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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 78, February 2003

Welcome to Fishguard

The WBU has a new affiliated club, Fishguard Bridge Club.. We are delighted to welcome the club and its members, and hope they will enjoy being part of the Union and playing in its competitions. *Contact details Page 20.*

Not so Close



The first winner of the WBU Bidding Challenge was Mike Close (of “Ask Mikey”, who scored a staggering 80 out of 80, 6 ahead of his nearest rivals.

Answers and scores Pages 8 - 12

Ask Mikey, Page 5

Rona Morgan Edwards

Rona Morgan-Edwards, a former Chairman of North Wales Bridge Association and President of the Welsh Bridge Union, died on 2nd January.

Obituary Page 2.



Webber Cup: 10th-11th May

Wales’s top multiple teams event offers an opportunity for even the smallest club to shine on the national stage.

Only four teams are needed for a club qualifier, and each participating club is guaranteed a team in the final. Why not give it a try? At only £1 a head for the heats, it’s a good chance to introduce new players to team bridge.

Qualifying heats must be completed and results sent to the NTO by 6th April. Rules for qualifying heats can be found on Page 23 of the Journal.

Obituary: Rona Morgan-Edwards

Rona died on 2nd January. She had been ill for several months but seemed to be recovering well, so the suddenness of her death came as a shock. A month before, her husband had died and Rona, at his funeral, had never looked so serene in sadness, nor so beautiful.

Rona was Chairman of North Wales for several years and she became a popular President of the Welsh Bridge Union. During her year of office she added to her many friends and acquaintances in Welsh Bridge. She was a brilliant and charming hostess in her official role and as a private person.

She helped to set up the National Swiss Pairs, which she ran with great success for ten years. During her time as Chairman, and for some time afterwards, she ran all the North Wales congresses most successfully, with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of panache.



She represented North Wales in the Spickett, represented Wales in the Lady Milne and was twice National Ladies' Champion. She wore her successes modestly; her not-so-good results she accepted philosophically. For Rona, Bridge was, above all, a social occasion and an opportunity to make new friends and to meet old ones (and to exchange a little gossip, albeit entirely without malice). That she had substantial success as a player was almost incidental to her. Her manner at the Bridge table was always pleasant, her behaviour always of the highest ethical

standard. Her husband said that she had a fuse stretching from Pwllheli to Timbuctoo but to watch out if ever it was lit. Only once in over twenty years did I witness this rare phenomenon, and when the person who caused it came later to atone, she accepted his apology with characteristic grace and good humour.

Rona was multi-talented. She gained a degree in languages from London and taught French and German for a few years. She took up a lectureship and met her husband, Brian. After living in London for a little while, they moved back to her home area in Gwynedd where she began to teach woodwind to children. She was highly successful as were so many of her pupils. She was a fine flautist herself and promoted her love of music further by sponsoring and organising annual concerts in Wrexham. She was a superb cook. She could think on her feet and could be relied on to do any job at a Camrose match at a moment's notice and do it effortlessly. Although her husband said that Rona treated her car as a motorised armchair – and I can confirm his opinion having travelled as her passenger to Cardiff and marvelling at the almost total lack of gear change – she had gained her pilot's licence. On one of her learner flights the engine cut out and Rona very gently woke her sleeping instructor to ask what she should do. As in all aspects of her life, at a moment when most of us would panic, she would not behave in a way she would regard as unseemly.

She had a delightful personality. She was a very kind and steadfast friend. She was a gifted and modest lady whom I admired and loved. Her death is a great personal loss and Bridge in Wales will be the poorer for her passing.

Jill Knight

RESULTS



Porthcawl Congress

The Rest, Porthcawl, 7th-10th November 2003

Prince of Wales Teams	Catherine Draper, Ian Draper, D Avis, C Wilson
Ladies' Pairs	Jane Jensen, Nevena Senior
Men's Pairs	B J O'Brien, Peter Goodman
Mixed Pairs	Brian Senior, Eva Turner
Red Dragon Pairs	Patrick Jourdain, Mike Hirst
Little Dragon Pairs	John Armstrong, Jill Casey
Seagull Cup	Sarah Teshome, Catherine Jagger, David Jensen, Nevena Senior
Championship Teams	M Walsh, M Millson, M Dignen, A Thompson
Skier Trophy	Sharleen Weir, Grahame Weir, Sarah Teshome, Catherine Jagger

Mike Hirst (right) and Patrick Jourdain are presented with the trophy for the Red Dragon Pairs by the WBU President, Eric Favager. Mike and Patrick also won the Veteran Pairs.



Veteran Pairs

24th November 2002

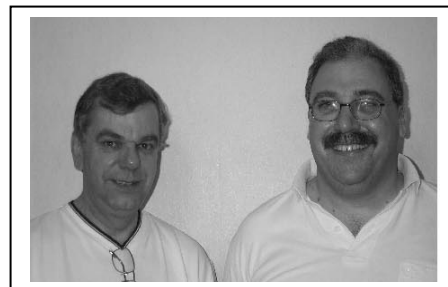
1 st	Patrick Jourdain, Mike Hirst (South Wales Heat Winners)	63.80%
2 nd	Graham Shaw, David Rowley (North Wales Heat Winners)	58.88%
3 rd	Jean Hand, Peter Hand	57.11%

WBU Simultaneous

28th November 2002

1 st :	Jane Brook, Mike Best (Penarth)	74.07%
2 nd	Anthony Stevens, Martin Morris (Newport)	72.10%
3 rd :	David Wright & Brian Simister (Vale of Glamorgan)	70.46%

Photos of other section winners on Page 14.



Graded Masters

Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli 25th-26th January 2003

Section 1	Mike Baker, Steve Jarvis	55.66%
Section 2	Steve Webb, Tim Barsby	59.19%
Section 3	Martin David, Chris Davies	57.33%
Section 4	Jennifer Wardell, Christine Norman	57.10%
Section 5	Vince Vernon, Janet Vernon	55.71%

International Round-up



Camrose

In the first match of the season, Tim Rees, Filip Kurbalija, Dafydd and Gary Jones, Adam Dunn and Peter Goodman played against the Republic of Ireland. Wales won the first session by 2 IMPs for 15-15, and the second comfortably at 17-12, but in the final session on the Sunday Ireland looked set to win to square the match. Our team staged a remarkable recovery to draw the final session and win the match 47-42.

The English proved a tougher proposition at West Bromwich on 11th-12th January. The team (Thomas & Denning, Rees & Kurbalija, Goodman & Dunn) struggled despite a good performance to make headway against the very experienced team of Hackett & Waterlow, Townsend & Gold, Armstrong & Davies, and only exceptionally fine bidding and play by Rees and Kurbalija in the final set pulled Wales into double figures for the session, to lose 61-29 overall. It was particularly disappointing for Adam Dunn, since a large crowd of supporters (most members of his family live nearby) had turned out to watch the match, spurning the chance to watch West Bromwich Albion who were playing at home.

