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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 75, May 2002

North, South (er ... Mid), East and West

Welsh internationals Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija (pictured) scored a huge victory in the National Ladies' Pairs, finishing over 7% ahead of their nearest rivals.

By a neat geographical quirk, second, third and fourth places were taken by West Wales (Mary Moore & Irene Thomas), North Wales (Gwen Hurst & Dorothy Phillips) and Mid Wales (Margaret Hathaway & Marjorie Paschkes) respectively.



The National Men's Pairs was won by David Birt and Geoff Evans in a close-run event, ahead of Tony Ratcliff and Patrick Jourdain, Norman Large and David Utting, Philip Felman and Trevor Towers. (No photograph of Dave and Geoff was available at the time of writing.)



Welsh Bridge Union AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 19th May at Rhayader Leisure Centre, starting at 11.00. All members are welcome to attend. (*Apologies to any member who does not receive their copy of this Newsletter until after the AGM, the date of which is, however, published in the Journal.*) The Perry Shield and Spickett Bowl will be held on 18th and 19th May at the same venue.

Competitions

Most National competitions, including all pairs events, the Graded Masters, the Welsh and Cambria knock-out teams and the Webber Cup are open to all members of the Union, of whatever standard (any club that holds a heat of the Webber will have at least one team in the final). Why not enter next year and make the events more enjoyable for everyone? You might even surprise yourselves and win a trophy and a lot of Green points, not to mention up to £50 each in prize money. See the 2002-2003 Journal – out in July – for details of all competitions.

Letters to the Editor



No letters this time (good news for the postman). Here's a nice soothing article from the Treasurer instead.

The WBU Accounts 2001-02

The results of the WBU for the last two years are shown opposite; together with a forecast of what should happen in the year we have just entered. WBU Financial policy is to aim for a surplus in traditional activities equal to our investment income.

The first thing to say about the accounts is that comparing the individual headings for income against last year is misleading, since income was reduced by 15% when we registered for VAT on 1st April 2001. Members have been more than compensated for this by the inclusion of the profit of Llangollen Swiss teams in general funds. Falling interest rates have adversely affected investment income, which nearly halved, and I have changed our deposit arrangements this year in an attempt to overcome this.

Expenses were more or less as expected, and the surplus in 2001-02 was £587, slightly less than £900 I estimated this time last year. All being well, in 2002-03 we should return to £1500 surplus. For this reason Council is not proposing an increase in subscriptions in 2003-04.

In 2002-03, there are two major events to cause a drain on the World fund, the European teams Championship in Salsomaggiore in June where we are represented by an Open team and a Seniors team, and the European Youth Championships in July in Torquay where Wales will field a team in the Schools section. These two events together with the other claims on the fund are likely to use up all the income, leaving the balance in the fund unchanged. However 2003-4, we hope to have the same income but no major events to fund.

The figures opposite and this commentary have of necessity been summarised, a full copy of the accounts has been sent to every

club. If members have further questions they are welcome to attend the AGM or contact me directly.

Linda Greenland
Hon Treasurer

Income	Year ended 31/3/2001	Year ended 31/3/2002	Estimate 31/3/2003
Subscriptions	10282	9270	9300
Less WBF/EBL	(1954)	(1831)	(2000)
Net WBU Subs	8328	7439	7300
Masterpoints	9503	6916	7500
Congresses	5588	9942	10000
Competitions	5665	4138	4500
Other Income	2711	1751	2200
Return of Capital	2416	-	-
Total Income	34211	30186	31500

Expenses			
Camrose Series	14429	16468	15000
Trials & training	1504	1721	2000
Honoraria	3230	2965	4000
Meetings	1281	1430	1800
Member Publications	2500	2975	3000
Other expenses	3139	4040	4200
Excess income	8128	587	1500
Total	34211	30186	31500

World Fund			
NCBO Income	20609	17690	18000
Less Expenses	(20511)	(11332)	-18000
Increase in Fund	98	6358	-



RESULTS

National Mixed Pairs

Rhayader Leisure Centre, 9th -10th February 2002

1 st :	Laura Woodruff, Mike Close	56.06%
2 nd :	Irene Thomas, Rob Charlesworth	55.78%
3 rd :	Daphne Patrick, Joe Patrick	55.64%

East Wales Congress 15th-17th February 2002

Pairs

1 st	Bernard Goldenfield, Rhona Goldenfield	65.68%
2 nd	Brenda Foley, Geoff Foley	63.01%
3 rd	Mary Moore, Irene Thomas	62.53%

Swiss Teams

1	Peter Goodman	Adam Dunn	Tony Ratcliff	Adrian Thomas	185 VPs	71.15%
2	Brian Cornelius	Alan Mould	Paul Bowyer	Gary Hyett	180 VPs	69.23%
3	Simon Richards	Alex Maddocks	A Hogg	P Kelly	179 VPs	68.85%

National Open Pairs

Elephant & Castle Hotel, Newtown, 2nd-3rd March 2002

1 st :	Simon Edwards, Chris Pope	61.06%
2 nd :	Peter Goodman, John Salisbury	58.78%
3 rd :	Mike Baker, Steve Jarvis	56.6%

Portland Pairs

16th-17th March 2002 (placings after national scoring)

NORTH WALES

1 st	Tracey Capal, Bill Niccol	61.17%
2 nd	Pam Edwards, Bryan Edwards	55.97%
3 rd	Joan Marray, David Flacks	55.56%

SOUTH WALES

1 st	Mark Roderick, Noelle Bond	58.89%
2 nd	Mike Hirst, Ann Hirst	55.58%
3 rd	Jeremy Baker, Judith Thomas	53.53%

Tracey and Bill were second nationally, Noelle and Mark 5th.

