

# WELSH BRIDGE

The magazine of the  
Welsh Bridge Union

March 2007

## **MARK RODERICK**

*When I agreed to edit the WBU magazine, one of the few thoughts I had about content was that it would be interesting to profile leading Welsh bridge personalities. The definition of 'personality' is my own, but there was no question who I wanted to figure in the first issue. Mark Roderick is a talented player, of that there is no doubt, but he is also a man of exceptional charm and courage who has battled misfortune in a manner that others of us may well suspect would have been beyond us. Not only that, his conduct towards his partner and opponents at the bridge table is a model for all to follow. I asked if I might interview him.*

**GD:** Mark, you and your family must have had to make a massive re-adjustment following Brian's death. How are you doing now?

**MR:** It has been huge. The thing is, we've always been self-sufficient as a family, relying just on each other, and although we now have carers in place, and everyone's running round helping, and we're very grateful for the help we've been given, it feels a bit of an intrusion at the moment.

**GD:** What about at bridge?

**MR:** The first bridge weekend without my dad felt really strange. When he was with me, he was always interested in what was



happening, always asking questions. When I played in the Camrose my mother and sister were with me, but they don't know anything about bridge, so it was nice when my dad was there. I relied on him in so many different ways. We had the same interests - not just bridge, but outside bridge as well. To me he wasn't just a father. He was like a brother, friend, all rolled into one.

**GD:** It's a shame that Brian missed the Camrose. Was that something you'd been looking forward to for a long time?

**MR:** Ten years ago, when I first started to become competitive at bridge, I set myself three goals. They were to win a national event, to become a Grandmaster, and to play for Wales in the Camrose.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## EDITOR

**Editor: Gwynn Davis**

**Production Editor: Sue Ingham**

This is the first WBU magazine for over two years, Laura Woodruff having done valiant service as the previous over-remunerated incumbent. Laura did everything herself, but this is a joint effort, with Sue Ingham being responsible for the desktop publishing side of the operation. I can barely type, so if this magazine looks good it is down to Sue. The intention originally was to produce two issues per annum, but that is dependent upon the state of the WBU coffers. This issue cost over £2,000 to produce, while WBU membership is a mere £6 per annum.

The response to my request for material for this first issue has been excellent. I've even had to hold over some copy, including Chris Rochelle's 'Mistakes I have made' - a rich vein if ever there was one, and probably deserving of a Special Issue. Next time I should like to include a Letters section, so make your views known. If I agree with you, your letter will be prominently displayed. If I don't, it will appear slightly smudged.

It's been fun to work on the magazine, but it's been produced against a troubling backdrop. Some bridge clubs are holding their own, but others are struggling, while tournament bridge in Wales appears to be heading for the buffers at a considerable rate of knots. Some of this is due to factors beyond the control of clubs, Areas, or the WBU, but too few Welsh bridge players contribute to the regeneration of the game. A few give their time thanklessly, but we desperately need some new ideas and a more professional approach at every level. This can only be achieved through more effective delegation. The most glaring omission is the lack of any concerted

approach to teaching and recruitment, whilst our tournament structure could also do with a radical overhaul. Material for the next issue should be sent to me at [gwynn\\_davis1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gwynn_davis1@tiscali.co.uk) or, if you don't have access to a computer, to 32 Durdham Park, Bristol BS6 6XB.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I am very proud to be writing this letter for the Welsh Bridge Union magazine. It has been a nearly three years since our last edition and I feel strongly that our members should have value for their membership fees. I would like to thank Gwynn Davis and Sue Ingham for producing the magazine. I am also pleased that the Welsh Bridge Union's website is up and running again. It is up to date with results, easier to negotiate, and has many interesting sections – one about the history of the WBU. This has been organised by Mike Tedd and I thank him for his efforts.

As an ex-teacher I am very interested in promoting Junior bridge, and now, thanks to Elaine and Keith Sharp (whose roots are in Wales), we have a junior Bridge squad able to compete in the Junior Camrose and the Peggy Bayer competitions. I firmly believe that the future of bridge in Wales depends on teaching bridge to as many people as possible. Patrick Jourdain and helpers recently went to Cardiff High School and gave the whole of the 8<sup>th</sup> year the experience of mini-bridge. I know they enjoyed it because 'I was there'! If anyone would like the rules of mini-bridge to teach their grandchildren, school groups etc, I can supply them. I know many clubs give bridge lessons and thus increase their membership. I would encourage all clubs to do so.

There are a few other people who work hard on our behalf. First, our Tournament Organiser, Peter Hand

(and also Jean!). Peter has the difficult task of organising venues, catering etc, and takes a lot of flak because you can't please everyone all the time. I thank him for all his hard work. Secondly, we owe a great deal to Noelle Bond for her continuing excellent work in keeping master point rankings up to date, and to Mike for the membership compilation. Thirdly, my thanks go to the players who have represented Wales and given their time and money to do so. Also to the selectors, led by Peter Garner-Grey, who have done a difficult job well as we are holding our own against much larger unions. Fourthly, thanks to all our Area Chairpersons and Committees for giving time and effort in support of Welsh Bridge and for your enjoyment. Finally, my grateful thanks to our Chief Executive, Linda Greenland, who is retiring in July but has agreed to continue as Treasurer. Linda has been a fount of knowledge and has given me invaluable advice and guidance during my year of office. She has done a tremendous job over the past seven years and, together with Ken Richardson, has been the mainstay of the Welsh Bridge Union. Ken will continue as our Chief Tournament Director.

A last plea – please enter as many competitions as you can and help keep the Welsh Bridge Union alive and well. Very best wishes and Happy Bridging to you all.

*Mrs Daphne Patrick*

For those who join the WBU **for the first time**, and through a club, after the 1st October in any year, the WBU membership fee for that year is halved. The full fee is currently £6.00, so the reduced fee is £3.00. The Area fee remains payable in full.

*Mike Bond, WBU Membership Secretary*

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

## THE COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2006 by Mike Tedd



The Welsh team in Melbourne 1. to r. Mrs. Gary Jones, Patrick Jourdain, Tim Rees, Mike Tedd, Jim Luck and Gary Jones. Well done to Patrick and Jim for entering into the spirit of the event.

This very enjoyable event was held in Melbourne in March 2006, just before the Commonwealth Games proper. Eleven Commonwealth countries were represented, with six Australian states and three sponsored teams making a total field of 20 teams. A full round robin decided which four teams would play the semi-finals and final to resolve the medal positions for the countries, and to determine the overall winners. Wales was represented by Gary Jones, Patrick Jourdain, Jim Luck, Tim Rees and Mike Tedd. Having taken the silver medals when the event was held in Manchester four years ago, Welsh hopes were high, but we didn't play very well on the first two days. Playing better thereafter,

with two matches to play Wales was only five points behind the bronze medal winners, Australia. We eventually finished fifth of the eleven countries. Congratulations go to a strong Indian team that beat England by 165 to 150 in the crunch match to determine the gold and silver medals, and they went on to win the event as a whole by beating a sponsored team in the final. Wales narrowly beat India in our round-robin match, despite losing on this lively hand with several interesting points:

♠ AJ7  
 ♥ A74  
 ♦ AJ6  
 ♣ K953

♠ KQ5  
 ♥ 53  
 ♦ QT543  
 ♣ 842

♠ 1096432  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ K872  
 ♣ -

♠ 8  
 ♥ KJT62  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AQJ1076

West	North	East	South
Jourdain	Chakradeo	Tedd	Manna
—	1NT	—	2D
—	2H	—	3C
—	3D	—	4C
—	4D	—	5C
—	6C	—	7C

In this room the Indians quickly agreed clubs and then bid 4C, which for them is Roman Key-Card Blackwood. 4D showed one or four key cards, so South bid just 5C in case his partner had only one key card. When North raised, showing all four, South bid seven, knowing this was at worst on a heart finesse should his partner lack the heart queen or a doubleton. The club void pointed to playing East for the heart queen and the contract rolled home.



West	North	East	South
Shah	Jones	Lewis	Rees
—	1C	—	1H
—	1NT	—	2C
—	3H	—	4NT
—	5D	—	5H
—	6H	Double	

When Wales held the big hands, Tim Rees learned early that his partner had three hearts and later that the queen of hearts was missing. So, after a similar RKCB

manoeuvre, this time with hearts the agreed suit, he would not have been tempted to bid the grand slam, knowing it needed a finesse. In practice the Indian East had made a Lightner double to secure a club lead, but his ruff was the only defensive trick. So Wales scored 1210 for 6 hearts doubled, as against 1440 for the grand slam bid in the other room, thereby losing 6 IMPs on the hand.

## **Vacancy: Chief Executive of the Welsh Bridge Union**

**The Welsh Bridge Union wishes to enter into contract for services for the above position from 1st August 2007. The workload is irregular, but involves an average of 15 hours per week, working mostly from home. Some weekend working is also required. A detailed schedule of tasks is available on request. The WBU does not have any employees. The skills required include computer literacy and effective communication, organisation, and people management. Knowledge of business and bridge administration would be an asset.**

**Anyone interested in tendering for the work should contact Mrs Daphne Patrick, Welsh Bridge Union President, by e-mail to [joepatrick@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:joepatrick@globalnet.co.uk) or by post to Mrs D. Patrick, 8 Victoria Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7SH.**

**Expressions of interest need to be received by 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

**WARSAW PACKED!**  
by Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey  
and Mike Tedd

**The Welsh team selected for the 2006 European Championships, held in Warsaw in June, was Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees, and John Salisbury and Mike Tedd.**

**Diane takes up the story....**

When I was asked to write an article about the European Open Teams in Warsaw, I envisaged that I would give a flavour of what it is like to play at that level, the team preparations, the game plan, the stresses of playing long matches against top opposition, a few hands, etc. However, events conspired to make the experience untypical and I still don't know what it would be like to play in such an event under normal circumstances.

Wales came to the event following a second place in the Camrose Series, with Jill and I hoping to build on that experience. The sad death of Jill's father two days before the event meant that she was unable to play in the first week, so playing captain Tim Rees had the challenge of deploying a team of five for over half the matches. In the end we were grateful that Wales could field a team at all as Filip and I found ourselves in the chaos of cancelled flights at Heathrow. We arrived in Warsaw only two hours before play began. Our baggage was still in Amsterdam so we had no systems, team shirts, toiletries, not even a pen, only the see-through plastic bag with our documents. So much for preparing by studying our own and others' systems!