Four of the team met Scotland on 1st-2nd February in Edinburgh, Goodman and Dunn being replaced by Jourdain and Ratcliff. Scotland looked to have sewn up the match after wins in the first two sessions of 65-22 and 74-57, but Wales again pulled the rabbit out of the hat in the last session to win by a thumping 110-35 and take the match 45-43.

The final match of the season is against Northern Ireland on 22nd-23rd February, at the Holt Lodge Hotel, Wrexham, and we hope that local players will take the opportunity to watch some fascinating bridge from the Vu-Graph theatre.

Lady Milne

The three leading pairs from the women's trials will represent Wales in the Lady Milne women's home international weekend on 6th-8th June in Cardiff: Mary Moore and Irene Thomas, Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija, Liz Atkinson and Margaret Lane finished joint first on 158 VPs.



Mary Moore, who will be playing in her first Lady Milne this summer.

NEC Cup

The team who took the silver medal in the Commonwealth Bridge Festival also won an invitation to the prestigious NEC Bridge Festival in Japan. The team of Dafydd Jones, Gary Jones, Adam Dunn and Peter Goodman finished 10th in the qualifying sessions, one VP behind joint 8th, with eight teams qualifying for the final. Well done and commiserations to the Welsh team.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO ALL

1st European Open Championships, Menton, 14th-28th June 2003: Mixed Teams, Mixed Pairs, Open, Women's and Senior Teams, Open, Women's and Senior Pairs, Side Games.

Open to all registered members in good standing with their Federation, from any WBF member country. *Contact Linda Greenland for details.*



Ask Mikey : Redouble shows 9+ ... ??

by Mike Close

I've found that there is an obscure bit of the convention card that is not discussed by even regular partnerships, let alone casual players, and indeed, very little can be found in print about it. It concerns the use of redouble after partner opens and right-hand opponent doubles. As usual, I'll present it in the form of questions from an inexperienced player.

Q: I was playing in an East Wales pairs competition with a more experienced partner, so we filled in some convention cards. We got to the bit which says "Doubles: Redouble shows?" and he told me to put 9+ points. Does this mean any 9 points?

A: *No, it is important that you bid naturally as well, and use this redouble (XX) card to suggest taking a penalty against the contract they finally bid.*

Q: Anyway, I picked up ♠x, ♥AQJxx, ♦Jxx, ♣QJxx. Partner opened 1♣ and the next hand doubled. So I tried this redouble, as I had 11 points. They bid to 2♠, partner doubled and it made, so we scored a bottom for -470. Partner was not happy with me at all, and said I should have bid 3♣. He had ♠Kxxx, ♥Kx, ♦xx, ♣AKxxx. Where did I go wrong?

A: *This was not the time to use the Redouble (XX) card. You should have simply bid 1♥ and followed it up with 3♣.*

Q: Why not redouble? I had 9+ points.

A: *Redouble suggests to partner that you want to take a penalty from what they bid, rather than try and make something yourself.*

Q: So do you have any rules for the redouble?

A: *Yes, several. Firstly you must not have a 'fit' for partner, i.e. you must be short in partners opening suit (there is one exception to this, which I'll explain later).*

Q: Why is that?

A: *Well if you have a fit, they will have a fit, and therefore a safe place to play. If you have 9 cards in a suit it is almost certain that*

they have at least 8 cards in another suit, and thus the ability to play in a trump contract at a low level, when they can ruff your high card winners.

Q: OK, I can see that. On the hand I showed you partner had bid clubs, and I had four, so we had to have at least an 8-card fit, and on this occasion we had nine. So we should have bid on. Secondly?

A: *Take vulnerability and size of penalty into account. If they are non-vulnerable and you are vulnerable, you don't want to catch them for 300 in 1♠ when you can make 600 in 3NT.*

Q: Thirdly?

A: *Your redouble promises two decent 4-card suits that haven't been bid yet, suits which if bid at the one-level you are happy to double for penalties. If you only have one suit, it's better to bid it.*

Q: Any more?

A: *I play redouble as 10+ points not 9 [Editor's note: this may be on account of Mikey's bitter experience of conceding -550 when playing with your Editor.]. You are supposed to be telling partner that you have the balance of the points, but no fit, and in these days of devalued opening bids this may not always be true!*

Oh, and look at your hand! Compare these two when partner opens 1♣:

a) ♠Axxx, ♥AQx, ♦1098xx, ♣x

b) ♠Qxx, ♥QJxx, ♦QJxx, ♣Kx

Hand a) has a point less than hand b), but with a) you would be happy to defend 2♦/2♥/2♠ doubled, whereas b) suggests you should play in no trumps - your potential tricks are slow, and may be ruffed out.

Q: Am I promising another bid?

A: *Yes, unless partner doubles of course.*

Q: What does partner do if he holds a) a very poor hand or b) a good hand, but one which is unsuitable for doubling?

A: *With weakness, partner bids immediately. He's telling you he doesn't have two defensive tricks, and can't stand a later double by you.*

Q: Defensive tricks?

A: *Aces, KQ combinations in short suits, certain tricks in their (assumed) suits are almost sure defensive tricks. KJx in short suits are not quite a defensive trick, but close, and perhaps you should count KQ in a 5 card suit as about half a trick, the same as an unsupported K. Look at this hand:*

c) ♠KQJxxx, ♥x, ♦KQx, ♣Qxx

The bidding is 1♠ from you, X on your left, XX from partner. Regardless of what right-hand opponent does, you bid 2♠ to tell partner that you are not interested in a penalty, as you only have the diamond KQ as a sure defensive trick. Also note:

d) ♠KQxxxx, ♥x, ♦x, ♣KQxxx

Let's say right hand opponent bids 2♥. You are NOT off the hook, and you cannot pass. I would bid 3♣. And where you have a really long suit, you can even jump in the bidding.

Q: So if partner has a decent opening hand, and two defensive tricks?

A: *Partner doubles if the opponents have bid a suit in which he has a reasonable 4-card holding. This is for penalties and you are expected to pass. Otherwise he passes - this is forcing, and generally says "I am happy to defend if you double", although, as you will see, there are exceptions.*

Q: But what about good hands with distribution, for example:

e) ♠xx, ♥x, ♦AKJx, ♣AKxxxx

f) ♠Kx, ♥Kxx, ♦x,, ♣AKQJxxx

I'm not sure I want to defend with these.