Llandudo Congress

5th-7th April 2002

Ladies' Pairs:	Pat Scares, Agnes Blewitt (58.63%)
Men's Pairs:	Eric Hartland, Mark Ballantine (70.42%)
Championship Pairs:	John Hinton, Shelagh Flett (66.84%)
Championship Teams:	Senior (203VPs)

National Ladies' Pairs

National Men's Pairs

20th-21st April, Metropole Hotel

1 st :	Jill Casey, Diane Kurbalija	62.13%	1 st :	David Birt, Geoff Evans	58.65%
2 nd :	Mary Moore, Irene Thomas	55.05%	2 nd :	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain	58.23%
3 rd :	Gwent Hurst, Dorothy Phillips	54.11%	3 rd :	Norman Large, David Utting	56.30%

Name, rank and serial number

Would players please put their first names rather than initials and, if possible, their WBU numbers on table slips for qualifiers and area finals, as well as for National events? It is more or less impossible for the NTO and Masterpoint Secretary to identify people from "A. Jones" or "B Davies", and your masterpoints may find their way on to someone else's record. Thank you.

Toad in the Hole

It was a beautiful spring evening at Toad Hall, and after an epicurean dinner of lobster bisque, rack of lamb and enough wine, port and cheese to satisfy the gannet who lived at the river-mouth Toad, Moley, Ratty and Badger sat down for a rubber. Badger drew Toad as his partner for the first, a misfortune by his reckoning since Toad was young, reckless and drunker than the rest of the party.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A Q J 7 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ Q 6 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 8 6 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 10 8 7 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 7 2 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ A K 5 3 ♣ A K J</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K J ♥ K 10 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 4 ♣ 9 4 3</p>
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The first deal seemed straightforward enough – Ratty opened 1NT and Moley raised to 3NT. Toad led the six of spades, dummy played small, Badger put in the Jack and Ratty, who was not brave enough to duck, won with the Queen. Able to count only eight top tricks, declarer took the heart finesse and hoped the spades were breaking 4-3 or 6-1. They weren't, but Toad came to his rescue, for when Badger won the ♥K and played the ♠K for partner to overtake, Toad was too befuddled to oblige, and allowed it to hold the trick. 100 below the line to Ratty and Moley, but Badger kept stoically silent, realising that any comment would only upset Toad, who hadn't noticed the contract was defeatable.

On the next hand, Toad showed his usual enthusiasm in the bidding:

Badger	Ratty	Toad	Moley
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5♦ ⁴	Pass	5♥	All Pass

- 1 Forcing to game
- 2 Better than 3NT with a ♣ stopper
- 3 Blackwood
- 4 One ace

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 6 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 7 5 3 2 ♣ A K Q</p> <p>♠ J 9 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A K 10 8 ♣ 9 7 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 3 ♥ A K Q J 10 ♦ 6 4 ♣ J 6 5 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 10 8 7 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ 10 8</p>
--	--

Things didn't look good when Ratty started with three rounds of diamonds. Compelled to ruff, Badger was an entry short to cash the ♣J for his eleventh trick. After losing 10p on the first hand, however, he wasn't about to give up. Cashing the ♥A and getting even count from his honest opponents, he placed Ratty with two trumps and Moley with four. He cashed ♣A and K and ♠A and K before returning to hand with a trump. Now on the ♥Q Ratty discarded a spade and so did dummy, leaving this end position:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ none ♦ 7 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ none ♥ none ♦ 10 ♣ 9 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ none ♥ J ♦ none ♣ J 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 10 ♥ 9 ♦ none ♣ none</p>
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On the last trump, Ratty was squeezed. A diamond discard would promote dummy's 7; a club would allow Badger to bin dummy's queen and make the last two clubs in his hand. "Well bid, partner", sighed Badger.

Jon Seavers

A view from the top

The WBU Open Pairs Final was held in early March at the Elephant and Castle, Newtown and the WBU should be congratulated on finding an excellent venue with both a good playing area and ample accommodation.

There were quite a few boards of interest, this being probably the most talked-about. You are fourth in hand at favourable with:

♠ A Q 1 0 9 8 7 6 4 3 2 (... yes, ten of them)!, ♥ 9 6, ♦ void, ♣ Q

LHO opens a weak 2♥, partner bids 2NT (15–18 balanced) and RHO passes. Exhausted from counting all those spades, you now have to decide what to bid. Unfortunately, there are no textbook solutions for these types of hands but I hope you are at least thinking about slams rather than game. After all, partner's 2NT bid should mean that you have at least twelve spades between you.

One possible way of bidding the hand (although requires a little imagination) is as follows: assuming you are playing transfers in this situation, if you bid 3♥, partner will dutifully bid 3♠; follow this up with 4♦ (OK, what else?) and partner will bid 4♥ to show the ♥A. At this point, you could settle for the small slam and jump to 6♠; if you do, you will get 70% of the match points. But if you get delusions of grandeur and bid 5♣ to show a 2nd-round control in clubs (OK, partner may not be on the same wavelength but can hardly pass, so it should be safe) partner will now probably bid 6♣ which must be showing the ace and happy to go on. Now 7♠ might be worth a go, and if you do ...bingo! Partner holds ♠ K 5, ♥ A 8, ♦ Q 9 8 6, ♣ A K J 2

As you can see, 15 tricks in spades are there for the taking but at least half the room never got past 5♠, and +510 was a common result.