Nevertheless Wales got off to a good start, winning the first match comfortably. At times the team played very well and we

had some good results against strong teams, but none of us were in our comfort zones. Either we were playing more boards than anticipated, or we were playing with a non-regular partner. I certainly never dreamed that I would one day play five matches with Filip in a European Open Championships (I enjoyed it - honestly!). One hand, when Wales played Israel, gave rise to a great deal of discussion.

♠ 763		♠ K82
♥ AJ75	<b>Dealer West</b>	♥ KQ4
♦ J64	<b>EW Vul.</b>	♦ AK832
♣ 1092		♣ AQ
	♠ AQ104	
	♥ 632	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K7543	
	♠ J95	
	♥ 1098	
	♦ Q975	
	♣ J86	

You are East, Declarer in 3NT on a small club lead from South. North plays the Jack and you win the Queen. You have eight top tricks and so need to develop one more, ideally without permitting North to gain the lead to play a spade through your King. Most Declarers (including several World Champions) started with the Ace of diamonds, followed by a diamond to the Jack. The spotlight then shifted to North. Would he (or she) find the necessary high spade switch? In the Wales/Israel match the Israeli North found the switch but the Welsh North did not. When the Italian World Champions played the hand, the Italian Declarer crossed to the Jack of hearts at trick two in order to play the Jack



of diamonds. When that went Q, A, 10, he cashed the Queen of hearts and then *overtook* his King with the Ace. When the heart suit broke 3/3 he still had his four heart tricks and was in position to finesse against North's nine of diamonds for his ninth trick.

Inevitably, tiredness took its toll as time went on and we were all relieved when Jill arrived, but with over half the matches already played and the toughest draws still to come it would prove difficult to maintain a respectable position.

### Over to Jill....

After a delay of a week, I finally arrived on Saturday afternoon. Heathrow was bursting at the seams but my flight was on time. Everyone was very welcoming and I was particularly appreciative of the many expressions of sympathy not only from our team but also from so many members of other UK teams.

Play started for me on Sunday morning 10.00am against Luxembourg. This was an easy start and we had a comfortable win. Back in again at 14.00 against Denmark and down to earth with a bump as we were outplayed and outbid by a very experienced team. Monday was a day off (the only one) and time to regroup and settle in properly. With three 20 board matches per day on most days (all behind screens), it was a heavy schedule and our team were starting to show the effects of playing as a team of five for the first week.

We had a very creditable narrow loss against Ireland (eventual silver medal winners), all due to two 1♣ openers. Do you respond to 1♣ (may be 11–13 balanced) with 4 points unbalanced? I passed but in the other room Hanlon responded 1♠ and Ireland reached the cold spade game. On the other 1♣ board, Diane had the dubious pleasure of playing in 1♣ going lots down with a combined 12 count whilst in the other room the more normal 3NT the other way had a heart stop of Qx opposite xxx plus an outside ace to lose.

The matches were long, 20 boards, and you hoped for a pleasant screenmate. When we played Norway, Helgemo was my screenmate. He became friendlier as the match progressed and it was obvious we were being hammered! My personal high point was making 3NTx + 1 against Iceland. My club suit of Qxx opposite 10xxxx looked much better when LHO led J♣ in response to his partner's double (the X was actually asking for a spade lead).

Our final match was against Spain and we had a good win. What do you think of the bidding and play of this hand?

♠ Q962		
♥ QJ5		
♦ 85		
♣ Q732		
♠ K8	<b>Dealer North</b>	♠ A7653
♥ AK842	<b>All Vul.</b>	♥ 96
♦ K7432		♦ AJ10
♣ J		♣ A94
♠ J10		
♥ 1073		
♦ Q96		
♣ K10865		

N	E	S	W
(P)	1S	(P)	2H
(P)	2S	(P)	3D
(P)	?		

At this point Diane made the key bid of 3♥ (in the other room East simply bid 3NT). As she had not supported hearts, she knew this showed two and doubt about the final contract. If I had been able to bid 3NT then she would be happy. I now bid 3♠ showing only two spades and no club stop. Where do you want to play? Diane went for game in spades and bid 4 spades. When dummy went down you can see that 3NT depends on finding the Q♦ (at the other table, the Spanish East failed to do this and went down). Entries are difficult in 4♠ and you probably need to find the Q♦ here as well. When Diane managed this successfully, Wales gained 12 imps.

### Over to Mike....

One of the privileges of representing Wales in the European Championships is that you get to play some of the best players in the world, not just for a couple of boards, but head-to-head over 20 boards taking almost three hours. But when your charming opponents make few mistakes, and get most of the views right, your own mistakes and wrong views seem to multiply! So it was that John Salisbury and I sat down to play the Italian world champions Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin, knowing that our seats in the other room were occupied by Alfredo Versace and Lorenzo Lauria. The Italians gained steadily, with only one big gain our way. John led the 2 of hearts against 3NT and Bocchi took a line that was 100% if the leader had four hearts. In fact John had found a great lead from ♥Q92 and Bocchi's line looked rather foolish. Duboin was quite cross, and the post-mortem was interesting: "You never

understand these British leads!" We were 24 IMPs down apart from this, the penultimate hand – a freak.

♠ Q8	<b>Dealer S</b>	♠ A109753
♥ KQJ10852		♥ -
♦ 10	<b>EW Vul.</b>	♦ AKQ7652
♣ 1083		♣ -

After West's pre-empt the bidding reached the six level at most tables before West eventually chose which of East's suits to play in, although no slam is odds-on. How would you play this hand as East on the CK lead in a) Six Diamonds, or b) Six Spades? Lauria played in Six Diamonds, where there is no alternative but to draw trumps and lead towards the SQ. John played in Six Spades, a slightly better contract. You could follow the same line as in Six Diamonds, but John found a 4% better line, ruffing a diamond and then planning to run the SQ if it is not covered. This works most of the time that North has the SK, even if diamonds are 4-1, plus a few other chances. Of course South had the SK doubleton so we lost 16 imps on the board instead of gaining 17, thereby turning a 16-14 loss into a 23-7 defeat. Next time.....

### NEW SPONSORSHIP DEAL FOR THE WBU!!!

*The WBU is pleased to announce that Lottery firm Camelot is to sponsor its traditional season pipe-opener, the Open Pre-trial, held each year at the end of August. A spokesman for Camelot said that it was the culmination of several months' careful study of which sporting event best matched their brand. A WBU spokesman, announcing the new deal on April 1<sup>st</sup>, acknowledged that the Welsh selectors' decision to pre-select eight pairs, leaving none to go forward from the Pre-trial, had affected entries for this year's event. 'But now', he said, 'we can look forward to our usual two and a half table cross-IMP'.*



## CAMROSE REPORT

*by Patrick Shields*

The format of the Camrose competition (the Open Home International Series) changed again this year. Because of the awkwardness involved in having five teams at the one venue, with one team always sitting out, the organisers invited the holders of the Camrose Trophy (the Republic of Ireland) to field a second team under the label of 'The Holders'. Thus the Republic was doubly represented, with the Holders having gone on to collect the silver medal in the European Championship in Warsaw. Wales was represented by Paul Denning and Patrick Shields, Tim Rees and Filip Kurbalija, and - making their Camrose debuts - Mike Best and Mark Roderick. Mark and Mike distinguished themselves on their very first Camrose hand by bidding and making Seven No Trumps!! (their Northern Ireland counterparts subsided at the six level). Wales started the first weekend by playing well against the two strongest teams (England and the Holders), losing to each by a small margin. The hand in the next column was from the first of those matches. It was a flat board in our match but two other declarers failed while a careful Paul Denning succeeded. East was dealer at love all and at four of the six tables opened with a pre-empt in clubs. England played in Three No Trumps by North, but the other North/Souths ended in Four Spades. Of those five declarers, three, including Paul, received the lead of the eight of clubs.

Paul won the opening lead and crossed to the spade queen, discovering the bad trump break. After the jack of spades, all declarers tried a diamond to the queen - and all three had the five of clubs returned, ruffed. At this point declarer had the top

<p>♠ 97532 ♥ AQ832 ♦ K ♣ 85</p>	<p><b>Dealer East</b> <b>Love All</b></p>	<p>♠ QJ ♥ K10 ♦ A7632 ♣ Q972</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 975 ♦ 10985 ♣ KJ10643</p> <p>♠ AK10864 ♥ J64 ♦ QJ4 ♣ A</p>
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three trumps, but drawing West's trumps would also exhaust declarer's trump holding. Two Irish declarers took fright at this and played the jack of diamonds next. When that was ruffed, they still had to lose two hearts and so were one off. Paul drew all three trumps, discarding first the clubs from dummy and then - despite its looking like a winner - dummy's long diamond. Now, when the jack of diamonds revealed the bad break in that suit, he could play a heart towards his king and that became his tenth trick.

There was a pretty option for West after winning the diamond king. If he plays ace and another heart, declarer wins in dummy and must come back to hand to draw trumps. After a club pre-empt, would you try a club ruff, or a diamond to your jack?

At the two tables where West led a high card in a red suit, declarer had no trouble making ten tricks - a good advert for leading your partner's suit, even if he is known to be weak!

(Continued from page 1)



I'm surprised at how quickly the Camrose came round. In my own mind I gave myself a lot more time than I actually needed.

**GD:** How important is bridge in your life?

**MR:** Absolutely huge. Always, for as long as I can remember, I've been competitive. Even if it's only playing on the computer with my nephews. Everything I do, I like to be, if not the best, one of the best. Bridge is my football, my rugby. It's the outlet for my competitiveness. If someone says to me - 'oh, as long as you enjoyed yourself' - I don't look at it that way. Because it's my sole competitive sport, the better I do, the more I enjoy it.

**GD:** Still, you're a very sporting opponent.

**MR:** If I can't win fairly, I'd rather not win at all. It becomes a shallow victory then. I want to win, but I want to win knowing it's because I've put the effort in. Otherwise it means nothing.

**GD:** And you don't criticise your partners.

**MR:** I read a book - it was called something like 'How to get the best out of partner'. It said you should always complement your partner, and if they make a mistake, try not to badger them. I try to follow that.