A: *You are right. The concept of 'Pass then pull the double' tells partner you have a hand with which you don't want to defend, but which is full value or better. So after the sequence:*

You	Opp 1	Pard	Opp2
1♣	X	XX*	Pass
Pass	1♠	X	Pass

* Alerted

you can bid 2♦ on e), and 3♣ on f). Note that both bids are FORCING TO GAME. Put these hands opposite Hand a) above and tell me what contract you want to be in!

Q: And if partner passes forcing, and I as the redoubler cannot double for penalties, and I am in the pass-out seat? (e.g. 1♣ - X - XX - 1♠ - Pass - Pass to me?)

A: *I play that bids are forcing for one round, and to suit agreement. Generally you will want to find a fit, or try to play in 3NT if you or partner can show a stopper in their suit. But you are allowed to stay out of game if you only have the values for 2NT, or have to play in 3 or 4 of a minor, or you only show tolerance for partner's opening major.*

Q: OK, so in response to the redouble:

- Opener bids immediately with weakness
- Pass is forcing, and shows a reasonable opening bid or better,
- Pass then pull the double to show strength and shape.

You mentioned an exception. What is it?

A: *You might want to consider this sequence:*

Pard	Opp1	You	Opp2
1♠	X	XX*	2♦
P	P	2♠	

* Alerted

Q: That's odd, you said that the redouble denied a fit.

A: *Look at this hand:*

g) ♠Axx, ♥KJxx, ♦xxx, ♣QJx

If you play standard Acoll and four-card majors, you have a problem. You would like to bid 2NT to show a good raise in spades, but this guarantees 4-card support. You couldn't bid 2♥ the first time, because that shows a 5-card suit. 2♠ is a BIG underbid. 3♠ is preemptive with at least four trumps. You are stuck.

So instead what we do is use the sequence above to show exactly 3-card support and 10-11 points (but don't forget to show this to partner before you try it!).

Q: I guess that people who play 5 card majors don't have this problem – they can raise with only three trumps.

A: *Partly true. But what would they do with*

h) ♠xxx, ♥KQxx, ♦Qxx, ♣KJx?

Do you want to commit to playing in spades with three small as support? It might be

better to consult partner, and agree that the sequence above would show this hand.

Q: Well, thanks, Mikey, for clearing this up. Can I approach you with other questions later?

A: Sure! See me next time, or email me at mg.close@ntlworld.com, and I will try to help.

Anything you bid ...

The Welsh Bridge Union Laws & Ethics Committee has catalogued all psychic bid and misbid reports received since 1991. This will now be an ongoing process, and clubs as well as Areas and organisers of National events are encouraged to submit their records for inclusion. The Laws & Ethics Committee has examined all the Tournament Directors' categorising of such bids, and made amendments where necessary. Any changes are always notified to the players involved.

It is important that the names of all players present, the systems being played, the event and the date as well as the name of the Tournament Director is included in any report

Any player may ask to have sight of any inclusion, which names him/her. Such a request should be made in writing to the Welsh Bridge Union Secretary, who will forward the request to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

**Anne Jones, Chairman
WBU Laws & Ethics Committee**

Editor's note: *For the benefit of members who do not have a copy of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge ("The Blue Book") to hand or have no wish to spend years of their life wondering what it all means, David Burn, Chairman of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee, has kindly permitted us to print the following extract from an article on psyches and misbids:*

The difference between a misbid and a psyche is that a misbid is unintentional - you weren't trying to fool anyone, you just forgot the

system, or pulled the wrong bidding card. A psyche is intentional - you deliberately misrepresented your hand in some major respect in order to gain a tactical advantage. But in either case, your hand will not look anything like what partner tells the opponents it will look like, and the rules treat misbids and psyches in almost identical ways.

Either by accident (a misbid) or by design (a psyche), your partner's hand may in no way correspond to the calls he has made according to your system. That's not illegal. Your side is not subject to penalty just because one of you has misdescribed his hand. The question of penalty arises only when we consider your actions opposite a misbid or a psyche - and those actions are judged in exactly the same way in both cases.

What is illegal is for you to proceed on the basis that your partner's hand is not as you have described it -

unless you are able to deduce this entirely on the basis of your own hand and the auction. If, in the absence of such "authorised information", you

take the inspired view that your partner's bidding in no way corresponds to his hand, then there is evidence that your agreements are not as you have described them to the opponents; that you have a concealed partnership understanding. And, whether he has misbid or psyched, that is not allowed.



Bidding Challenge No. 1

Set 1 is now finished - many thanks to Peter Goodman and the panellists for giving us their views on the hands. The hands and commentary can also be viewed at www.wbu.org.uk/bid1.htm.

Winner of the £25 prize for this set is **Mike Close of Barrivale BC with a score of 80** (out of 80) Well done indeed. Other impressive scores were: 2nd = David Williams/Sue Ingham 74, 4th Gary Martin 72, 5th= David Davies/Betty Lewis 70, 7th=Annie Favager/Simon Richards 68, 9th MJ O'Leary 67, 10th Robin Hall 66.

Set 2 is on Page 13 – don't forget that there's a £100 prize for the best cumulative score in 2003. Answers to Linda Greenland by post or email (deri31@ntlworld.com).

The Experts' View

Question 1

Dlr: East **South**
 Vul: EW ♠ A 6 5
 Scoring: IMPs ♥ 9 6
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ A K 9 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
-	-	2♠ ¹	3♣
3♠	Db1 ²	Pass	?

¹ Weak 5-9 HCP

² ♥+♦ with some values

Marks: 3NT 10, 4♣ 8, 5♣ 7, Pass 9, others 3

Paul: 3NT, Hope to be able to make 9 quick tricks, or the chance that East has no entry.

Mike: 3NT would seem right - hope partner has the right cards

Jim: 5♣, Partner will have a singleton (at most) in spades and it is clear we belong in clubs not NT unless he has great length in the red suits.

Tim: 4♣, I think this is the hardest problem of the set. So much depends on North's shape, values and location of these values. He will be doubling on most hands with short spades and a few high cards. If partner has 2542, it will be best to defend; if he has 1543 or 0553, I want to bid. In general, I believe that takeout doubles should be taken out, otherwise partner will worry about making light doubles on suitable shapes, which is where many gains are made.

Jill: Pass (and lead low spade). Have misgivings but we've conceded -830 before and no doubt will again! Partner will expect

this type of hand from me and know that pass will be one of my options.

Adam: 3NT. Any red values from partner are likely to be sitting well. Can duck 2 rounds of spades and partner is likely to have something in clubs if he has only a stiff spade.

Dafydd: Pass and lead a trump. This will mean no ruffs in the short hand. 3NT will be a lucky make even if the clubs are running. Should hold 3♠ to seven tricks.

Alex: 4♣, Showing a minimum hand. Partner will bid on holding extras.

Tony: 3NT. Partner, although indicating ♥ and ♦ may just be fishing for 3NT. On this occasion an easy bid.