The most enjoyable hand for me was this one:

A typical part-score hand where EW can make 2♣ but NS can make 3♥. At my table (I was North), West opened the bidding with 1♣ and East responded 1♠. Now I would not think twice about bidding 2♥ on the South hand in pairs but my partner, Chris Pope, used

Dlr: West	♠ K 10 8 5	
Vul: None	♥ A 7 6 3	
	♦ J 10 7 6	
	♣ 7	
♠ A J 3		♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ 4		♥ Q J 8
♦ K 8 4 3		♦ 9 2
♣ Q J 9 8 2		♣ A 10 6 4
	♠ Q 2	
	♥ K 10 9 5 2	
	♦ A Q 5	
	♣ K 5 3	

extreme caution by passing (he does tend to underbid a little playing with me, usually very sensible but not, unfortunately, on this deal). He heard a 2♠ rebid by West and two passes, back to him. After a little thought, he decided to follow up his original decision by passing again. Undaunted, he led the ♥10 which I took with the ace and switched to my singleton club. Declarer ducked and Chris won with his king.

At pairs, you can quite often afford to take risks when it looks like you are already in for a bad score. Here, Chris knew from the singleton heart in dummy that we had probably missed the boat in hearts and he decided that we probably needed something special in the defence. He decided to try an imaginative switch of the ♦Q!

Declarer, thinking North might have Ax, decided to duck and duck again when Chris continued with the ♦5. In with the 10, I returned another. Declarer was now convinced that Chris was going to over-ruff whatever ♠ he played so decided to discard a club and Chris won with the impossible ace of diamonds and gave me a club ruff. A diamond ruff by Chris, another club ruff for me and with the ♠K still to come gave us +200 and all of the match points.

Yes, we were very lucky but the defence that Chris found made it feel like it was well earned. Even nicer was the fact that Chris earned enough master points that weekend for his promotion to Grand Master. Well-done Chris.

Simon Edwards

International Round-up

Camrose



The Welsh team of Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, Adrian Thomas, Paul Denning, Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn (NPC John Salisbury) was unlucky to lose to a strong England team at the Holt Lodge, Wrexham on 23rd – 24th February, so despite a fine victory over Scotland in the final Camrose weekend in Newport (Kurbalija, Rees, Goodman, Dunn, Jourdain, Ratcliff; NPC Jim Luck) we finished a worthy second in the series.

England 233; Wales 205; Republic of Ireland 179; Scotland 158;. Northern Ireland 114.

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship (16th–20th July 2002)

For the first time, a **Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship** will be held in the run up to the Commonwealth Games. The event will take place from Tuesday 16th to Saturday 20th July, 9.30 – 6.30 each day, playing approximately 45 boards a day (with screens, and with short breaks between matches). Spectators are welcome. The playing venue is at Manchester University's Whitworth Hall in the Whitworth Building, Main Campus, Oxford Road, Manchester.



Wales will be represented by Adam Dunn and Peter Goodman, Dafydd and Gary Jones, Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees, who will join other Commonwealth countries including Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Isle of Man, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania – 30 teams in total.

In addition, we have been able to send a Women's team to the Consolation event on 19th-20th July: Ceri Pierce and Ann Hirst, Liz Atkinson and Margaret Lane, Laura Woodruff and Gilly Clench will join other invited teams to play against those teams that have not qualified for the knock-out stages of the main event.

The Commonwealth Games take place in Manchester from 25th July to 4th August 2002.

Extracts from Anna Gudge's Ecats newsletter (2nd April 2002)



I'm not quite sure what happened to the early months of this year but given what the weather has been like, I am glad they are over! At least now the clocks have gone forward we are into the lighter evenings and will feel more like travelling! And there are some events worth travelling for as well. If you go to www.ecatsbridge.com and click on the Championships section and then to the Other European Tournaments bit you will find details of various events being held, and of course there is nothing to stop you going farther afield to the other Zones and seeing what they have to offer. There is a good Festival in Cuba for example, and the German Bridge Festival looks like fun. So do have a browse through and see what's about.

The "big one" this year is, of course, the World Championship in Montreal. Mark and I were fortunate enough to be there earlier this year and it is a superb venue and a lovely city. The championships are going to be enormous fun and really exciting so why not come and join us there. You will need to contact your Home Union to request nomination for whichever events you want to play in and the closing date is early June so don't leave it too long.

The World Wide Bridge Contest is on 7 & 8 June and we hope it is going to be even bigger this year. Full details can be found in the Sims Section - the entry fee is still only £4.50 per player for UK participants. It is such fun watching the results roll in from round the world and to see how you compared with all the others, so do try and join us if you can. I have put the lists of participating clubs up on the site, so do check that your club is listed if it is going to play and not if it isn't (if you see what I mean!) ... And let me know of any changes.

Look after yourselves - keep an eye on www.ecatsbridge.com for updates, as I am doing quite a bit of work on the site.

Anna Gudge

European Mixed Championships Ostend

Enthusiastic channel-hoppers, Paul Gagne and Diana Harris, abetted by Annie and Eric Favager, carried the Welsh standard into Europe. Paul reports on their adventures.



We arrived in Ostend and made our way to the venue for registration, and the first thing that struck us was the enormousness of the place. There were some 200 tables set out in this one auditorium, all with screens. For Annie and Eric this was rather mind-blowing compared with the East Wales congress, which they run. However, back to registration: this you have to do via various windows which cover the countries in alphabetical order. We get to the last window and notice that we are the only two pairs under the Welsh banner.

The Italians had rather a large contingent at this event. They had run a country-wide qualification competition, and the top 75 pairs were then flown to Ostend, put up in an hotel, bused to and from the playing area, and flown home. So what were we up against??

We soon found out and the Pairs event passed quickly into oblivion. Both pairs could only sit and admire the way in which the continentals play the game; it was rather like Barry Town FC playing in the Champions' League.