**GD:** Which events do you most enjoy?

**MR:** The higher the profile, the more I enjoy it. In the Camrose, even though we weren't put in against the strongest teams, I knew we were still punching above our weight. But that's what I've always wanted to do. I prefer to play against opponents who are stronger than me. The better they are, the more recognition I'm going to get if I beat them and the more confident I'll

feel about myself as a player.

**GD:** Tell me about that first Camrose hand that everyone's talking about.

**MR:** Mike opened a strong No Trump and I had a 22 count, including six clubs missing the King. I knew what I had to do, but at first I couldn't bring myself to do it. I thought it would be just my luck to bid the Grand and find we're missing the King of clubs. I bid Two Spades, just to check if Mike was maximum. He wasn't, so I made a slam try in clubs, just to bide my time while I counted my points for a fourth time. He still wasn't forthcoming, so I just shut my eyes and bid 7N.

**GD:** How did you start to play bridge?

**MR:** It was through Eric Favager. He was my science teacher at St Cyres in Penarth. I was in the chess club, and Eric kept trying to interest me in bridge. I grew frustrated with chess. I couldn't get out of the Penarth C team. I thought, if that's my limit, I'm going to try something else. Eventually Eric put together a little bridge school. There was me, two other pupils, and a lab technician. Eric started teaching us - he gave up his lunch hour. Eventually the other pupils dropped out, so it became just Eric, me, and the lab technician, and then eventually my dad as well. That's how I learned to play. Then when Eric saw I was ready he contacted Noelle and Mike Bond who run the Barrivale club and arranged for me to go along there. I learned very quickly in the club, coming bottom for a few weeks and seeing the error of my ways. Even now, I still regard Barrivale as my home club.

**GD:** Who did you play with?

**MR:** I played with a lady called Doreen Willis. I'd met her at an old people's home where I used to go to play whist. So she became my first partner.

**GD:** How do you manage to remain as positive as you appear in the face of your illness?

**MR:** I've never known anything different. I was diagnosed when I was eleven months old. The arthritis progressed from my wrist. Over the years the obstacles I've come up against have been got round with my family's help.

**GD:** You seem to have a cheerful temperament.

**MR:** I have my moments. If I have a bad game of bridge I go home and sulk. I'm a bit of a sulker. And I'm not the most patient of people.

**GD:** Perhaps that goes with the competitiveness?

**MR:** That's right. I think I'm a logical person, and I get frustrated if I see people doing things that are completely illogical. Not only at the bridge table, although that is one reason I don't enjoy watching poor players play bridge. I feel like tearing my hair out sometimes.

**GD:** When did you start your partnership with Mike Best?

**MR:** It was eight to ten years ago. I still remember something he said to me the first time we played - because I used to be a very aggressive, very impulsive player. Mike said to me that a good player is not someone who does good things; he's a player who doesn't do bad things. And from the time I started playing with Mike I altered a great deal as a player. I'm still aggressive, but I like to think it's more controlled. The two big influences on how I play bridge these days are Mike and a guy I used to play with in Barrivale called Justin Gough. He's the nephew of Irene Thomas. I played with Justin for two years. He was the complete opposite of Mike. With Justin, if I made a mistake, he was on my case. I can't say I always enjoyed it, but looking back now, he did me so much good. Not just as a bridge player, but as a person. He really toughened me up. It's because of him that even the slightest mistake I make, I'm beating myself up inside. I think it goes

back to the way Justin used to treat me. Eventually I started to give it him back. He had a completely different mentality to Mike, but they both had a big say in how I developed as a bridge player.

**GD:** You and Mike seem very calm with each other.

**MR:** We have the attitude - aim for an average on every board. If we get an average, that's a success. We feel we'll always get gifts from the opponents, however good they are. So if we get an average on those boards where we're in control of the outcome, we should do OK overall.

**GD:** What are your goals now?

**MR:** I still want to win a national event, and to become a Grandmaster. I'm also writing a bridge book for beginners and improvers. I've promised myself that this year it will be complete. It's called 'Better Bridge'. It's just my ideas, my systems, what's got me to where I am now. It's aimed at club players who are just starting to play in tournaments, so they can feel more comfortable and be more competitive. I started it eighteen months ago. I re-read the first chapter the other day and found my views had changed! So I'm rewriting that now.

**GD:** Any other thoughts - for example on the future of Welsh bridge?

**MR:** Not really. I have opinions on certain things, but I usually keep them to myself and go with the flow.

**GD:** Except at the bridge table.

**MR:** That's right. I guarantee, whatever the event, no-one will want to win that event more than me. Even if it's just a club night. I don't mind my partner playing badly - well, I do mind, but I can live with that - but if I play badly, that's what really hurts. No partner could tell me off as much as I tell myself off. It's because I want to win so badly.

# REPORTS...

## MIXED PAIRS

*by Paul Gagne*

In 2005 I was lucky, winning both the Welsh Mixed Pairs Championships and the English/Welsh/Scottish event, The Portland Pairs. Now I know there are a lot of us who are married to (or live with) lady bridge players with whom we also spend time at the bridge table. On each occasion it's a gamble, not unlike a two-way finesse. However, on this particular Sunday in April the gods must have said 'it's your turn now'.

In our convoluted system we play that all opening bids at the one level are five cards (except for clubs). So, with the following hand I venture forth with 1D.

♠ 8 6

♥ A 3 2

♦ K Q J 10 7

♣ Q 7 6

Partner responds 1S, so with my 12 points I make the standard re-bid of 1NT. The 1NT bid denies a) 4 clubs; b) 4 spades; or c) a hand of less than 12 or greater than 16 points. Partner now bids 2C (the Crowhurst convention, asking for a further definition of my hand). This makes a change. It's

usually 3NT or 6NT at this point. I respond 2D, showing 12-13 points with neither 4 hearts nor 3 spades. I can now relax in the knowledge that I've shown my values and a 2353 distribution. All is well with the world. Out of her bidding box comes 4D. \*\*\*\*!!! In our system this is the start of a Roman Keycard sequence. That's if she's remembered the system. Hoping this is one of her good days, I respond 5C, showing two controls and the Q of diamonds. Without further ado she lays the 7D card on the table. \*\*\*\*!!! and \*\*\*\*!!! No double - perhaps there's a chance after all. On the QS lead, partner reveals all.

♠ A K 4 2

♥ 10

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ A K 9 8

After ruffing my two small hearts with the A and 9 of diamonds, just to be safe, the contract makes. Only two pairs out of 180 bid the grand slam. So some other chap was also smiled upon. Thanks for a lovely day, Di. When can I expect the next one?

Love, Paul

## THE 2006 WELSH INVITATION PAIRS

*by Patrick Jourdain*

The Welsh Invitation Pairs succeeded the Welsh International Masters Pairs, an event for players who had represented Wales. The WBU Council had considered abandoning

the event, but was persuaded to experiment with a new format from 2002. Home pairs are now restricted to half the field. The Invitations Committee has quality as the

main determining factor, with the objective of giving the top Welsh pairs experience against fine players from outside the Principality. The selectors add one pair of their choosing and order the reserve list. With no sponsor, key ingredients for success are the willingness of South Wales players to host visitors, the sociability of the event, and the organisers' offer to bear any loss whilst the WBU takes any profit. The format is similar to the defunct Sunday Times. Each pair plays a six board match against each other pair, with Butler scoring.

For the first four years the winners came from four different countries. There have always been visiting international players from mainland Europe, but none has won so far. In 2002 the winners were Tony Forrester & David Mossop of England; in 2003, Gay Keaveney & Rory Timlin of the Republic of Ireland; in 2004, Rex Anderson & David Greenwood of Northern Ireland; and in 2005, Malcolm Cuthbertson & David Walker of Scotland. As the winners in 2006 were Nick Sandqvist, formerly of Sweden, and Artur Malinowski, formerly from Poland (though the pair is representing England in this season's Camrose Home Internationals) one might argue that two more countries can claim ownership.

Tony Forrester, one of the competitors this year, wrote up six deals from the event in the Daily Telegraph. He described the hand in the following column as the deal of the tournament.

Two pairs reached the apparently hopeless Seven Diamonds. One unopposed auction was 1♦-1♠-3♦-4NT-5♦-7♦. South's decision to jump in diamonds rather than bid clubs proved crucial in the play. 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood with diamonds as trumps and the response showed four key cards. North could count twelve winners and expected South to

	♠ KQ83	
	♥ K2	
	♦ Q32	
	♣ A732	
♠ J1054		♠ 9762
♥ Q1054	<b>Dealer South</b>	♥ J7653
♦ J5	<b>EW Vul.</b>	♦ 64
♣ KQ9		♣ 86
	♠ A	
	♥ A9	
	♦ AK10987	
	♣ J1054	

provide the thirteenth somehow. That task looked daunting when West led the king of clubs. Both declarers, one of whom was Wales's Mike Tedd, conceived the same grand larceny for the extra trick. They took the Ace of clubs and rattled off eight red suit winners, ending in hand. Dummy retained four spades. Without access to dummy, declarer had deliberately reduced his tally of winners from twelve to ten! But the nefarious plan paid off in the ending. All four defenders feared that a spade discard from them would promote dummy's fourth spade. The two Wests, faced with a discard problem on the last red suit winner, decided to rely on their partner for the Jack of clubs and, somewhat reluctantly, ditched their Queen of clubs. Declarer promptly showed three winning clubs to replace the two spade winners to which he had kissed goodbye. The grand slam was home!

Patrick Shields and Paul Denning, in 4th place, were the highest placed Welsh pair.

## THE MID-WALES SWISS TEAMS

*by Gwynn Davis*

The 2006 Mid-Wales Swiss Teams, held in Llandrindod Wells in mid July, has long been one of Wales' most relaxed and enjoyable Congresses. For those possessed of an iron constitution, The Hampton pub, just up the road from the playing venue in the Metropole Hotel, has traditionally offered the kind of under-priced, calorie-laden B&B that English bridge players can only dream of. This year The Hampton was under new management, which meant that the prices were no longer bargain basement, there was a television (of sorts) in every bedroom, the breakfast sausages were not quite so numerous as in previous years and the fat did not ooze out of them in the same enticing fashion. This is relevant to what follows since the winning team had, as usual, sought to avail themselves of The Hampton's unique hospitality. The fact that Dando, Roxborough, Reddy and Gottschalk performed with such distinction may be attributed to the fact that, in comparison with the old regime, they were to all practical purposes staying at a health farm, their diet consisting of little more than lettuce leaves.