Simon: Pass. Other choice is 3NT. I have got good defensive prospects if partner's values are where he says they are. If partner has doubled with ♣ tolerance also, then we could be in trouble. Maybe 3NT has less downside to it when wrong, but will go with my instincts.

Question 2

Dlr: West **South**
 Vul.: EW ♠ 6
 Scoring: IMPs ♥ A J 5
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ 10 9 6 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2♠	3♥ ³	Pass	?

¹ Multi

² Pass or correct

³ Not good enough to bid 2♥ on the previous round.

Marks: 4♥ 10, Pass 7, 4♣ 4, others 3

Paul: Pass. If partner has very little but a reasonable heart suit what defence do we have to 4♠? A 4♥ bid now might push the opponents into bidding game.

Mike: Pass, but for the punters 4♥ - there may be a play for it

Jim: Pass. No reason to bid opposite a partner who could not bid on the first round and every reason not to push opponents into a game we cannot be sure of beating.

Tim: 4♥. It's not clear who can make what. We probably won't make 4♥, as partner will be quite weak. In these cases, the Law of Total Tricks indicates whether it's worth competing. The Law says: The total number of tricks available to both sides in their best trump suit is equal to the total number of trumps for both sides. In this case, we probably have nine hearts, and the opposition probably have nine spades. Therefore, there will be 18 tricks available. If we go off in 4♥, the opposition would be able to make 3♠.

Geoff: 4♣ - shows tolerance for ♥, may play better if 6-3 fit.

Jill: 4♥. I would play that a delayed 3♥ shows a 4-card minor as well so we should have a good secondary fit. Partner probably couldn't bid first time as she has spade length. I'm ready to apologise if 3♥ is the limit of the hand

Adam: 4♥. Next?

Dafydd: 4♥. Only slightly concerned about 4♠ making. The hearts are likely to be breaking 2-2 because the responder to the Multi 2♦ would have bid 3♥ with 3-3 or 4-3 in the majors.

Alex: 4♥. The hand is quite likely to yield 10 tricks opposite a reasonable weak two-type holding by partner.

Tony: 4♥. If they bid 4♠ I don't think they are making it, and I think we are making 4♥.

Simon: Pass. Partner was not good enough to bid 2♥ at green the previous round so why do I have to bid over 3♠? OK, I have got good honour support, an outside ace and a singleton but still not good enough to bid on; of course, they might even be able to make 4♠.

Question 3

Dlr: North

Vul: Love all

Scoring: IMPs

South

♠ K 6 3

♥ K 10 7 6 4

♦ void

♣ K Q J 4 3

West	North	East	South
-	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4♣ ²
Pass	4♠ ³	Pass	?

¹ 3♥: non-forcing

² Cue bid

³ Cue bid, no ♦ control.

Marks: 4NT 10, 5♦ 8, 6♦ 9, 6♥♠ 8, others 3

Paul: 4NT. Will bid the slam if partner has two aces plus the queen of trumps or three aces. Don't expect partner to have enough for a grand.

Mike: 4NT Blackwood. Bid 7 if North shows 3 aces + queen of trumps.

Jim: 5♦. Very difficult. Partner will need decent trumps to make the slam a reasonable proposition and we need to try to get that message across. Blackwood does not seem to solve the problem.

Tim: 6♥ - North should have three-card heart support for the 3♥ bid, and he should have a maximum and/or good controls to go past 4♥. Typical hands would be ♠AQxxx, ♥AQx, ♦Qx, ♣xxx or ♠Axxxx, ♥AQx, ♦xx, ♣Axx. I can't see how he can have fewer than four useful cards, and he needs too much for seven to be good, so I just bid slam direct.

Jill: 5♦ - The hardest hand (for me). We are not off 3 aces but may not be safe at the 5-level. However, I am not passing. Typical hands may be:

♠AJxxx, ♥Axx, ♦Qxxx, ♣x

♠Axxxx, ♥QJx, ♦xx, ♣Axx

♠Axxxxx, ♥Jxxx, ♦Qx, ♣A

♠AJxxx, ♥Qxx, ♦xx, ♣Axx

I must remember she bid 3♥ so she does not have a better hand than these examples, however she thinks we are safe at the 5 level so she doesn't have three small diamonds. Will Blackwood tell me if 6♥ is good (third/fourth example) or bad (first/second example)? I really need her to have good

distribution as well as two aces so I will make a diamond cue in the hope she will realise I need more than 2 aces and ♥Q. With extra heart length or distribution she will bid 6. This way we will be in 6♥ on hand 3 but not on the others (if we are, I can win the post-mortem!).

Geoff: RKCB

Adam: 6♦. Pick a slam. Partner must have 2 aces for this bidding (as he can't cue ♦A or K) so I want him to choose between the majors: 6♥ if he has 4, otherwise 6♠. Can't think what else it can mean and I'm obviously confident Peter would get it right!

Dafydd: 4NT. Good old-fashioned key card.

Alex: 4NT RKCB, asking for aces. Partner has already denied ♦A, so one ace plus the queen of trumps should be enough for six.

Tony: 4NT- better check on aces! Partner hasn't got the ace of diamonds as failed to cue bid it.

Simon: 6♦. I can bid 6♦ here, asking partner to choose between hearts and spades. A grand slam is unlikely to be on here after partner could only bid 3♥. There could be a case for bidding 6♠ as my sign off in case his hearts are poor, but his spades may be only ace to 5 also, so let's invite partner to express an opinion.

Question 4

Dlr: South

Vul: NS

Scoring: IMPs

South

♠ Q 3

♥ A Q J 5 3

♦ K Q 10 7 5

♣ K

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
3♣ ¹	3♠	Pass	?

¹ Weak

Marks: 4♦ 10, 4♣ 8, 4♠ 5, others 3.

Paul: 4♦ natural. The auction has become cramped, but we can still bid our suits.

Mike: 4♣. Cue bid

Jim: 4♦. I see no reason not to make the natural bid as there is no certainty that we belong in spades.

Tim: 4♣. I have a useful hand, even though the ♣K may be wasted. Partner will have six spades and/or a strong hand. Partner may think spades are agreed, or he may think 4♣ is a general force. I will bid 4♠ over 4♦ or 4♥ to clarify the situation, and I will pass 4♠ if he bids that.

Geoff: 4♦ - bidding shape.

Jill: 4♣ (showing a good raise to 4♠). Partner will now show ♦A or ♥K (she wouldn't show a singleton heart) over which I intend to bid 4NT. I decided to abandon the red suits because at least there is no doubt over strain while cue bidding. An initial 4♦ from me would leave partner very unsure which suit we are playing in.

Adam: 4♦! Know the answer to this one as we got it wrong at the table (we raised to 4♠ which is practical, but might miss ♦fit), but have subsequently agreed that cue is all slam tries and new suits are natural not cues.