After three days and 160 boards our shell-shocked heroes retreated to their training ground, 30km outside Ostend, to regroup for the teams event. There were not as many teams as we expected - only 92. Now of course we are used to this, you might say, but

the matches were to be of 10 boards and the scoring like that in the Camrose matches, with a maximum 25 VPs out of 30 for a win, but a minimum of 0 out of 30 for the unlucky.

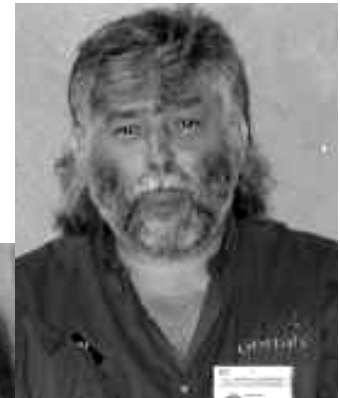
Round 1, and we are drawn against a French team. With spirits high and playing a similar system to them we enter the fray, and lo and behold a win is achieved, 20–10. The nerves are assuaged a little as we await our next opponents.

Round 2, and we are on table 8 out of 92, this is too easy, HA!!!! We are now to play Lavazza, (the eventual winners), an Italian team consisting of several internationals. We return to the table to score up and find we have lost 16-14, a creditable performance.

For the next two rounds of the session we play on and are rather pleased to end the day above average, if only just. However, the bobsleigh run had only just begun.

The next session started at 10am Central European Time, 9 o'clock in the morning Welsh time, and to let Di loose on a pack of cards before 11am is frightening, so our downward spiral picks up speed. There are several bright spots but, after the next six rounds we reach our lowest ebb, and here we meet a Turkish team. We win, and with our ice picks and crampons we climb slowly out of the mire.

Paul Gagne



Diana Harris

Having not qualified after twelve rounds as one of the top 4 teams, we have to play another four matches in the Swiss section. We are not dismayed at this, as our confidence is growing and we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. In the next round we come against a multinational team (mainly Irish but with a Jewish Maltese as its fourth member). It is at this point that I must bring Bridge into this article, as we now encounter the Hand of God.

In the closed room Annie and Eric are playing the Irish pair of Patsy Meehan and John Power, and as can be seen from the hand below the Irish, with help of a psych in clubs by the North hand, reach the dubious contract of 6NT. Now without the lead of a club this contract duly rolls in, 1440 to the bad guys.

<p>♠ K T 3 ♥ A 9 ♦ A K Q 10 8 5 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 7 4 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 7 6 4 2 ♣ K 9</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 5 2 ♥ J 8 7 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ A 5 2</p>
<p>♠ A ♥ K Q 10 6 3 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 8 7 6 4</p>	

In the Open room, where Di and I are playing Maureen (Irish) Dennison and Maurice (Maltese) Leighton we manage to get to the completely unmakeable contract of 6♣, (with no psychs). However now the fun starts. Maurice, on lead, decides he is dummy and leads his ♠QJ874 all at the same time. "Director" the call goes out, and he appears. After much consultation he decides that declarer (Di) should choose the card she wants led, from those exposed, before the real dummy is revealed. After several cards have been played Di decides it is time to attack trumps and plays small to the 10 in dummy. Maltese Maurice ducks in case partner has a stiff ace, Irish Maureen ducks on principle, Di is bewildered. Next comes the other trump from dummy, that's right you guessed it, up goes the ace from Maureen and down comes

the king from Maurice. 6♣ bid and made, 1370 to the good guys and a flattish board. Needless to say the Hand of God works in mysterious ways and we won the match 16-14. The next day Patsy came quietly up to Di and enquired how we made 6♣ as she did not feel it right to ask her team mates.

In the final round we were heartened by an experience which will make us return for more punishment at Championships like these, for even the continentals, no matter how good they are, can make errors. When playing with screens one must alert one's own bids to the person on the same side of the screen, as well as one's partner's.

<p>♠ K ♥ Q 9 5 3 ♦ J 10 8 7 3 ♣ 8 7 6</p> <p>♠ 9 3 ♥ A K J 10 7 ♦ A 4 ♣ Q J 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ Q 9 6 5 ♣ A 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 7 6 5 ♥ 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ K 10 9 4</p>
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As the screens were placed, I as North could see only the French lady, and therefore we had to alert to each other. The bidding went as follows (the alerts on each side of the table I will try to indicate).

North	East	South	West
<i>Gagne</i>	<i>Madame</i>	<i>Harris</i>	<i>Monsieur</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹	2♠ ²
2NT ³	Double	3♦ ⁴	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Double	7♥
Double	All Pass		

- ¹ Alerted by North and South
- ² Alerted by West
- ³ Alerted by North and South
- ⁴ Alerted by South

Thus the final contract became 7♥ doubled, and at this point the Director was called (by the Frenchman), and the bidding sequence

given to him by both sides of the table, indicating the various alerts and non-alerts. He smiled sweetly, shrugged his shoulders in typical French manner, and walked away grinning.

The explanations are as follows:

- ¹ 2♦ correctly alerted by both sides as Multi.
- ² 2♠ alerted by West as a hand with hearts and good values. Not alerted by East, taken as natural.
- ³ 2NT alerted by South as forcing enquiry, alerted by North as good/bad 2NT, forcing 3♣, so that 3♥ could be bid weakly.
- ⁴ 3♦ alerted by South as good Weak Two in spades, North completely flummoxed – why not 3♣? - so taken as natural.

All subsequent bids were taken as natural with East still believing her partner had spades.

At this point, with another win under our belt, we retired gracefully to the bar to wait for another day. Au revoir Ostend - Montreal here we come !!