Whether that is the true explanation or not, the above-mentioned foursome ruled at Table One throughout the event, vanquishing all their rivals in the process, including a clutch of current Welsh internationals. The fact that they also put paid to my team was attributable, in large part, to the hand in the following column: This was the bidding at my table, with Reddy and Dando North/South.

W	N	E	S
3D	3S	5D	5S
P	P	6D	P
P	6S	X	all pass

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ109752</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ KQ93</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ 6</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 6</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ J54</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ K10982</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ AKJ2</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ K</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ 82</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ QJ7653</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ Q943</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Dealer West</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>NS Vul.</b></p>
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J843</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ A1076</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ A</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ 10875</p>	

I was East. The score, for those of you who are interested, is 1660. I've lost count of the number of times that Tom Reddy has bid to the five level against me; I've bid one more; Tom has bid one more; I've doubled; following which I've found myself scrabbling around in the back of the bidding box for a score I never knew existed.

The hand on the following page was played against the team captained by Mike Tedd.

Sitting East, some unseen force compelled me to open 3D. This was passed round to Mike Tedd, sitting North, who bid 3S. John Salisbury (South) raised to Four Spades and Tedd made his contract in comfort. At the other table Patrick Shields also opened 3D. However, Graham Sadie, sitting West, found the enterprising raise to Four Diamonds(!), and this (somewhat unusually, I have to say) silenced Chris Rochelle, sitting North. So Shields got to play in Four Diamonds, which North/South had the dispiriting experience of defeating

	♠ AK1074	
	♥ KQJ	
	♦ 1054	
	♣ 92	
♠ QJ		♠ 862
♥ A108652	<b>Dealer East</b>	♥ 73
♦ 62	<b>NS Vul.</b>	♦ KQJ87
♣ 843		♣ Q105
	♠ 953	
	♥ 94	
	♦ A93	
	♣ AKJ76	

by four tricks, for a score of +200. An interesting demonstration of the effectiveness of aggressive pre-emption when protected by favourable vulnerability (a X by North/ South would have collected 800, but it's not clear who should bid it). As it happens, these two teams had been wrongly assigned. The Tedd outfit had at that stage been languishing some way below us and so should not have been called upon to play a team of our exalted status. Accordingly they were awarded an additional 3 VPs, a bonus that this team of internationals appeared to accept without a backward glance. I even saw them chuckling about it. There you go lads: named and shamed.

## THE 2007 GRADED MASTERS

*by Gwynn Davis*

Entries for this event, held in The Rest, Porthcawl, were significantly down this year, resulting in there being three heats rather than the four of recent years (or the five, six, or seven of times past). Nonetheless competition was predictably keen under the watchful eyes of Linda Greenland (Event Organiser) and Ken Richardson (Director). Section One witnessed an outstanding performance by John Cox and Roger Penton who achieved 58.44%, some 4% clear of the field. Section Two was won by Eric Hartland and Lee Collier, and Section Three by Eleanor Price and Chris Smith.

I thought the following hand was of interest, partly because my partner and I failed to extract full benefit from it, but more generally because it often seems to be the case that artificial systems, employing a variety of asking bids, are better designed to bid big hands to the maximum. Or could it be that we simply

don't deploy our own methods particularly well?

	♠ AK65	
	♥ QJ109	
	♦ None	
	♣ K10765	
♠ J8		♠ T3
♥ 83	<b>Dealer South</b>	♥ 754
♦ 9742	<b>EW Vul.</b>	♦ Q10865
♣ AQJ32		♣ 984
	♠ Q9742	
	♥ AK62	
	♦ AKJ3	
	♣ None	

When my partner, Sue Ingham, opened 1S in the South seat it was clear that a slam was within range. The bidding proceeded:

4D(splinter); 4H; 5C; 5D.....Now what? Fearing that my partner's diamond control would contribute little to our cause, and having no very clear idea how to explore further, I leapt to 6S.

It is not difficult to pick holes in this bidding, but which bid was the worst? I think the call that doomed us to subside at the six level was my 4D splinter. Our agreement is that splinters are limited to moderate game values. The problem was that I had counted my points (not normally a failing of mine) and understated the value of my hand at the outset. I should have

responded 2NT, which with us guarantees a fit and expresses at least mild slam interest (16+ hcp if balanced, or too strong to splinter). Sue would then have recognised (so she tells me) that the Grand was likely to be long odds on if North had the desired holding in trumps. That would be an easy question to ask..... So my preferred sequence, now that I have given the matter more careful consideration, is: 1S 2NT 5NT 6H 7S. See? Simple but effective. Perhaps we don't need complex relay systems after all.

## LLANGOLLEN 2006

*by Patrick Jourdain*

Llangollen is a rarity on the bridge scene, a place that players want to visit as much for the beauty of the location as for the quality of the Swiss Teams Championship that takes place in November each year. This justifies the Friday evening start that enables participants to enjoy the Saturday and Sunday mornings watching the white-water canoeists on the River Dee, to stroll alongside the Llangollen Canal, climb to the Castle of Dinas Bran or the Horseshoe Pass, ride on the steam train, or take a leisurely look at the local shops and cafés.

The event was inherited from the British Bridge League, and the international flavour has been retained, with much of the field coming from England and a small presence from Scotland. Despite this, the Welsh National squad has a good record in protecting the trophy from cross-border forays.

This year the task looked tougher than usual, for one of the visiting teams was the winner of the England Trials. Twins Justin and Jason Hackett had also represented Europe in the Buffett Cup match against America. (In September 2010, when the

Ryder Cup of golf is in South Wales, there are already plans to host this prestigious bridge counterpart in Wales.) The Hacketts were teamed with Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski, the reigning Welsh Invitation Pairs champions, and playing captain Janet de Botton.

The de Botton squad duly took an early lead. By contrast, the Welsh squad members loyally lost their opening match to the team led by the WBU President, Daphne Patrick. It was not until the last match on Saturday (the tenth of 14) that we eventually met the de Botton team on Table 1. A slam hand turned the encounter in favour of the Welsh team.

The Hackett twins have a light opening style that allows them to reach thin games or steal auctions rightfully belonging to their opponents. But the wide range for opening (and response) makes it tougher to reach slams with accuracy. This (see above right) was an early board in our match. Tim Rees and Filip Kurbalija for the holders had stopped safely in Four Spades. However, the Hacketts reached the very thin slam by the auction described.



<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 98 ♥ K543 ♦ KQ52 ♣ 974</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKJ7642 ♥ A109 ♦ - ♣ K105</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 ♥ Q862 ♦ A9643 ♣ AJ2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dealer North</b> <b>NS Vul.</b></p>
<p>♠ Q103 ♥ J7 ♦ J1087 ♣ Q863</p>	

West	North	East	South
Justin Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain	
		1 ♠	Pass
1NT(a)	Pass	2 ♣ (b)	Pass
3 ♦ (c)	Dble	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣ (d)	Pass	4 ♦ (d)	Pass
4 ♥ (e)	Pass	4NT (f)	Pass
5 ♥ (g)	Pass	6 ♠	All Pass

- (a) 6-12
- (b) Relay enquiry
- (c) 11-12 with four hearts
- (d) Cues
- (e) 'Last Train'. Not a cue, but used when there is only one bid left below game level that can encourage slam.
- (f/g) Roman Keycard Blackwood, two key cards, no spade queen.

From the South seat, assisted by partner's double, I led the diamond jack. Jason won in dummy, ditching the nine of hearts, and took a losing finesse in trumps. Dummy had at most two entries so it was safe to exit with a diamond. Declarer ruffed and began running trumps. We play that the first

discard is reverse attitude, later ones are reverse current count. On the second and third trump dummy threw hearts, partner's initial low heart merely showing a high card in the suit. On the next trump South has a dangerous discard to make. Declarer was known to be either 7-2-0-4 or 7-3-0-3. If he held ♣Kxxx I had to keep all four clubs. If he held ♥A109 I had to keep both hearts. So it was necessary to ditch a diamond. Dummy threw a diamond and North discarded ♥5. If declarer had four clubs and originally just ♥A9 the discard would have been ♥4, so declarer's original shape had to be 7-3-0-3. Jason duly found the best line of finessing the jack of clubs, ruffing a third diamond to isolate the diamond menace with North, and then completing the trumps. This was the position when the last trump was led:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ None ♥ K4 ♦ K ♣ 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ A10 ♦ None ♣ 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ None ♥ Q8 ♦ 9 ♣ A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ None ♥ J7 ♦ None ♣ Q8</p>

By now it was clear the right discard was a club. Dummy threw a heart and North a club. A club to the ace squeezed North down to his two red kings, but my jack of hearts took the setting trick and 11 IMPs. The holders won the match 18-2 and went on to retain the trophy.

## RESULTS ROUND-UP.....

Results of all WBU events can be found on the Welsh Bridge Union website ([wbu.org.uk](http://wbu.org.uk)). Look firstly under 'Recent Results'; secondly under 'Competitions'; and thirdly under 'Congresses'. The following is a summary (winners only) of results in the twelve months prior to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007.



Winners of the Red Dragon Pairs at the 2006 Porthcawl Congress, Tom Reddy and Liam Sheridan, are presented with their trophy by WBU President Daphne Patrick. In the background is Chief TD Jim Proctor.

### *WBU Teams Events*

**Welsh Cup 2005/6:** Kurbalija F, Rees T, Jourdain P, Ratcliff T.

**Cambria Cup 2005/6:** Hirst A, Hirst M, Luck J, Salisbury J, Tedd M, Pierce M.

**Webber Cup 2005/6:** Gagne P, Harris D, Close M, Woodruff L.

**Men's Teams 2006:** Ratcliff T, Jones D, Kurbalija F, Rees T.

**Women's Teams 2006:** Clench G, Woodruff L, Collier L, Wiseman C.

**Teams of Eight 2006: Cardiff** (Evans G, Birt D, Atkinson L, Rochelle C, Roxborough G, Reddy T, Greenland L, Richards S).