Dafydd: 4♦ natural and forcing.

Alex: 4♦, bidding out my shape.

Tony: 4♦ - a natural bid. If partner bids 4♠, I will ask for aces with 4NT. Partner must have a good hand, because with a non-forcing hand with long spades he would start with double and then bid 3♠ invitational.

Simon: 4♦, showing where my strength is; would never bid 4♣ when I have such good diamonds to show, and asking for aces is too early as we do not know where we are going to play yet.

Question 5

Dlr: East

Vul: NS

Scoring: IMPs

South

♠ 5

♥ A J 10 8 4 2

♦ 8

♣ A Q J 5 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	3♦	?

Marks: 3♥ 10, 4♥ 8, 4♣ 8, others 3.

Paul: 3♥. Still gives us a chance to play in clubs after partner bids 3♠. Playing with

Adrian I could bid 4♣ to show 5/5 in clubs and a major

Mike: 3♥. Not strong enough for 4♣ showing 5/5 ♥+♣ 16+.

Jim: 4♥. The practical bid, not that it comes with a written guarantee. However, there are far too many hands partner can hold which give good play for 4♥ which we do not want him raising 3♥ to 4♥. I want to play this in hearts and would not make a two-suited bid even if it were available.

Tim: 3♥. Although partner doesn't need much to make 4♥, there are enough values out so that partner will probably raise to four if it's going to make. Meanwhile, I'll avoid a large penalty if partner's short in hearts. There is a useful convention called Non-leaping Michaels that would be useful here. A bid of 4♣ would show clubs and a major (and a good hand).

Geoff: 3♥ - bidding won't stop here.

Jill: 3♥, OK, I'm a wimp! Second choice 4♣ to show ♥ and ♣. This loses the 6th heart and should be a slightly better hand than this. Third choice 4♥ but partner may well bid on with wasted spade values. I hope to survive by bidding again (e.g. if West bids spades, I will bid 4/5♣).

Adam: 3♥.

Dafydd: 3♥. It would be disappointing to play there but I find that unlikely.

Alex: 3♥, will rebid 4♣ over partner's 3♠ response

Tony: 4♥ - too good for 3♥ and if I show a 2-suiter, 5♣ may be too high - 3 losers spade, heart, diamond.

Simon: 3♥ - Too short spades to double for take out, not good enough to bid 4NT (showing a major and clubs, as 4♦ would show the majors?) so that leaves 3♥. Unlikely that it is going to get passed out and we may know a lot more when it is our next turn to bid.

Question 6

Dlr: North

Vul: NS

Scoring: IMPs

South

♠ A 6

♥ Q 9 5 4

♦ K 7 3

♣ J 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
Pass	Dbl ²	Pass	?

¹ Weak, 5-9 HCP

² Take-out. 2NT from you would be Lebensohl

Marks: 2NT 10, 3♣ 8, Pass 3, others 3.

Paul: 3♣. As we are playing Lebensohl, 3♣ shows about 8-10 points, ideal for the hand.

Mike: 3♣. If partner bids 3♦, ♥ ♠ then bid 3NT.

Jim: 2NT. To pass would be a wild gamble so I will hope that 3♣ is a playable spot. In these situations where game is remote or impossible, 2NT is better played as a scramble to partner's better minor rather than as Lebensohl. I would make the same bid then.

Tim: 2NT - Partner's a passed hand, so will be weakish with short hearts. I don't think Lebensohl is a good idea when both players have passed, as game is unlikely to be on. 2NT is better used as pick a minor here. However, since these are my methods, I can't afford to bid 3♣, as partner will bid on with a maximum pass, and we won't make anything.

Geoff: 2NT - pass is too tight at teams when they have half the pack and a probable 6-2 trump fit.

Jill: 2NT as a relay to 3♣ with no game interest. I did not think of passing even for a millisecond! I like partner to protect very light and will not punish her by conceding -670.

Adam: 2NT, to play in 3♣

Dafydd: 3♣, this caters for partner holding a 10/11 count. He can pass then.

Alex: 2NT, will pass 3♣ (or 3♦) from partner. Not enough for a penalty and no interest in game opposite a passed hand.

Tony: 2NT - to play in 3♣; there should be no game on. If partner has 5 or 6 diamonds and 4 spades I would expect him to be bidding 3♦ over 2NT. He knows I would probably have bid 2♠ with 3 of them.

Simon: 2NT. Pard is passed hand so nothing to get excited about, pass is too much of a view, so I will bid 2NT instead of 3♣, as I do not want pard to think I have any interest in game.

Question 7

Dlr: East **South**
 Vul: EW ♠ 7 4 2
 Scoring: IMPs ♥ K Q 4 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 8 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	2NT ¹	4♠	5♥
6♦	Pass	Pass	?

¹ ♥ and ♣, at least 5-5, can be very weak.

Marks: 6♥ 10, Pass 8, 7♣ 3, others 3.

Paul: Pass. If 6♦ is making then 6♠ is also probably making too. Bidding 6♥ now may also give opponents a chance to bid the grand they may be able to make.

Mike: 6♥. When they bid 6♠ then bid 7♣ put the opponents under pressure.

Jim: 6♥. It looks the odds to sacrifice at the vulnerability with both sides having a double fit

Tim: 6♥. It doesn't look as though we have much defence to 6♦ (or 6♠ come to that). 6♥ is likely to be cheap (500 or 800). If they bid 6♠, I will pass. If they bid 7♦ confidently, I will take out insurance in 7♥, as the penalty will still be less than the score for a small slam.

Geoff: 6♥ but what if they bid 6♠?

Jill: Pass. We have forced them to decide at the 5-level. Let's see who is right. They could even be cold for 7. Partner may have a spade ruff. She would certainly not double 6♦ in case they retreat to 6♠. My ♥K may be a trick and partner may have ♣A. I will lead you didn't ask me!

Adam: 6♥. Looks like a trick. Is 6♦ off and 6♠ making? Am I pushing them to a grand? Who knows, but I'd bid 6♥ at the table.

Dafydd: 6♥, strange that the opponents have bid 6♦ not 6♠ but again I would do this at the table.

Alex: 6♥, no defence to 6♦. Partner would surely have found a double with both red aces.

Tony: 6♥ Double fit, so it shouldn't be too expensive. Partner hasn't doubled 6♦, so I expect them to be making looking at my hand.

Simon: 6♥. Anything could be right but I reckon they are close to making 6♦ so will take the push. If they bid 6♠ then that's my lot. 6♠ has more chance of going off anyway because pard may realise I am short in diamonds and be able to give me a diamond ruff if he got either pointed ace. OK, Peter, I can dream can't I?

