything to mislead declarer unfairly, for example by hesitating with a singleton. It is not a breach to hesitate if you have a bridge reason to do so, and declarer is allowed to guess the reason at his peril. Wondering how to signal is not considered a bridge reason, but wondering whether to play an ace is.
- You have a duty to familiarise yourself with your opponents' convention card at the beginning of the round. That doesn't mean you have to memorise the whole of Precision Club for a two-board round, but it is up to you to find out what basic system and no trump range they are playing.
 - Always count your cards, face down, before you look at them, and NEVER touch the cards of any other player. Do not ask for their permission, they are not allowed to say yes.
 - If you think your opponents have behaved rudely or tried to intimidate you, don't vote with your feet, tell the director.



This may seem like a lot to remember, and most players at some stage in their careers fall foul of what seem initially to be petty rules. But the rules are there to make the game fair, for the same reason that the offside rule exists in football, so please don't get upset when your opponents call the director to your table. It is not a personal insult.

Our NTO, Laura is pictured here in Maastricht where she was a member of the Welsh Ladies' team.

The Welsh Juniors in Turkey

Maggie Pierce

Antalya in the south of Turkey was the venue for the Junior European Championships in which Wales was to compete as a nation, other than in home internationals, for the first time since devolution in January. Paul Cunningham (Junior Coordinator) and Jon Seavers had worked hard during the year with the juniors, holding training/selection weekends with other senior players lending a hand as opponents and providers of advice and accommodation.

The team to represent us was Mark Roderick/Mike Cleaton, Dafydd Jones/Jake Dunn, David Davies/Catherine Evans. Paul/Jon were NPC and coach respectively. The Junior event is for players up to the age of twenty-five. There is also a European 'Schools' tournament for those aged up to twenty. Although we have several players coming along who are very young it was felt that they are not yet ready for competition at this level. Catherine was the youngest player at the event in both categories. The cheapest travel option was also one of the most convenient – a direct charter flight from Gatwick to Antalya. With a day to spare before play started we were able to take in the wonderful surroundings. The tournament was to be held in a large conference centre next to a five-star hotel where most of the teams were accommodated, including ours. I must point out that there is a strict limit to the cost that NCBO's must pay out on full board for their junior/school event players. This is not much more than £30 per head per day. So usually Juniors are housed in student accommodation (remember Cardiff 1996?). The Turkish Bridge Federation, by means of negotiation and sponsorship, had brought down the hotel cost to within this budget. Their organisation was flawless and superb. Some months earlier they had taught a large group of scouts to play bridge. In return the young people worked at the championships, performing a myriad tasks, immaculately dressed and always smiling. The hotel and playing areas were fully air-conditioned – as the first week saw record high temperatures for southeast Europe this was much appreciated. The viewgraph facilities were excellent – Patrick Jourdain and Barry Rigal were the main commentators. One detail was very impressive – one could go to one's bedroom while play was going on, tune in to channel 47 on the TV and see the results from the matches as they were coming in – some organisation.

It was great to see the Welsh flag being paraded at the opening ceremony. Goodwill messages were sent from the Turkish Prime Minister and other government ministers. There was also a press conference at which Paul was one of the few Captains to be interviewed. Bridge in Turkey, as in many European countries, is recognised by the government which funds three full-time workers for the Federation.

Onto a resume of the bridge. A disappointing start – losing heavily to France, Switzerland and Norway, although losing only 14-16 to Ireland, meant that we were at the foot of the table and much effort was needed to keep up team morale. This accomplished, we then notched up two victories against Spain and Hungary, moving us up from the bottom of the table into 23rd place – we were to hover around this spot for most of the week, finally resting there, just behind Spain and above Switzerland and Ireland. Success included wins against Belgium, a draw with Austria and a narrow loss 14-16 to Israel, who were at that point leading the table. There was a disappointing 25-2 loss against England on viewgraph.

The Daily Bulletin is a great feature of major championships. Bulletin staff collect articles and news throughout the day and work through the night so that players and officials can then read all the results and analysis of the previous day's play over breakfast. As well as results being available daily on the Internet, interested parties around the world can also download daily bulletins. I know some of you in Wales were following what was going on in Turkey.

This was a nice defence from Mark Roderick and Mike Cleaton, which featured in the match against Spain.

Dealer E, All Vul.

♠ JT6					
♦ 9542					
♣ QT96					
♠ J6					
♠ AKQ85	♠ 943	W	N	E	S
♥ 76	♥ K3	Cleaton		Roderick	
♦ A	♦ 843			P	1♥
♣ AT754	♣ KQ932	2♥	Db1	4♣	4♥
	♠ 72	5♣	5♥	P	P
	♥ AQT8	Db1	All Pass		
	♦ KJ752				
	♣ 8				

Six Clubs by East is an excellent contract but with accurate defence five hearts doubled proved to be almost as profitable.

West led his top spade on which East played low to show an odd number. West cashed a second spade and East contributed his lowest to suggest a high card in clubs. Now Cleaton cashed his ace of diamonds and underled his ace of clubs. Roderick won with the queen and gave his partner a diamond ruff. Cleaton then led another low club to East's king. Declarer was able to ruff this but was trapped in hand to concede another trick to East's king. That was worth 1100 and 10 Imp's to Wales as the contract at the other table was 5♣ by East.

At the close of the event Mike Cleaton was heard to say that he didn't want to see a card until after Christmas! It was a great learning experience and all the team were exhausted at the end. I asked Mark what his main impressions had been – 'The standard was so high' was the reply. All our Juniors behaved charmingly and many friendships were made. After the end of play came the shirt swapping – there were lots of Welsh shirts (which had been supplied at no cost by the EBU to promote their website) being worn by lots of nationalities.

The closing banquet was wonderful and completely free of charge for all – you could invite all your aunts and your grandmother if you wished. The food was superb and there was much Turkish music and dancing in a great atmosphere. A shortage of females didn't stop the young people from joining in the final dancing with great gusto.



The experience of being part of this event has taught the players a great deal which the squad can build on. Let's all wish them luck for the future. Good luck to the EBU who are hosting the next Championships in 2002 – follow that!