### *WBU Inter-Area Events*

**Perry Shield 2006:** *East Wales* (Kurbalija F, Ratcliff T, Jourdain P, Reddy T, Casey J, Kurbalija D).

**Spickett Bowl 2006:** *East Wales* (Jones D, Bond N, Patrick D, Parry E, Greenland L, Clench G).

### *Swiss Teams Congresses (Open)*

**East Wales 2006:** Rochelle C, Patrick J, Nicholls B, Shuttleworth K.

**North Wales 2006:** Pitts B, Pitts M, Salisbury J, Debbage D.

**Mid Wales 2006:** Dando H, Reddy T, Roxborough G, Gottschalk S.

**Welsh Foursomes 2006:** Wayne H, Pagan I, Jagger C, Jagger C.

**WBU Swiss Teams (Llangollen) 2006:** Jourdain P, Ratcliff T, Rees T, Kurbalija F.

### *Other Congress Results (Pairs and Teams)*

**May 2006 Bank Holiday Congress**

**Teams:** Williams J, Niccol B, Prior T, Silcock R;

**Pairs:** Hand J, Hand P.

**WBU Seniors Congress 2006**

**Teams:** Jourdain P, Hirst M, Salisbury J, Tedd M.

**Pairs:** Keable B, Keable R.

**Open Pairs:** Tedd M, Salisbury J.  
**August 2006 Green Point Congress**

**Teams:** Hackett P, Fisher C,  
Cornelius B, Hyett G.

**Pairs:** Jourdain P, Hirst M.

**South Wales Congress (Porthcawl) 2006**

**Men's Pairs:** Pye S, Jones H/  
Alderdice B, Jamieson J.

**Ladies' Pairs:** Moore M, Thomas I.

**Mixed Pairs:** Dakin J,  
Kesimoglu G.

**Red Dragon Final:** Reddy T,  
Sheridan L.

**Little Dragon Final:** Dhondy J,  
Kay A.

**Championship Teams:** Ingham S,  
Best M, Scott A, Sheridan L.

**Prince of Wales Teams:** Cox J,  
Penton R, Baker M, Hartland E.

**Sker Trophy:** Gagne P, Screen A,  
Mann L, Harris D.

#### *Pairs Events*

**Welsh Invitation Pairs 2006:**

Sandqvist N, Malinowski A.

**WBU Open Pairs 2006:** Felman P,  
Reddy T.

**WBU Mixed Pairs 2006:**

Wardell J, Morley C.

**WBU Veterans Pairs 2006:**

Amos M, Clare M.

**North Wales Swiss Pairs 2006:**

Weir G, Niccol B.

**WBU Graded Masters 2007**

**Section 1:** Cox J, Penton R.;

**Section 2:** Hartland E, Collier L.;

**Section 3:** Price E, Smith C.

## WEBSITE REVIVAL

*by Mike Tedd*

([Mike.Tedd@wbu.org.uk](mailto:Mike.Tedd@wbu.org.uk))

I am working to make the WBU website at [www.wbu.org.uk](http://www.wbu.org.uk) more useful to our members. You can find lots of up-to-date information about our clubs, congresses and national competitions – dates, venues, entry forms, results, even a few pictures. Other pages deal with our international teams and the events in which they represent us, and the work to encourage younger players. You can also reach the excellent information that Noelle maintains about the masterpoints scheme. Many thanks are due to everyone who sends me material, and those who report errors to be corrected and changes needed. Keep it all coming! I am trying to piece together the early history of the WBU, which came into being on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1948, and I will put on the website what I learn. Perrie Gould, the widow of our first secretary, has given me lots to digest, but I am still very keen to see anything that members might have about our past – memorabilia, photos, records, memories, anecdotes and so on. In particular, I would like to know a lot more about the period before 1948 when the Welsh Bridge Association and the North Wales CBA were active, and about the late 1950s.

## WBU History by Maggie Pierce

When Alan and I first joined St. Mellons Golf club, the then President was the late Mr. Harold Gould. Harold had been the first Secretary of the 'Welsh Bridge Association' (later the WBU) and his wife Perrie had been the first Secretary of the Porthcawl Congress. In November 2006 Mike Tedd told me he was attempting to document the history of the WBU. As a result I went to see Mrs Gould. I found a delightful and interesting lady, now well into her eighties, and came away with a veritable treasure trove. Perrie showed me the minutes of every WBA meeting from 1946, all carefully filed away. She had also retained Congress brochures, photographs, newsletters, and Camrose match details. These will all be forwarded to Mike Tedd, our WBU webmaster, who is researching the WBU's history. Perrie was delighted that the carefully preserved records should go to their proper home. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs Gould. Thanks to them, many gaps will be filled in. If any members have other momentos of bridge history, Mike would be pleased to receive them.



Prizegiving at the first Porthcawl congress. Harold & Perrie Gould are on the left. On the right, Basil Tatlow and Lady Webber.



Poster for the first Porthcawl Congress. If one is seeking an explanation for the decline in competition entries, look no further. How often, these days, is one invited to the tournament dance?



Perrie Gould 2006

## Junior Bridge

*by Elaine Sharp (Junior Co-ordinator)*

It has been a busy year for the Juniors with increased opportunities for tuition and play, as well as a new event on the calendar and preparation for the Home Internationals in February. The new event took place in July at Gwent Bridge Academy and was for pairs comprising a Junior (25 or under) and an 'over 25'. This was well attended, with 17 pairs playing in one room and a minibridge tuition and play session for a group of beginners in the other.

The locations of Junior play days has been widened and now includes Gwent Bridge Academy and Mumbles Bridge Club, as well as Bristol and West of England.

The annual weekend of Bridge tuition organised by the EBU and held at Loughborough University for under 21s ranging from beginners to junior experts was attended by several of our Juniors and a great time was had by all.

We also had a well attended Welsh Junior day in October at Cardiff Bridge Club. This resulted in the formation of two teams to represent Wales in the Home Internationals hosted by the Irish in Limerick in February. The Peggy Bayer team (under 20s) comprises Claire Evans, James Boulton, Becky Watkins, Matt Stephenson and Jonathan Richards, with non-playing Captain Keith Sharp. The Junior Camrose team (Under 25) features Alan Jones, Jonny Sharp, Cat Evans, Eve Hatfield, Tom Stephenson and Christopher Owen, with non-playing Captain Simon Richards. This event takes place over a full weekend and ends with a formal dinner and presentation ceremony. This is a great opportunity for our Juniors, enabling them to meet and play Bridge at a high level.

You might wonder how the Juniors are

able to play Bridge – especially those at University – when spread as far apart as Durham, Exeter, Aberystwyth and Maidenhead. We use Bridge Base Online ([www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)) which is free (always an attraction) and open to all. This is managed for those in Wales by Mark Roderick.

We have a core group of about 20 Juniors at present, ranging from age 13 to 25. I am keen to increase this number. One way could be through Minibridge, a great game in its own right and a good way into Bridge. It is quick, easy to learn and fun. If you think you can introduce any adults or children to this game there is an excellent, free booklet available from the EBU.

There is a contact for Junior Bridge in each Welsh region:

North - Simon Murray-Williams  
[simon@haroldsmith.co.uk](mailto:simon@haroldsmith.co.uk)

Mid - Emyr Tudwal Jones [etj@aber.ac.uk](mailto:etj@aber.ac.uk)

West - Kate Craven  
[kate.craven@ntlworld.com](mailto:kate.craven@ntlworld.com)

East - Daphne Patrick  
[joepatrick@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:joepatrick@globalnet.co.uk)

Of course, none of the opportunities for the Juniors would be possible without a great deal of time and commitment from many people. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed, transported and supported in any way. Your help is very much appreciated.

If you would like to see the juniors in action you can look at the photos on the WBU website under 'Youth'. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions I can be contacted by email at [youth@wbu.org.uk](mailto:youth@wbu.org.uk) or contact your area representative directly.

## Master Points Of View by Noelle Bond



Hello again! It seems strange to be writing this. I've got out of the habit. What saddened me most about the non-appearance of Newsletters for over two years was that it meant there were no promotion lists published. I know from comments I've had that many members find these very interesting. Now that we're having a Newsletter again I thought of making one huge list of all promotions from February 2005 until now, but the Editor told me he wanted to include some material not related to master points.

I really worried about the promotion lists not being seen, and that was one of the things that made me think about creating my own Internet website. So I bought some computer magazines, got a book from the library, and spent time I didn't know I had constructing 'Noelle's Bridge Pages'. For those of you with computers, the address is <http://noellebond.mysite.orange.co.uk> I'm afraid it's not very elegant or professional but you can see lots of WBU information, including the latest promotion lists and much about master points, as well as items about the Barrivale club. I was rather shy about it when it was finished, but I thought if I don't tell people about it I might as well not have made it. If anyone who looks at it has any comments please email me.

Mike Tedd, who now looks after the WBU website, is trying to construct a WBU archive and I've been able to help with information from the master point records. Margery Greenwood, the first WBU Master Point Secretary, sent me something very

interesting - the notebook she kept for her master point records in 1959. The WBU had no funds in those days, so with nothing allowed for postage Margery had to stay up late after Congresses to write out the MP cards and give them out before people went home. I found some familiar names in the book, some people still playing, and some names known only from trophies and events. Margery still loves bridge and still plays. In 1959 I was just a slip of a thing, but I had wanted to learn bridge (without even really knowing what it was) since I was a child and did so around 1963. It was only when I returned home to Wales in 1974 that I began to take it seriously. As for master points, I don't think I could cope with hand-written records (and definitely not with staying up late), so I'm glad we have a computer and that the WBU can now afford stamps.

It seems that without a Newsletter to remind them, quite a lot of people had forgotten the end of year date for master points. Please send me your points by the end of April if you want them to be included in this year's Journal. As usual, please include your reckoning of the overall total, and at least your name and address. I've received quite a few envelopes containing just points slips and no other information. I then have to work out who sent them. Identifying 'M. Jones', for example, can be a real killer.

Also, please make sure there's enough postage, for the days when the postman knocked on the door and demanded fifty pence are long gone. Letters with inadequate postage must be collected from the main post office. It's even worse since the introduction of the new size restrictions on letters. Not just length and width, but thickness as well! Amazing! Now I have

my own letter size slot (made by my husband Mike out of cardboard) and I pass my letters through that to work out the postage. I've taken to writing on the envelope in large letters whether something is to be classed as a 'small letter' or a 'large letter' so that I don't pay too much. Mike took a package for a friend of his to the post office and was told it would have gone as a 'large letter' (and cheaper) if he'd made the envelope just a bit smaller. Meanwhile the man at the next counter was being told that he needn't have crunched up his package quite so small as it could have been much larger for the same price. Oh dear.