As an addition, and to thank you for reading this load of drivel, I enclose seven hands for you and your partner to bid. The final contracts are for you to decide (but can you get to them?). Good Luck

Paul Gagne

Bidding Challenge

In each case you are West, and there is no opposition bidding unless otherwise indicated. The East hands are on Page 14 – why not try them out with your partner and see if you can reach the best contract?

1.

Dlr: South ♠ A K 10 8
 Vul: NS ♥ A 4 2
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ A 7 6 3

South opens 2♥ (weak), North raises to 4♥

2.

Dlr: North ♠ J 9 2
 Vul: NS ♥ A K 5 4
 ♦ J 9 5 3
 ♣ K 6

3.

Dlr: West ♠ Q 9 6
 Vul: None ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ K Q 10 6 4
 ♣ A Q

4.

Dlr: West ♠ Q 10 7 2
 Vul: EW ♥ K Q 9 8
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ A 9

5.

Dlr: East ♠ J 9 8 6 4
 Vul: None ♥ 10 3
 ♦ 10 5 3 2
 ♣ K 9

South overcalls 2♥, North raises to 4♥.

6.

Dlr: West ♠ 7 4
 Vul: All ♥ K Q 5 2
 ♦ A Q 6 3
 ♣ 10 3 2

7.

Dlr: South ♠ 8 4
 Vul: NS ♥ K 10 9 5
 ♦ A Q 5 3
 ♣ Q 6 4

Dear fellow bridge players

I am a member player of the National Bank of Belgium Bridge team. I collect Jokers from playing cards and also "backs" of jokers: decorative or publicity. Could you help me complete my collection by sending me as much Jokers as possible? I can send post stamps or jokers in return. May I ask you to publish this message in your Club-house to allow me to reach all your members. Thank you.

Sincerely yours.

J.GIELE.

Reigerstraat,11,
 1850 Grimbergen Belgium.

N.B. You can send up to 50 Jokers in a normal envelope for less than 65p.

I would like to thank all the Bridge players who have already received this message and sended me so many Jokers.



Master Point of View

“Busy, busy, busy!” I suppose it’s another sign of age, but I can’t remember if I heard that on TV or found it in one of the books we read to my small granddaughter.

It certainly describes me at the moment. During March there was some build-up in the points I received, but I’ve known it worse. “Perhaps this Year End is going to be fairly quiet,” I said, but when April began the points really flooded in. I soon found the envelopes in our mail catcher behind the front door too many to carry and had to collect them in a plastic shopping bag.

For some months, our morning postal delivery had been getting so late I wondered if it would arrive before afternoon, but some perverse Consignia person has switched it back to early morning in the last month. I frequently find myself woken by the doorbell and must fall out of bed half asleep and stumble down the stairs to sign for someone’s points (Mike, my husband, claims to hear nothing until I am opening the bedroom door in my dressing gown.) If the postman does not want a signature then he wants money for excess postage, and with sleep-dulled brain I must scrounge around to collect such odd sums as 67 pence. Exact money only, by the way, for each time I proffer, say, 70 pence and ask “Have you any change?” the answer is always “No.”

Of course some points are delivered by hand; sometimes just one person’s, sometime a batch. The largest batch arrived in a black refuse sack. A little while later Mike came into my study saying “I tied up that rubbish sack and put it out on the kerb for collection.” Almost at once I knew he was teasing, but I did twitch for an instant.

Of course, checking, adding and entering points takes a considerable time and the Year End work is not finished when all the points are entered, for then I have to prepare the journal listing, promotions and Gold points lists. I’m working hard (oh yes, I am!) but I don’t expect to breathe my sigh of relief until June. So I thought it very unkind the other day when some investment group trying to entice me included with their offer some torn off calendar pages with various phrases about wasting time. “One thing you cannot recycle is time,” said one, so I wasted no time in chucking their letter in the waste paper basket.

As usual with the points I’ve had many notes (“Checked many times, (this) came up more than any other number” I particularly liked), kind messages and cards; some decorated with cats, one with a teddy bears’ wedding scene; “Beautiful,” said my granddaughter. Thank you all. When did teddy bears start to appear in such profusion on all the greetings cards? Surely only in the last few years? Or am I having another forgetful moment? One person who usually writes me a nice letter sent only a brief note. I complained about this when returning her record card and then received a delightful letter with various words replaced by pictures. All to amuse me; or maybe she doubts my reading skills? (Reminds me of the old: “I am writing this slow because I know you can’t read fast.”?)

People often save their points for a long time before sending them in, but this year I received the largest pile of points ever from one person. They spanned quite some years, and some were so old I could not possibly enter them. There were still so many separate entries to make that the computer system broke down. I was horrified. How could this happen to me so near Year End? Fortunately with a bit of fiddling we seemed to get over the problem, but, please, hear my plea “Never let your points pile swell, post them early to Noelle.”

The points slips continue to arrive with odd things among them (very odd sometimes): with notes on the back (Quite intriguing sometimes. Was that an assignation?); in various orders and arrangements, back to front and inside out (well, almost); and various conditions, some good (even fresh from the washing machine), some very bad (bring out the rubber gloves). I expect some Sherlock Holmes could examine some and declare. “These 200 locals belong to a one eyed cat owner with a wooden leg.”

After the Year End is completed, usually I have my day of rest then take time to empty my study of waste paper, file away all the master point slips and tidy up. Fairly soon then I get back to the points, but this year I shall be moving to a new computer system. I expect to spend at least a couple

of weeks getting familiar with it, testing it, and deciding if I want any changes made. So if you post me your points before going on your summer holiday to some exotic location, I'm afraid there may be some delay before you get them back.