Question 8

Dlr: South **South**
 Vul: EW ♠ A 10 9 4
 Scoring: Pairs ♥ A 10 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K 10

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

Marks: 3♠ 10, 2♠ 5, 4♠ 6, 4♦ 6, others 3.

Paul: 3♠. A six-loser hand.

Mike: 4♦. A bit of an overbid but you have very good cards.

Jim: 3♠. The value bid for this six-loser hand.

Tim: 3♠. This hand has six losers, and will make game opposite many hands that would pass a raise to two. Although it's generally right to be conservative at pairs, I think this hand is too good. For those people who fancy 4♠, partner always turns up with xxxx in spades and KQxxx in diamonds!

Geoff: 3♠ - enough at pairs.

Jill: 4♠. Partner won't bid 4♠ with many hands that make game cold (e.g. ♠Kxxxx, ♥Kx, ♦xxx, ♣xxx). To cue bid is OTT.

Adam: 2♠.

Dafydd: 3♠, the losing trick count. A game-try splinter 3♦ may describe your hand more accurately.

Disagree with the experts? Try Bidding Challenge No. 2, overleaf.

WBU Bidding Challenge – Set 2

Answers to Linda by 31st March 2003

Hand 1	EW VUL - Scoring: Teams				
♠K	West	North	East	South	
♥J1075	-	-	2♥ (i)	2NT	(i) Weak 5-9 HCP
♦K3	Pass	3♥ (ii)	Pass	3♠	(ii) transfer
♣AKQJ104	Pass	4♦	Pass	?	
Hand 2	Game All - Scoring: Teams				
♠6	West	North	East	South	
♥AQ9853	-	Pass	1♠	2♠ (i)	(i) red suits 5/5
♦AKQ93	3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl (ii)	(ii) good hand
♣9	Pass	4♣	Pass	?	
Hand 3	N/S Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠K9732	West	North	East	South	
♥QJ874	-	Pass	1♣	2♣ (i)	(i) Majors
♦ -	2♥	3♥	Pass	?	
♣A95					
Hand 4	Game All – Scoring: Teams				
♠754	West	North	East	South	
♥1084	-	Pass	Pass	1♣	(i) Take out
♦AKJ	1♠	Dbl (i)	Pass	?	
♣AKJ10					
Hand 5	E/W VUL - Scoring: Teams				
♠KQ	West	North	East	South	
♥A1063	-	1NT(i)	3♦	?	(i) 12-14
♦Q					
♣A108754					
Hand 6	Game All - Scoring: Teams				
♠1074	West	North	East	South	
♥AK10	-	-	Pass	1♣	
♦7	Pass	1♠	Pass	?	
♣AKJ764					
Hand 7	E/W VUL - Scoring: Teams				
♠Q8	West	North	East	South	
♥954	1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass	(i) good hand
♦K9732	4♥	Dbl (i)	Pass	?	
♣974					
Hand 8	Game all - Scoring: Pairs				
♠J10754	West	North	East	South	
♥10532	-	-	1♥	Pass	
♦Q5	1♠	Dbl	Pass	?	
♣86					

Mid-Wales Round-Up

Results from recent Mid Wales events, provided by Phil Dorling, Mid Wales Area Tournament Organiser.



Harrop Griffiths Trophy (Mixed Pairs)

1 st	Betty Spencer & David Batterley	58.61%
2 nd	Sue Raybould & Martin Page	56.83%
3 rd	Margaret Morris & Dewi Jones	55.72%

McKinley Cup (Teams of Four)

1 st	Mike Jones, Marjorie Pashckes, Sue Raybould, Martin Page	102VP
2 nd	Monica Garbett-Edwards, Glenda Dorling, Phil Dorling, Alan Screen	99VP
3 rd	David Davies, Mike Tedd, Teresa Montoya, Rob Douglas	94VP

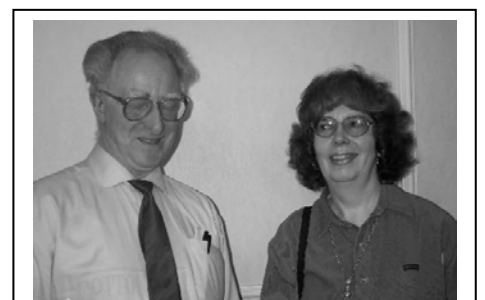
Mid Wales Ladies' Cup

1 st	Sophie Peret & Teresa Montoya	59.52%
2 nd	Gwyneth Flaye & Betty Spencer	58.10%
3 rd	Gwen Davies & Cecelia McCreary	54.29%

Evans Jones Cup (Open Pairs)

1 st	John Valentine & Teresa Montoya	60.90%
2 nd	Margaret Davies & Dai Hayes	58.55%
3 rd	Gwyneth Flaye & Betty Spencer	57.05%

Photos of the winners of Sections 3, 4 & 5 of the WBU Graded Masters (see P.3)



Menorca Once More

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 10th-24th October 2003

The Hotel S'Algar is so popular with bridge players that we're going back to Menorca for the thirty-second time in October 2003.

Choose either a hotel room or an apartment. All bedrooms are self-contained with television, telephone, bath, shower and its own balcony. Apartments are situated about 150 metres from the S'Algar Hotel. Each apartment consists of two twin bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom and a large balcony or terrace.

Accommodation is full board. Meals are taken in the hotel dining room with the option of lunching at one of the many snack bars. Bridge is played in the comfort of a soundproof, air-conditioned poolside room

and, as in previous years, is under the friendly direction of **Graham Hedley** ably assisted by his wife Berry. Occasional seminars on specific subjects will be held.

Bridge is licensed by the WBU and master points will be awarded at all sessions. Prizes are presented to the winners of all events including open pairs.

Demand for apartments and sea-view hotel rooms always exceeds supply. If you have a specific accommodation request please book early to avoid disappointment

Choose the most convenient airport for you. Holiday prices are based on this and are: Gatwick **£789**; Birmingham, Bristol, Luton or Stansted **£799**; Cardiff, East Midlands, Humberside, Manchester or Teesside **£809**; Leeds/Bradford **£819**; Glasgow or Newcastle **£829**.

Price includes: air travel; airport taxes; insurance; transfers airport/resort; full board; full bridge programme; prizes; events as specified.

(Subject to single supplement)



Magic Madeira

ATLANTIC BAY HOTEL near FUNCHAL

17th November - 1st December 2003

Martin and Judy Holcombe have been involved with running bridge holidays for many years and have selected the Atlantic Bay Hotel for their first venture in Madeira.

Spectacularly situated on one of the island's beachfront sites, Praia Formosa, this four star hotel offers mainly sea view twin bedrooms with balconies. These are generously sized and equipped with a small kitchenette - ideal for preparing light snacks. Comfortable lounges, spacious dining room and good leisure facilities complement the accommodation. Located close to Funchal, the Atlantic Bay Hotel is the perfect setting for our unique blend of bridge and relaxation.