For those who don't already know, perhaps I should mention that Mike has taken over as WBU Membership Secretary. If you have any membership queries, send them to him. If you use email, use my email address. I must say I like having the Membership Secretary so close at hand. It means I can now get new membership lists as soon as they are produced. The downside is that Mike expects me to provide him with WBU numbers for new members five minutes after he gets their names.

Speaking of names, my own is often confused with the man's name 'Noel', so I get letters addressed to 'Mr Noelle Bond', whoever he is. Because of this I always listen out for uncommon names, so when Emily, my grand-daughter, age eight, said there was a new girl at school named 'Jola', I asked where she came from. "I think she's from Iceland," said Emily, "but that can't be right, because that's a shop." Later Emily learned that the child actually came from Poland. "What's her surname?" I asked, expecting Emily to flounder among lots of z's, k's, and ch's. "Brown," she said.

Sincerely, Noelle

*noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk*

## **LADY MILNE IN WALES!!!**

**The Lady Milne Trophy, the women's home international series, is being held in Wales this year at the Newport Hilton, Langstone, Newport, Gwent. Wales' representatives are Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija, Sheila Shea and Liz Commins, and Mary Moore and Diana Jones. Precise dates and times are as follows:**

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April: 7.30 and 9.45 pm;**

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30 am, 12.45, 3.00 and 5.15 pm;**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April: 10.15 am, 12.30, 2.45 and 5.00 pm.**

**Each session lasts approximately two hours.**

**Come along and support the Welsh team!**

**Better still, contact Linda Greenland who is running the event and desperately needs helpers: [linda@wbu.org.uk](mailto:linda@wbu.org.uk) or 02920 255162.**

**PROMOTIONS...  
PROMOTIONS...  
PROMOTIONS...**

**by Noelle Bond**

There were 154 Master Point promotions in the period from 06/06/06 to 26/01/07. Congratulations to all.

**Club Master**

Marianne Berkman	S
Roberta Budd	GA
Marlene Carter	CAS
Heather Cummins	CAS
Peter Dumelow	S
Janet Evans	P
John Owen Evans	P
Pam Evans	T
Ian Grove	S
Gill Howells	CD
Gillian Joel	A
Elizabeth Mitchell	W
Suppiah Navaratnam	W
Kevin Otteson	S
Dylan Rees	BEN
Peter Saunders	M
Judy Springett	OH
Susan Stephens	GA
David Stewart	S
Bron Vos	S
Geraint Williams	PW

**Local Master**

Jon Baker	CAR
Mike Cohen	L
C Stuart Evans	MG
David Everett	Y
Graham Good	C
Wally Heaton	H
Gill Howells	CD
Fiona Noyce	NT
Judith Pulford	LD
Phil Roberts	MER
Annette Russell	BRE
Rod Sheard	W
Margaret Smith	BEN
June Tindale	LD
Joan Williams	BEN
Anne Wilson	A
Richard Wilson	A
Dorothy Wise	GA

**County Master**

Keith Brice	L
Mona Egginton	AA
Claire Evans	P
John Gardener	H
Margaret Harris	GA
Maurice Harris	GA
Brian Jones	PR
Jacque Jones	F
David Lovering	R
Tony Mason	WS
Robyn Reed	CAR
Gavin E Roscoe	PD
Robin Scott	OH
Norman Skinner	BRE
Avis Sowels	SU
R Mike Thomas	Y

**Master**

Betty Broadley	CR
Colin Cridge	A
Ian Dunglinson	OH
June Fligelstone	GA
Ellen Gwynne-John	CBY
Colin Haldenby	AA
Maria Haldenby	AA
June Jones	H
Michael Jones	BRE
Ken Petters	LD
Rita Potter	BEN
Mike Reed	CAR
Ed Robertson	GA
Penney Saunders	R
Brian Thorp	CR
Valda Vanloo	GA
Chris Welson	AA
David R Williams	M

**Advanced Master**

Jane Allen	WS
Doreen Anthony	A
Jean Brooks	MG
Peter Cotterill	GA
Megan Evans	Y
Regina Evans	PW
Teresa Goss	C
Ann Gray Davies	PW
Margaret Ann Jones	WS
Margaret McCumiskey	D
Michael McCumiskey	D



Bryan Morgan	GA
Joan Morgan	R
Vivien Penny	MG
Angela Roberts	WS
Michael Rowland	CN
Jon Seavers	C
Pat Williams	NT
William O Williams	WS
<b>One Star Master</b>	
Joan Bird	VOG
John Dow	CBY
Martin Green	GA
Noel Griffiths	GA
Ann Lewis	AA
Pamela Sherman	PN
Margaret Toomey	MB
<b>Two Star Master</b>	
Estelle Evans	S
Brenda Grove	OH
Alan Heath	PC
Wendy Jenkins	WS
Dave Thomas	BV
<b>Three Star Master</b>	
Dorothy Loxton	C
Stan Newman	WS
Christine Norman	MB
Justine Petters	LD
Pat Sanderson	ROF
Sharon Winter	C
<b>Four Star Master</b>	
Jock Barlow	RH
Jo Copping	BRE
Margaret Doig	LD
Christine Forbes	BRE
Diana Kendrick	BV
Rick Law	S
Tony Mitchell	NP
<b>Five Star Master</b>	
David Bellis	BEN
Bob Miller	CAS
Ken Page	CD
Syd Phillipps	MON
Terry Reilly	VOG
David Rowley	WS
Gaynor Shenton	MB
Alan B Williams	P
<b>Regional Master</b>	
H John Evans	MG
Margaret James	A
Gareth Jones	H
<b>Premier Regional Master</b>	
Jane Brook	BV
Malcolm Collis	GA
Colette Davies	L
Joan Jenkins	PN
Catherine Spalding	Y
Mark Spalding	Y
<b>National Master</b>	

Helen Carsley	M
Tony Carsley	M
Lee Collier	H
John B Jamieson	S
Emyr Tudwal Jones	A
Gareth Jones	PD
Jim Kinge	GA
Lyn Lamb	A
Denis Mottram	BV
John Murray	L
<b>Premier National Master</b>	
David M Evans	LD
Simon Gottschalk	BR
Patrick G Maslin	A
<b>Life Master</b>	
Mike Jones	A
Norman Large	CBY
Ivor Owen	W
Alan Screen	NT
<b>Senior Life Master</b>	
Eileen Hughes	BV
<b>Grand Master</b>	
Julian Pottage	BR
Mike Tedd	A

**JOHN HOCKEY TROPHY**  
(most points registered in one year)  
2006/7 top 20 as at 31/01/07

John Cox	224
Filip Kurbalija	170
Kevin Maddox	166
Dave Barwood	156
Patrick Jourdain	126
Joan Jenkins	123
Tony Ratcliff	96
Mike Tedd	86
Ivor Owen	82
Arwyn Evans	81
Dewi I Jones	76
Bob Miller	75
Gareth Jones	75
Stan Newman	71
Roger Eastwood	68
Muriel Maslin	68
Diane Kurbalija	67
Laura Woodruff	65
Mark Spalding	63
Steve Webb	63

# ARTICLES...

## DIRECTOR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 'That's strong, isn't it?'

by Ken Richardson



Ken gives a ruling

Some players have been opening 'strong twos' on distributional hands with limited high-card points.

An extreme example:

♠ KQ1098765432

♥ None

♦ 5

♣ 7

Whilst this hand is certainly good for game in Spades, despite having only 5 high card points, it is not a 'strong two' opener as defined in the Orange Book. There are two types of strong hand, one rich in high-card strength, the other with very good playing strength based on distribution. The above hand will make game in Spades because it has excellent playing strength, but it does not have sufficient high-cards to qualify as a 'strong two'.

The 2006 Orange Book defines a 'strong

two' as a hand conforming to the 'Extended Rule of 25' - extended because of the requirement that the hand also contain a minimum of 14 high card points. To determine whether a hand satisfies the Rule of 25, add the number of cards in the two longest suits to the total number of high card points, and the figure arrived at should be 25 or more. The same method is employed when calculating the Rule of 19 with reference to opening bids at the one level.

The above hand might be said to be 'Rule of 17'. You can still open this hand a natural Two Spades, but that bid must not be described as 'strong'. It is also not permitted to open a hand with an artificial bid, which includes a strong option, unless the strong option conforms to the Extended Rule of 25.

I would open the above hand Four Spades (some players would open it One Spade, or perhaps Four Diamonds if playing Texas). So what if you open Two Spades ('strong') on this next hand?

♠ KQ109654

♥ A

♦ 96

♣ A87

The hand has a high-card point count of 13 (rather than 14) and on the 'Rule of 25' totals just 23. If your partner gives the explanation 'strong', the opponents are entitled to call the TD for a ruling. The TD

would rule that this is a violation of permitted systems and is therefore an illegal agreement. The Orange Book expressly prohibits players from 'taking a view' and making supposedly 'strong' opening bids on hands that do not satisfy

the Extended Rule of 25, including of course the requirement that the hand contain a minimum of 14 high card points.

## MIKEY'S MUSINGS

*by Mike Close*

It is a common misconception that with big hands it is right to 'find out what partner's got' rather than reveal your own assets. This invariably doesn't work (I'm ignoring complex relay systems here) as partner cannot evaluate his hand properly without knowing what he should be looking for.

Common mistakes include making a negative double with good 5/5 distribution in the unbid suits after partner opens and right-hand opponent overcalls; cuebidding the opponents' suit as a force rather than bidding *your own* strong suit; and finally, failing to employ a jump shift response. It is the last I wish to focus upon here because it does seem a problem area for many players. To illustrate the point I will tell you a horror story (no names mentioned, but I was at the table).

West	East
♠ AK7	♠ QJ4
♥ 102	♥ AKQJ7643
♦ A983	♦ J
♣ J1064	♣ Q

Playing 5 card majors and a Strong NT, the bidding proceeded:

West: 1C *	(could be two cards)
East : 1H	(I'll just go quietly and see what partner's got)
West: 1NT	(12-14 balanced; not 4 hearts)

East: 3H	(forcing to game, I think...)
West: 3NT	(no fit for H)
East: ??	