In one of my granddaughter's books, a duck who does all the work on a large farm, including looking after the livestock (I said it was a child's story) is constantly being asked "How goes the work?" (as I am) to which it gives an increasingly weary and all encompassing "Quack." Probably in a couple of weeks, I'll be responding with a plaintive "Quaaaack" myself.

Sincerely,
Noelle

PS The master point year officially ended on the 30th April but envelopes still arrive. The question is not "Do you feel lucky?" but "Am I feeling generous?" There weren't even any bribes among them.

LIST OF PROMOTIONS FOR EACH RANK 26th January 2002 to 2nd May 2002

Club Master		Tommy Moore	BV	Gwen Whiteman	S
Lisa Bristow	GA	Valerie Morris	RH	Jacqueline Williams	S
Tony Bristow	GA	Angela Roberts	WS	1-Star Master	
Dr John Brookes	A	John Sparkes	SU	Sid Craven	MB
Betty Dawson	D	Caroline Vincent	S	Janet Davies	A
Audrey Eves	PN	Keith Vincent	S	Jo Davies	A
Jennifer Gravenor	S	Mae Williams	SU	Eric Davison	S
Eric Hartland	H	Shirley Williams	MG	Estelle Evans	S
John James	A	County Master		Kathleen Jones	S
Malcolm James	NT	Bill Carter	WS	Tom Kendrick	BV
Joyce Makin	MB	Colin Cridge	A	Beryl Marke	PN
Lyn Martin	GA	Glanville Dodd	S	Pat Mullally	CN
Pat Martin	GA	Pat Evans	SU	John Wain	F
Tony Mason	BRE	Terry Farago	C	Patricia Waldon	NP
Roger Merlyn	S	Una Gavin	SU	Kate Wynds	MB
Arthur Orme	M	Dorothy Essex	GA	2-Star Master	
Frank Pollard	MER	Jean Hughes	PT	Janet Bradley	S
Jean Pollard	MER	Megan Jones	WS	Anne Davies	S
Lilian Richards	MB	Bob Smith	D	Terry Dolan	BSC
Verena Russell-Clarke	AG	George Woodhouse	WS	Elaine Galpin	LD
Pat Sivyver	S	Advanced Master		Ann E Johnson	MB
Janet Vernon	S	Kirsten Arnott	VOG	Mair Jones	A
Vince Vernon	S	Betty Bennett	R	Kathleen Juchnowicz	PW
Pat West	S	Pearl Browning	CBY	Yvonne Lewis	S
Jean Williams	MB	Sally Davies	AA	Cindy Middleton	T
Local Master		Mair Davison	S	Pam Mitchell	VOG
Jean Akers	BV	Olwen Doyle	PN	Henry Page	LP
Margaret Ball	CBY	Marion Evans	CBY	Pat Radway	BR
Josephine Baynham	GA	Brian Gardner	PN	Peter Roche	MB
Vivien Bennett	MB	Huw Jones	S	Hilda Williams	MB
Margaret Ellis	A	Marjorie Morgan	BV	3-Star Master	
Jean Flower	P	Barbara Mustoe	BR	Adam Anderson	
Gay Hughes	BEN	Stan Newman	WS	Cath Bailey	GA
Hilary Laurence	BV	Amy Owen	VOG	Helen Carsley	M
John Marshall	C	Margaret Plant	AM	Sheila Clarke	S
Angela Mayner	PR	Beryl Sleath	S	Pat Cogbill	BR
Philip Moody	NT	Keith Stonehouse	S		

Continued on Page 12

3-Star Master (contd)		Regional Master		Premier National Master	
Owen Davies	BEN	Jim Kinge	GA	Barry Jones	W
Muriel Richardson	WS	Liz Radclift Jones	GA	Mike Jones	STD
Dr Anne Thomas	GA	Premier Regional Master		Colin Nash	S
4-Star Master		Lloyd Lewis	S	Frank Springett	DM
Anthony Carsley	M	John Murray	L	Glyn Williams	BR
Kay Dyer	BV	Peter Smith	GA		
Jean Parry	MB	Ann Williams	NT	Senior Life Master	
5-Star Master		National Master		Des Jarvis	S
Keith Davison	S	Liz Commins	RH	Sheila Leyshon	L
Ron Daymond	MB	Philip Dorling	NT	Laura Woodruff	BV
Malcolm Fox	MG	Stephen Doubt	W		
Trish Tracy	PN	Kath Fewster	GA	Grand Master	
Tournament Master		Marjorie Paschkes	STD		
June Broeders	W	Frances Williams	L	Jim Luck	C

Around the areas

West Wales

John Isaac Shield (28th April 2002)

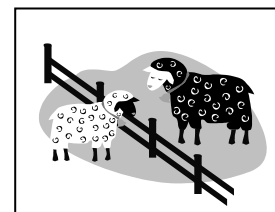
- 1st Geoff Simmons, Connie Warren
 2nd Lee Collier, Eric Hartland
 3rd Gary Martin, Filip Kurbalija



Mid Wales

J V Davies Individual Trophy

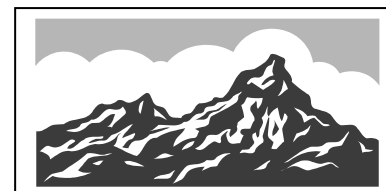
Dorothy Harris



North Wales

Perry and Spickett Trials

1. W. Horspool, M. Clare
2. P. Murphy, S. Edwards
3. B. Edwards, B. Jones
4. L. Orme, Y. Evans
5. J. Knight, J. Marray
6. J. Hand, P. Hand
7. T. Fisher, C. Fisher
8. H. Carsley, T. Carsley
9. L. Commins, M. Banks
10. J. Wain, A. Orme



East Wales:

East Wales Simultaneous Pairs

1. Syd Phillips & Churchill Al Temimi
2. Graham Jones & Irene Thomas
3. Ray Smith & Glyn Williams



Letters, articles, results and information for the next newsletter to Laura Woodruff, 3 Rees Row, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9TR ☎ 01656 724066 email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk

THISTLE HOTEL BRIDGE BREAKS

Again we've teamed up with Thistle Hotels to offer superb weekends in Exeter and Cardiff plus a magnificent week at Grasmere in the heart of England's beautiful Lake District.