Bridge is played in the comfort of an air-conditioned room and is under the friendly direction of **Graham Hedley** ably assisted, as always, by his wife Berry. They have devised an enjoyable programme of bridge which will appeal to players of all standards. Occasional seminars on specific subjects will be held. Master points will be awarded at all sessions and there are prizes for the winners of all events.

The cost of this holiday is **£789.00** which includes half board, bridge fees, insurance*, entertainment, transfers and airport duties. Single supplement **£99**. Prices based on Gatwick departures. Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Exeter, Luton, Bournemouth, Cardiff, and Glasgow flights available at a supplement. *Deduct £20 if not required.

Improve with Andrew Kambites

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - April 2003

If you enjoy bridge but want to know more, this week provides a perfect opportunity to improve all aspects of your game under the expert guidance and 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, has devised a programme to appeal to beginners and improvers alike.

2002 was fully booked, so be sure to make your reservation now. Gatwick and Manchester departures, **full board**, all-inclusive prices from only **£459.00**. (Subject to Single Supplement)

Grasmere Thistle

ONE WEEK - 7th-14th March 2003

Lakeside, country house style and atmosphere and the ideal location for exploring the surrounding countryside. Director **Graham Hedley**. Cost per person half board **£349.00**.

Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS 29th January-12th February 2004

This is one of our most popular holidays and is always in great demand. We are back there in 2004 with **Graham Hedley** directing so call us now to make your reservation.

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



Keep up to date with all the latest First for Bridge news by logging on to www.bridge-holidays.com. E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com

Menorca holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd. ATOL No: 1772. Algarve holiday by Sage Holidays Ltd. ATOL No: 0808 and Madeira holiday by Atlantic Travel ATOL No: 2704.



Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

How dull the bridge world is at the moment, no interesting stories lately, (except for one that I'm sworn not to repeat) but I did receive many Christmas cards and good wishes with the December points. It was only last week that I removed all these from my study, where they were tucked into the shelves. I miss

the colourful selection of bears, cats and winter views, but I at least can get at everything much more easily now. Thinking of Christmas cards, Mike, my husband, could not resist buying some he saw in a local shop. They showed the town hall here, built around 1910, quite well drawn, but surrounded by an early Victorian snow scene, complete with stage coach. The building does look rather old fashioned, perhaps no one told the artist how young it was.

Before the new Master Point system was introduced, I used to judge my backlog by the number of shoe boxes full of Master Points to be checked and entered. Now that I put my backlog information onto the Internet I have taken to keeping an actual count of the letters waiting to be dealt with. It takes very little extra post for this number to rise, which I might not have noticed with my box system, for quite often envelopes have just a few points slips inside. The number is high again today; I almost wish I'd never started counting. I feel like the frog climbing two feet up the slippery wall of a well during the day, then sliding back down three at night. I expect I'll emerge sometime, even if dripping wet.

I know that some people do not see every edition of the Newsletter (or forget what they have read) so it is worth reiterating that if you have Internet access you can "watch" the progress of your points through my hands, or, indeed, find out if I have received them, by logging on to the WBU web site, clicking on "Members" and then clicking on the "here" of "Those members with a Master Point claim into Noelle ... Find out what is happening here". Try it. You need only to know your WBU number and it may well save you worry or a phone call to me. Someone suggested that in the time used to provide this information for the web site I could enter more Master Points but not true! It is all part of the new system, just a click away, as they say.

My next reminder has to be about postage again. Please consider the weight of your letter when putting stamps on. If you can't weigh it yourself, the local Post Office will. Paying excess postage is a waste of money and an annoyance. And then there's the problem of finding the exact amount whilst the postman stands muttering on the doorstep. We put small change into a pot for such things but of course we use up all the large coins first. Last week I had to pay eighty-six pence excess mostly in pennies, with just a sprinkling of two pences. I swear the postman tilted as he walked away with all those coins in his trouser pocket.

How we progress! There may soon be a more important reason to know your WBU number. The MP system was recently updated automatically with a list of the awards from the WBU Swiss teams congress at Llangollen played in November. The list was sent over the Internet to the WBU computer and then a new program checked it and added all the points to the system, identifying the players by their WBU numbers. So,

if you gained points in the event and register with the WBU don't expect to receive a little Master Point card to keep until you write to me. It is all done.

I must admit that when Mike said his new Automatic Entry program was ready to use, it was with some trepidation that I clicked on the "Update" button for, this time, the computer would interfere with all my precious data (I had copied it first, of course) while I could only sit and watch. Of course we had tested the program thoroughly beforehand, and, as Mike said, the real problems lay not in entering the points but in checking that there were no errors in the information we were given. If all goes as planned, the next event to have points awards automatically entered will be the new WBU May Day weekend congress. After that who knows? But Master Point Secretaries should not expect to throw their pens away any time soon.

I don't know when the next Newsletter will be published so I'll end with another, if familiar, reminder: The year end date for master points registration is 30th April, so to avoid disappointment be sure I receive yours before then.

(Noelle@glanmor45.freeserve.co.uk)

Noelle

List of promotions for each rank from 1st November 2002 to 28th January 2003

Club Master		Hazel Swift	MON	Tournament Master	
Emma Knagg	C	Advanced Master		Renate Cater	LD
Eric Knagg	C	Maureen Clough	PW	Regional Master	
Allan Mabley	GA	Joan Dickinson	WS	Marie Topp	LD
Local Master		Audrey Hall	PN	Premier Regional Master	
Helen Cottam	GA	Wendy Jenkins	WS	Margaret Davies	H
David Evans	PW	One Star Master		Steve Webb	R
Janno Jones	PW	John Drinkwater	PR	National Master	
Vivien Penny	MG	Christine Forbes	BRE	Peter Lane	S
Philippa Prentice	GA	Jim Morton	WS	Enfys Powell	GA
Norman Ryley	SU	Marcia Rogers	MB	Life Master	
Lona Thomas	BRE	Two Star Master		Margaret Lane	S
Susan Williams	C	Harriett Pearce-Geary	CBY	Senior Life Master	
County Master		Eric Tebbet	SU	Marjorie Morris	BR
Jane Bancroft	WS	Three Star Master			
Joan Cater	WS	John Cottam	GA		
Bryan Morgan	GA	Terry Evans	MG		
Olga Salt	GA	Richard Stedman	WS		
Paul Smith	BRE	Four Star Master			
David Stevens	Y	Martin Morris	NP		
Master		Josephine Yates	LD		
Jayne Greatrex	PN	Five Star Master			
Janet Hammett	GA	H John Evans	MG		
Margaret Ann Jones	WS	Dai Hayes	A	Grand Master	
Marc Nicholson	W			Fred Hyatt	BSC
Freda Nicholson	W				



Selection for international competitions: 2004

(This feature appeared in the last Newsletter; it is repeated here for the benefit of players.)