Now what? 4C is natural, and 4D also, probably showing a 6/4 hand. 4NT is quantitative (unless agreed otherwise) and 6H is a silly punt. East has not handled the auction very well. OK, it is time for some bidding rules about Strong Jump Shifts:

- 1) *A jump shift by responder is FG (Forcing to Game) and either a) agrees the suit bid by responder; or b) agrees the opening bid suit.*
- 2) *Opener makes the lowest bid available, bidding out his shape.*
- 3) *Responder now clarifies the position by a) rebidding his own suit (and thus making this trumps); or b) supporting partner directly; or c) bidding another suit, which is a cue bid and agrees partner's opening suit as trumps.*

Another rule that people forget is that any jump to a new suit in a FG sequence shows a specific feature (usually a void or a solid suit). Consider the unopposed sequence: 2C\* (FG) - 2D\* (neg) - 3H. The 3H bid shows a solid suit (playable opposite a void) and asks responder to cuebid a King or, if holding some trumps, a singleton. Using the above principles, let us bid the hand again:

West: 1C\* (could be 2 cards)  
 East: 2H (Jump-Shift, FG, hearts or clubs agreed)  
 West: 2NT (balanced, unlimited) -  
 East: 3H (seriously good hearts)

Now West knows that the trump suit is taken care of, so the bidding proceeds:

3S\* (cuebid, Ace) -  
 4C\* (cuebid, singleton)  
 4D\* (cuebid, Ace) -  
 4NT\* (some variety of Blackwood)  
 5H (I have two Aces, partner) -  
 6H

Jump Shifts should always be into a suit

showing good cards, even when we are about to agree partner's suit. Even if you have a 2NT Game Raise available, a jump shift can tell a different story, eg 1H – 3C – 3D – 3H agrees hearts and shows a good club suit, so if opener holds Qx in clubs he knows this is a very useful holding and so may cuebid a spade control even with a minimum. The same applies when agreeing a minor. Even when playing Inverted Minors (where 1D-2D is stronger than 1D-3D), the jump shift shows a much better fit. So the moral of the story is: 'Jump shift!' Used properly, these bids are an essential weapon in your bidding armoury. Don't leave home without them.

## SEEING THE WOODS FOR THE TREES

by David Hamilton

How would you approach the play of the following hand? The contract is Four Hearts, and West leads the Queen of Spades.

<p>♠ 97643          ♥ K82          ♦ 954          ♣ 65</p>	<p>♠ K52          ♥ 5          ♦ Q10863          ♣ 732</p>
<p>♠ QJ108          ♥ 743          ♦ J2          ♣ AQ108</p>	<p><b>Dealer West</b>  <b>EW Vul.</b></p>
<p>♠ A          ♥ AQJ1096          ♦ AK7          ♣ KJ4</p>	

Having won the Ace, Declarer played a trump to dummy's eight in order to play a club to his Jack. West won the Queen and returned a trump. Declarer won in dummy and led another club to his King, taken by West's Ace. A trump continuation led to Declarer's downfall since he now had to lose three clubs and a diamond. Declarer failed to see the wood for the trees. Under other circumstances it would be standard procedure to try to develop a club trick with the above holding. But not here. Declarer should have concentrated on making his contract. To achieve that he needed to lead a club from hand at trick two. Now he is ahead of the game and the defenders cannot prevent him from ruffing a club in dummy, so making ten tricks. Had South's club holding been three small he would never have made this mistake.

## BEST BID HAND? - I DON'T THINK SO!

*by Captain Cat*

Open any bridge magazine these days and you will find a tirade from someone about modern bidding with its frequent alerts and complex explanations. A rant in a recent magazine even managed to find a link with "smoking, excessive drinking, drug taking, and having children ...outside marriage." What saddens me is the widespread desire to get the bidding over quickly and simply so that the main activity, the play of the hand, can begin.

What do you think of this gem? Competing in the Autumn 2006 Lederer Invitation event were eight teams including the Gold Cup winners, the Spring Foursomes winners, 'England', 'Ireland', other internationals past and present and some foreign stars. A prize was awarded for the Best Bid Hand. This won the prize:

♠ AQJ8762	♠ K
♥ J	♥ A432
♦ 105	♦ A76
♣ J109	♣ AQ842

**David Price**  
3S  
6S

**Colin Simpson**  
5S

A diamond was led but the club finesse succeeded. Reasonable bidding and a successful result, but the Best Bid Hand? Sorry folks, but if this is judged (by an English international) to be a brilliant auction worthy of an award then it says something to me about our attitude to bidding in general.

I think the attitude typified by this award, and by the criticism often directed at artificial bidding methods, reduces by a large fraction the ability to extract pleasure from the game. Perhaps only a minority

would consider the bidding more enjoyable than the play, but surely the puzzle of combining with partner to convey the maximum information with the very limited alphabet available in order to reach the right spot should give pleasure? Now for me this *is* a gem.

♠ AKJ965	♠ 82
♥ AQJ10	♥ K7
♦ A	♦ KQ8762
♣ A4	♣ K76

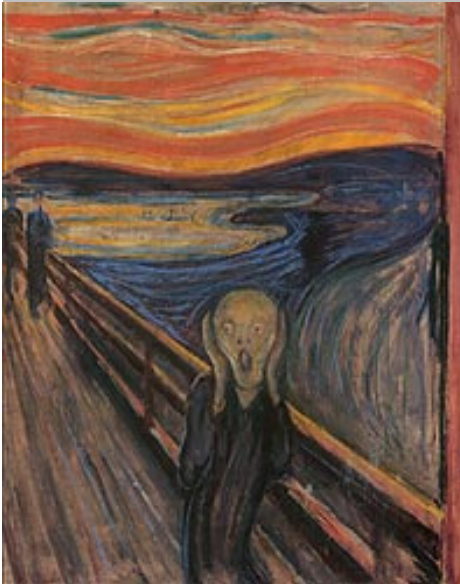
The auction was as follows (all West's bids except the last are ciphers, requesting information):

Helgemo	Groetheim	
		1D
1H	2D	(6+ diamonds, no side suit)
2S	2NT	(6322 shape)
3C	3D	(specifically 2263)
3H	3NT	(nought or 3 aces)
4C	4H	(nought or 3 kings)
4S	4NT	(1 or 4 queens)
5C	5D	(the queen is in my longest suit)
7H	Pass	

This hand was bid in a Norwegian Championship by two exponents of the Viking Precision Club. Please don't write in to tell me the odds of a 5-2 heart break. I know them, and so does Helgemo. Suffice it to say that the story had a satisfactory ending in that 7H made and 7NT went down at the other table.

## BRIDGE WITH 'MORGAN'

*by Blodwen Jenkins*



As some of you will have noted, it is rare in bridge to find partners of the standard you deserve, and of late I have found myself partnering a louche character to whom I shall refer simply as 'Morgan' - not, of course, his real name. Morgan bids a lot, and not always wisely. He is especially dangerous when wielding hands characterised by distribution rather than high cards. 'I am not a point-counter', Morgan will observe learnedly. Indeed not. This was a hand from a recent East Wales league match. By the time we reached the final six boards the usual Morgan pot-pourri of psyches, trap passes and speculative overbids had achieved a modest net loss. This was the decisive hand, with both sides vulnerable.

At our home table it did not occur to Morgan, the poor man's Zia Mahmood, to pass his less than overpowering collection in the North seat. This was the full sequence.

♠ 87654		
♥ A1087632		
♦ None		
♣ 4		
♠ QJ109	<b>Dealer North</b>	♠ None
♥ J9		♥ None
♦ 10542	<b>All Vul.</b>	♦ AKQJ98763
♣ KJ2		♣ A1063
♠ AK32		
♥ KQ54		
♦ None		
♣ Q9875		

N	E	S	W
1H	2D(a)	4D(b)	5D
P	P(c)	5H(d)	P
P	6D(e)	6H(f)	P
P(g)	7D(h)	X(i)	P
P(j)	P		

- a) East knew Morgan well. He felt no need to rush.
- b) A cue bid, agreeing hearts.
- c) Confident the auction was not about to end.
- d) Even facing a 'Morgan' opening, could I do less?
- e) The bid he had planned to make all along.
- f) The right action at teams, playing with a sensible partner.
- g) Looking decidedly ill.
- h) Faint heart never won fair lady.
- i) One of my more confident doubles, as I explained afterwards to a well lubricated and entirely unrepentant Morgan.
- j) Disappearing beneath the table.

The play was not complicated. I led the Ace of spades and Declarer ruffed before playing off a few trumps, Morgan religiously giving true count in hearts and spades. Both the auction and the play suggested that North had short clubs, so Declarer gritted his teeth and took the right view. Seven Diamonds doubled, just making. Minus 2330.

At the other table the bidding was not dissimilar, except that North forbore to open his shapely but underpowered collection. Our team-mate sitting East (another paid-up member of the Optimistic Tendency\*) also bid Seven Diamonds but in this instance was left undoubled. South was a player I had long admired. His first three discards were a club, then the two of hearts, followed by a second club. Totally befogged, Declarer took the club finesse the wrong way for a net loss of 2430 points. The IMP conversion scale grows tired at this point, so that was just 20 IMPs away.

When we reviewed the hand in the bar afterwards Morgan displayed his usual perversity. 'Why not run the diamonds?' he asked. 'South is surely squeezed'. 'But in that case', our team-mate remarked grimly, 'I am playing South for the Queen of clubs, so I might as well take the club finesse the other way whilst I still retain the odd trump'. 'Well, why didn't you?' asked Morgan.

*\*Otherwise known as the bridge version of the Peter Principle - bid to the level of your incompetence.*



## RECIPE CORNER

*Some bridge players prepare for an important match by discussing system, preparing defences, and so on. June Duffy of the Gwent Bridge Academy has an alternative approach. June believes that the route to success (or at least, enjoyment) in bridge lies in proper preparation for the mid-match break. Here is one of June's suggestions.*

### MALTESER CAKE

**Ingredients:** 85gm/3oz butter; 170gm/6oz digestive biscuits crushed; 175gm maltesers half crushed and half left whole; 2 tablespoons golden syrup; 2 tablespoons cocoa.

**Method:** Melt butter and golden syrup. Stir in digestives and crushed maltesers. Allow to cool slightly, then stir in whole maltesers. Line a 1lb loaf tin with cling film and put in the mixture. Press down and chill for at least two hours. Slice and enjoy!