Hotel bedrooms all have TV as well as tea/coffee facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available without supplement.

All our UK breaks are hosted by the resident First For Bridge team of Martin and Judy Holcombe with the bridge directed by either Graham Hedley or Andrew Kambites.

- ◆ Programme to suit all abilities
- ◆ Instructive seminars ◆ Master points awarded
- ◆ Partners available ◆ Bridge licensed by EBU/WBU

Grasmere Thistle Exeter Thistle

ONE WEEK - 7th-14th March 2003

Situated just 10 minutes walk to the village of Grasmere, the hotel stands in beautiful gardens opposite Dove Cottage on the shore of the lake. It has country house style and atmosphere and is the ideal location for exploring the surrounding countryside. Ample free parking. Bridge Director **Graham Hedley**. Cost per person half board **£349.00** for seven nights.

Cardiff Thistle

In the heart of Cardiff, this Victorian hotel has been beautifully restored to offer luxury with sophistication and provides high standards of service and facilities. Choice of 3 bars, brasserie and 2 lounges. Car parking available.

WEEKEND - 23rd-26th August 2002

Bridge Director **Andrew Kambites**. Cost per person half board **£139.00** for two nights and **£189.00*** for three.

NEW YEAR 2002/3. Mon 30th December to Thu 2nd January. We will be hosting a four day break at the Cardiff Thistle with **Graham Hedley** as Director. **£295.00** per person.

WEEKEND - 8th-10th November 2002

Easily reached from the M5 and close to Central Station, the shopping centre and the cathedral, the Thistle has a warm, friendly atmosphere and helpful staff. The excellent restaurant offers fine traditional cuisine. Parking available.

Bridge Director **Andrew Kambites**. Cost per person half board **£139.00** for two nights.



The Magic of Menorca

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA

11th-25th October 2002

Back to S'Algar for our 31st October holiday where the usual team of hosts Martin & Judy Holcombe plus Graham & Berry Hedley will guarantee great bridge in a superb setting.

- ◆ Trophies and cash prizes ◆ Bridge licensed by EBU/WBU
- ◆ Master points awarded ◆ Two stunning prize draws

Choice of self-contained hotel bedrooms or apartments comprising two twin bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom and large balcony or terrace.

A full programme of special events is planned including welcome cocktail party, shopping trip to Mahon, garden party, mid-holiday buffet dance and gala presentation dinner.

This is always a highly popular holiday and is already booking up fast so make sure you reserve your place soon! Choice of departure airport with **full board**, all-inclusive prices from only **£755.00** each. (Subject to Single Supplement)



Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS 30th January-13th February 2003

Our 2002 holiday at the Algarve's magnificent Hotel Atlantis was a sell-out so we're delighted to be back there in 2003 with the usual team of hosts Martin & Judy Holcombe plus Graham & Berry Hedley.

Improve with Andrew Kambites

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - April 2003

As 2002 was fully booked, be sure to make your reservation now for our fifth spring improvers holiday. If you enjoy bridge but want to know more, this holiday provides a perfect opportunity to improve all aspects of your game under the tuition of one of bridge's more flamboyant yet respected teachers, **Andrew Kambites** who is just one of three fully qualified EBUTA teachers on hand to guide and assist.

Full details, brochures and booking forms for all the above holidays from: Martin Holcombe

FIRST FOR BRIDGE

4 The Lyes, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5HF

Tel: 01934 876500, Fax: 835819, Mobile: 07771 901579



E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com

Web Site - <http://www.bridge-holidays.com>

Menorca holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd. ATOL No: 1772
Algarve holiday operated by Saga Holidays Ltd. ATOL No: 0308



Bidding Challenge – East hands (see page 9)

1.

Dlr: South ♠ 9 5 3
 Vul: NS ♥ void
 ♦ A K J 9 6
 ♣ K Q J 9 8

South opens 2♥ weak, North raises to 4♥

2.

Dlr: North ♠ A K Q 5 4
 Vul: NS ♥ 8
 ♦ K
 ♣ A Q 10 9 8 5

3.

Dlr: West ♠ A 4
 Vul: None ♥ K Q J 10 4 2
 ♦ A 5 3
 ♣ K 4

4.

Dlr: West ♠ K J 6 5
 Vul: EW ♥ void
 ♦ 10 9
 ♣ K Q J 10 8 7 6

5.

Dlr: East ♠ A K 5 3
 Vul: None ♥ 5
 ♦ A K Q J 8
 ♣ A Q 7

South overcalls 2♥, North raises to 4♥.

6.

Dlr: West ♠ K Q J 9 8 6 5 2
 Vul: All ♥ void
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ A K Q

7.

Dlr: South ♠ A K 9 7
 Vul: NS ♥ A Q J 6 4 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ 5

Some expert analysis next time, if I can persuade a few experts to contribute.

Keith Davison's February Crossword solution

Thanks again to Keith for an entertaining crossword.