Seniors

In 2004, the Welsh Bridge Union is willing to pay the entry fee for a Seniors team to play in the Olympiad (probably in Istanbul in late August-early September) or the European Championships in Malmo during the second half of June.



Any players interested in playing in these events must enter as teams of four to six players. The selectors will organise a trial, which will be either knock-out or a round-robin event, all play all, depending on entry numbers. The winners will have their entry fee paid for the event of their choice. A successful team of four may choose an additional pair if they wish to enter as a team of six. All players must be over the age of 55 at the start of the relevant event. Information about Malmo can be found via the WBU website, and a link to the Istanbul information will be posted there as soon as it is available. Entries to be submitted to Linda Greenland by 31st March 2003.

Women

There are two events in 2004 - the Olympiad in Istanbul and the European Championships in Malmo. The Welsh Bridge Union has



sufficient funds available for only one of these events and the Selectors are keen that a Welsh Ladies team does play in one of them.

Players who are considering entering the Women's trials for 2004 are asked for their views as to whether the WBU should:

a) Allocate the whole of the funds available to one of the events (please note that the funds are in any case not likely to cover players' total expenses but will cover the entry fee and a contribution to travel and hotel costs); entry (including entry fee) to the other event to be at players' own expense.

b) Allocate part of the funds to each event, covering the entry fee only, and requiring players to meet their own expenses in full.

Please reply to Linda Greenland no later than 31st January 2003.

Open Trials

In 2002 the Selectors encouraged as many pairs as possible to enter the Open International Trials. The pre-trial was held as an all-play-all event in Mid Wales, with six pairs exempted on grounds of their existing standing at international level. The top two pairs from the pre-trial were automatically entitled to play in the two final trial weekends, and all pairs playing in the final trials were guaranteed to represent Wales in one of a number of events selected from the Camrose Series and invitation events.



This method was welcomed by all the players, and the Selectors would like to adopt the same method for next year's pre-trial. Any pair interested in representing Wales in 2003-2004 will need to submit an entry to Linda Greenland by 31st July 2003; they may, however, wish to contact the Selectors, via Linda, in the meantime if they would like advice and help on improving their partnership game.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Camrose v Northern Ireland

22nd-23rd February at the Holt Lodge, Wrexham.

Wales will be represented by Tim Rees & Filip Kurbalija, Gary & Dafydd Jones, Adrian Thomas & Paul Denning; NPC Jim Luck.

Supporters and other spectators are welcome. The VuGraph theatre will be open *free of charge* throughout play (11 till 8.30 Saturday, 11 till 3.20 Sunday). Contact Linda Greenland at deri31@ntlworld.com for further details.

Portland Pairs (Simultaneous Mixed Pairs)

16th March 2003 at venues all over Britain. The Welsh venues are Colwyn Bay Bridge Club and Gwent Academy (ONE DAY ONLY). Entry forms have been sent to all clubs, and should be returned to the NTO by 4th March:

Laura Woodruff, Hall Farm, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR

Lots of Green points and cash prizes to be won. Entry fee £18 per player.

Men's and Ladies' Pairs 12th-13th April Wrexham.

Closing date 23rd March 2003. Entry fee £20 per player (£10 for under-25s).

For the first time, the Men's Pairs and Ladies's Pairs competitions are being held as an open entry weekend, with no club heats. Anyone can play, as long as they have a partner of the same sex. If we have enough pairs we will run it in sections.

The hotel, which is very comfortable, with an excellent dining room, has hosted bridge events before, and is offering discounted rates of £49.95 single or £54.95 double/twin, bed and breakfast. If you would prefer to stay in a local guest house or pub, please contact the NTO for information or look on the WBU website.

Please send your entry on the form provided in the centre of the Journal to the NTO, Hall Farm, North Cornelly CF33 4HR, email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk (but you will still need to send an entry form and the entry fee by post).

Llandudno Congress

25th-27th April 2003

Entries to: Jean Hand, 15 Chester Close, Shotton CH5 1AU
Tel. 10244 830246, email jeanhand@tiscali.co.uk



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

Item	Journal page	Details
Correction	4	The postcode for Edna Wilford, Secretary of Cwmbran Bridge Club, should read NP44 4QJ.
Change of email address	7	The email address for Yvonne Evans, Secretary of Flint Bridge Club, is now yvonnefrith@lineone.net
Club closure	9	Awel y Mor Bridge Club will close from 31 st March 2003, and will be taken over by Porthcawl Bridge Club.
New club	9	Fishguard Bridge Club has affiliated to the WBU. It meets at 7pm Mondays at the Community Centre, Fishguard Community Education Centre, Ropewalk, Fishguard. The Secretary is Valerie Richards, Sealyham, Wolfscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembs SA62 5NF, ☎ 01348 840763
Change of club details	10	Swansea Bridge Club: the information on playing times is amended to: Mon, Tues (No Fear), Wed, Fri, 7.10pm Mon, Thurs, 1.45pm Classes Thurs, 7pm

WBU Council meeting 8th December 2002 Notes of significant items from the recent meeting

Council considered a report from the National Tournament Organiser concerning the Welsh and Cambria Plate competitions. Council took the view that it would be regrettable if the Plates were to be abandoned but, on present evidence, they were not sustainable. Before a final decision is taken, Area Associations are asked to consider the future of these tournaments and whether promotional activity in their areas is likely to lead to a materially higher level of support.

Copy deadline for next newsletter

Articles, hands, information, obituaries, photographs are all welcome: send to Laura on laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk no later than 30th April 2003. If you have no access to email, hard copy may as a last resort be sent to Hall Farm, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR but allow extra time for typing. I am acquiring a scanner, so photos may be possible, but it's easier if you can email them all the same.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Solution to Crossword No. 77

G	E	N	U	F	L	E	C	T	J	O	I	N	T	
R	O	O				H			U	N		R		
I	R	R	U	P	T	A		A	G	A	T	H	A	
S	M	P				P			U	H		P		
T	R	A	V	I	A	T	A	S	L	E	E	V	E	
L				S		T			A	M		Z		
E	P	I	T	H	E	L	I	A	R	H	I	N	E	
		C									N			
M	Y	E	Y	E		A	B	S	C	O	N	D	E	R
A		B		C			L			T				O
N	O	U	G	H	T		O	M	P	H	A	L	O	S
U		C		I			S			E		Y		E
M	I	K	A	D	O		S		A	L	A	R	A	B
I		E		N			O			L		I		U
T	E	T	R	A		A	M	I	N	O	A	C	I	D