February 2002 by Keith Davison

1	C	O	2	N	C	3	E	D	4	E	5	S	A	6	N	E
	O		O		N		U		E		U					
7	N	U	M		8	M	I	C	H	A	E	L	S			
	G		O		I		H		M		L					
9	R	I	G	H	T				10	R	E	A	11		12	C
	E		R		Y				E		13	N	O	A	H	
14	S	L	A	M		15			16	S		17	W		N	E
	S			18	M	I	N	T			19	A	U	G	U	R
		20	S		N		R			F		S				U
21	T	H	R	E	E	O	F	F				22	U	C	B	
		O		R		N		L				I				I
23	T	E	N	S				24	G	H	E	S	T	E	M	

BBC Wales TV Welsh Sports news, Monday 4th February.

Presenter: Now over to Bob Humphreys for the weekend sports news.



Bob Humphreys: It wasn't a bad weekend at all! Wales 54, yes WALES 54, Ireland 36, for Wales to take pole position in the five-nations championships. True that thrashing was in the BRIDGE international at Kilkenny, but we have to take Welsh success where we can!

[Pictures of Welsh Rugby success from the past, cut back to Bob Humphreys.]

Bob Humphreys: Enough on the Rugby success of the past and the current success of our bridge team ...

That must be the most positive thing ever said about the Welsh bridge team on the main Welsh television sports news!

Patrick Jourdain

(Wales lost the rugby 54-10.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Swansea Congress (*Charity Event in aid of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme*)

15th (Pairs) and 16th June (Swiss Teams), Swansea Bridge Club. Entry fee £16 per player
Entries to Diana Panniers, 13 Llewellyn Street, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AL, Tel. 01792 297081.

4th Welsh Seniors Congress and Open Swiss Pairs

Friday 31st May to Monday 3rd June at County Hall, Cwmbran, near Newport. Full congress 4 days £49; Seniors Congress 3 days £35. Seniors Pairs 2 days £21; Seniors Teams 1 day £16; Swiss Pairs only (Monday 3rd June) £17.50

Entries to Annie Favager, 3 Albert Crescent, Penarth CF64 1DA Tel. 029 2070 8004, email annie.favager@ntlworld.com

North Wales Swiss Pairs

NWBA Green-pointed Swiss Pairs. Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July, North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno. £35 per player.

Entries to Rona Morgan-Edwards, Gwynt-y-Môr, Penrhos, Pwllheli LL53 7TB Tel. 01758 612773.

6th Cardiff Charity Café Bridge Drive *in aid of St David's Foundation Hospice Care. Sponsored by S.A.Brain*

Sunday 7th July at 11.30, various cafés in and around Mill Lane, Cardiff. Come and have fun while contributing to a good cause; lunch and drink included in the entry fee of £20. Prizes including £100 for the winning pair.

Entries to Frank & Jane Scott-Verdon, 37 Heol Hendre, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF14 6PL, Tel: (029) 2069 3225, email franksv@ntlworld.com

Mid Wales Congress

19th-21st July 2002. Pairs Friday, Green-pointed Swiss Teams Saturday/Sunday. £33 per person.

Entries to Cecelia McCreary, 4 Trenchard, Parclyn, Cardigan SA43 2DL, Tel. 01239 811255.

South Wales Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams

Saturday 3rd (Pairs) and Sunday 4th (Teams) August, County Hall, Cwmbran. Pairs £19 per player, Teams £17.50 per player

Entries to Max Powell, 18 Park Street, Bridgend CF31 4AX, Tel. 01656 653507.

Welsh Foursomes

The Welsh Bridge Union's premier teams event. Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September, Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl. £100 per team.

Entries to D Evans, 2 Penylan Close, Porthcawl CF36 3LF, Tel. 01656 783461.

Information page *(Please mark changes and corrections in your copy of the Journal)*

Item	Journal page	Details
Change of telephone number	3	Marie Topp's telephone number has changed (again!) to: 01492 531805
Website update		West Wales Bridge Association's revamped website can be viewed at http://www.scfc.co.uk/wwba/index.html
Change of club secretary	4	Barrivale Bridge Club: the new Secretary is Kay Dyer, 64 Victoria Road, PENARTH CF64 3HZ Tel 029 2041 3413, email r.dyer1@ntlworld.com
Change of club details	4	Crickhowell Bridge Club now meet at 7pm instead of 7.30.
Change of email address	6	Newtown Bridge Club's Secretary, Jean Cufley, has a new email address: jeancufley@tiscali.co.uk
Change of club details	6	Newtown Bridge Club's venue has changed its name to The Monty Club (but is in the same place as before)
Change of club details	10	South Pembs Bridge Club now meets at the South Pembs Golf Club, Military Road, Pennar, Pembroke SA72 6SE.

WBU Council meeting 24th March 2002 *Notes of significant items from the recent meeting*

Item	Details
Annual subscription	Council is recommending to the AGM that the annual subscription remain the same at £5 for affiliated members and £12 for direct members.
Honoraria	Council has recommended that honoraria to officers be increased for the first time in four years, by 10%.
Area Annual General Meetings	From 2003, Area Associations may hold a green-pointed event in conjunction with their AGMs, the masterpoint scale to be lower than for Area Championships and to be notified after consultation with the Hon. Master Point Secretary.
Graded Masters Pairs	After a major consultation, Council decided that the format of this event should revert to that published in the 1994-1995 (same as 2000-2001) Journal with the following exceptions: players may be permitted to play in a higher section than that for which they are eligible if that Section cannot otherwise be filled; and the Sunday start time will be changed to 12.00..
Welsh Invitation Pairs	This event will replace the International Masters Pairs. Pairs of international standard will be invited from Wales and other countries to play in a Butler-scored pairs with a prize fund sweep. Details to be published in the Journal.
Camrose 2002-2003	Both home matches will be played in North Wales, to simplify travel arrangements for the away teams (Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland).
Lady Milne 2003	To be held in East Wales.