*The Editor welcomes contributions to this column from the culinarily gifted, like June, and from those whose skills are less advanced. Next Issue - Chris Rochelle: 'Don't let those old cheese sandwiches go to waste'.*

# REGIONAL ROUND-UPS...

## NORTH

*by Jean Hand*

We are all very pleased here that Sheila Shea and Liz Commins have been selected to represent Wales in the Lady Milne. We all wish the team the best of luck. Also this year, our area has once again had a high number of qualifiers for the National competitions. Congratulations to all who made it through.

Thanks to the efforts of Wrexham Garden Village, that club is having great success with the number of people learning to play bridge. We hope that eventually this will bring more players into competitions.

Traditionally the Spring Congress has been held over three days, but this year we are dropping the Friday events due to lack of support. The teams competition will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1st April.

We are very sad to report the untimely death in October of Carolyn Williams from Rhyl. Carolyn was a keen competitive player and had been a member of Shotton, Mold and Flint bridge clubs. In 2004, partnering Ted Lucas, she won the Northern heat of the Veterans Pairs. At the bridge table Carolyn was always pleasant and courteous both to her partner and the opposition. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The winners of the Northern area heats were as follows.

**VETERANS PAIRS: Mike Clare and Mike Amos (also overall winners)**

**MIXED PAIRS: Hannah Roberts and Suppiah Nawaratnam**

**OPEN PAIRS: Jean and Peter Hand**

**THE HAROLD GRIFFITHS CUP: Simon Edwards, Chris Pope, David Stevenson and Paddy Murphy**

## MID

*by Emyr Tudwal Jones*

Mid-Wales did not quite maintain the phenomenal success of last year when we won (for the first time) the Perry Shield and provided the winners of the National Open Pairs. Nevertheless we achieved creditable results in national events, especially in the Veterans' pairs – just as well perhaps, given the ageing nature of our membership!

It is always difficult to attract enough competitors from such a dispersed area as Mid-Wales to hold a seven-table heat for national events: from Dolgellau in the North to Cardigan in the South; Aberystwyth in the West to Welshpool in the East. Inevitably, all these events are held at Aberystwyth – to the inconvenience of the many competitors from Newtown and Welshpool. The staging of a Mid-Wales event in the village hall at Llandinam proved very popular – unfortunately, the two-hour drive seriously annoyed members from the



Cardigan club!

Mid-Wales has been very fortunate to have the extremely efficient services of Mrs Jean Cufley, who organises affairs in Newtown and Welshpool. We have also been fortunate in the arrival of a dynamic organiser in the person of Gill Howells in Cardigan – a club that had been moribund over the last few years.

The greatest problem facing Mid-Wales is its ageing membership. I feel this particularly in Aberystwyth – by far the largest club in Mid-Wales. As a sixty year old, I find myself among the youngest members of the club! It is strange that a University town attracts not a single student to its Bridge club. We sincerely hope there will be interest in the game amongst the young in years to come.

All our area competitions attracted a large number of competitors. Here are the winners:

**J. V. DAVIES INDIVIDUAL CUP: Andrew Young**

**MID-WALES GRADED MASTERS:**

**Bunty Richards Salver: John Waller and Roger Bowles**

**Norman Riches Cup: John Old and Henry Page**

**Jodo Cup: Pauline Rhodes and Hennie Jenkins**

**HARROP-GRIFFTHS CUP (Mixed Pairs): Jean Cole and Malcolm James**

**McKINLEY CUP (Teams of Four): John Waller, Andrew Young, Chris Blackman, Keith Shuttleworth**

**FLAYE CUP (Ladies' Pairs): Pauline Rhodes and Hennie Jenkins**

**EVANS JONES CUP (Pairs): Jean Cole and Marlene Carter**

## **WEST** *by Kate Craven*

2006 was a year of many bridge blessings for the West, but four cry out for comment. First, we acquired and introduced Bridgemate. Ian Haston, our Tournament Organiser, has to be voted our Man of the Year for his dedication, patience and verbal restraint! Second, we welcomed to Llanelli Jerry Morris, who came home from Hong Kong where for several years he had been running the Hong Kong Bridge Club. No doubt the proceedings at Llanelli are (mostly) more sedate than those involving the International set whom Jerry previously hosted. We wish him and his wife Lynn a long and happy retirement here. Our third man isn't from the West, he's from Scarborough, but Jim Proctor has been Directing at the Porthcawl Congress since 1978 and we thank him for 28 years of amiable and consistently fair directing which, over those years, has helped make the Congress so enjoyable. Thanks a million, Jim.

Our fourth blessing has to be the outstanding performance of the top five pairs in the National Mixed Pairs. Congratulations to Jennifer Wardell & Chris Morley (1<sup>st</sup>); Mary Moore & Glyn Williams (2<sup>nd</sup>); Liam Sheridan & Gwyneth Dew (3<sup>rd</sup>); Wally Heaton & Wendy Thornton (4<sup>th</sup>); and Lee Collier & Graham John (5<sup>th</sup>). All from clubs in the West! We are happy to gloat. In fact we will probably be gloating for many years to come.

On a less positive note, the Western Area has concerns about falling numbers of club bridge players and the need to persuade club players to support Area and WBU events. 2006, for example, saw the abandonment of the Men's Pairs Event for the second year running. Area Committee has asked clubs for feedback and suggestions as to how we can best promote

bridge and support Area competitions. In the Area competitions that were played, our winners were as follows:

**JOHN ISAAC TROPHY 2005:** Chris Davies and Martin David  
**NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS (Q):** Mike Baker and Steve Jarvis  
**NATIONAL TEAMS OF EIGHT (Q):** Haverfordwest (Lee Collier & Eric Hartland;  
Beryl Warner & June Hurst; Jill & John O'Sullivan; Peter Milewski & Ian Haston)  
**LAIDLAW MURRAY CUP:** Jill and John O'Sullivan, M.Baker & S.Jarvis  
**JOHN ISAAC TROPHY 2006:** Lee Collier and Eric Hartland  
**AREA LADIES PAIRS:** =1st: Beryl Warner & Judith Graham-Jones;  
Eleanor Price & Christine Smith; Janet Rees & Sheila Leyshon (closely fought!)  
**VINCE BEVAN PAIRS:** Peter Milewski & Eric Hartland  
**NATIONAL MIXED PAIRS (Q):** Mike Best & Mary Moore  
**NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS (Q):** Rob Charlesworth & Graham John

WBU Journal corrections: Judith Graham-Jones' phone no. is 01437 765275; Kate Craven's email is kate.craven@ntlworld.com

## **EAST** *by Chris Rochelle*

I am now starting my second spell as Eastern Area Tournament Officer after a break of over 10 years. The first thing you notice is the money. It's still the same. The second thing is the fall in the number of players entering national events. In my first spell national events had an area entry of between 30 pairs for the men's and ladies' events to over 70 pairs for the open and mixed. Now there is not even an area final for the men's and ladies' pairs.

The decision to make some of the area heats direct entry then resulted in a further fall in numbers as no new players entered the events and some club players, without the incentive of qualifying, did not enter. This resulted in 2005 being the lowest level of entry for national events with fewer than 20 pairs entering the open and mixed events. The decision to revert to club heats has boosted the numbers for 2006 and 2007, with the average entry up to about 30 pairs. Compare this to the area open pairs (Stan Berger Trophy) which has maintained club heats. For this event the entry has never dropped below 55 and is normally 70-80 pairs.

If we are to keep competitive bridge going we need to encourage clubs to run heats and to get their members both to enter the competitions and also to attend areas finals if they qualify. But to do that we must convince club players that the way to improve their game and therefore their enjoyment of it is to play more competitive bridge. Entering competitions is the way to do that!

Results in area competitions held to date were as follows.

**STAN BERGER (Open Pairs):** Mike Best and Mike Close

**LOUIS LERMON (Open Teams):** F and D Kurbalija, P Jourdain, A Ratcliff

### **Ted Martin**

Ted Martin, who died in October 2005 aged only 55, had six international matches for Wales between 1979 and 1981 before returning to England. After a twenty year gap he entered the Welsh Trials again with Alex Hogg, and they were selected for two matches in 2004. Before he could play, Ted was diagnosed with cancer. Despite the effects of his treatment Ted had two excellent matches for Wales, losing narrowly to the Republic and beating Northern Ireland.

Ted had learned bridge as a schoolboy in Derbyshire. He obtained a job with Courtaulds and they moved him to the Swansea area where his first regular partner was Ray Mahoney. They had one match for Wales in March 1979. Thereafter Ted formed a partnership with Patrick Jourdain and we had five matches for Wales in the following two seasons, beating Northern Ireland both years and twice losing narrowly to England.

Ted's main hobby apart from bridge was bell-ringing and he would often fulfil his duties on a Sunday morning before playing bridge. He maintained his ties with South Wales and was a frequent visitor to Porthcawl and the East Wales Congress. Ted was the most courteous and thoughtful of partners, and a valued friend for over a quarter of a century.

*Patrick Jourdain*

### **Brian Roderick**

To many in East Wales, Brian Roderick will be remembered as the loving, dedicated carer of his son, Mark. Occasionally Brian himself would play bridge, in Barrivale, Penarth or Cardiff, but his involvement in bridge was really in support of Mark.

I was lucky enough to know Brian as a parent (when Mark used to be a member of my GCSE Chemistry class) and, at about the same time, as a learner of bridge, with Mark, in lunch hours at St Cyres.

Brian was a cheerful, positive person, with a ready smile that today you see reflected in Mark's. He enjoyed a lager, and he liked horse racing and football. He followed Manchester United, an enthusiasm he passed on to Mark.

One of Brian's favourite places was the Gwent Bridge Academy, where he would watch sport on the television whilst Mark played bridge. He used to update me on the sporting highlights of the day. I asked Brian why he didn't play WITH Mark and he replied, with a laugh: "Because Mark says I'm not good enough!" But all those who saw Brian and Mark together knew how immensely proud Brian was of Mark's bridge achievements. It is extremely poignant that when Brian died he was looking forward to Mark's debut in the Camrose Trophy.

Now that Brian has gone to the great Director, we can hope there's a large plasma TV, a can of lager, a comfy settee, and Manchester United on the box. We'll all miss you Brian.

*Eric Favager*

### **Alec Wood**

Alec Wood died suddenly whilst on the way to lunch with friends from bridge. Alec had been a staunch member of Barrivale club almost from its inception in 1987, and when other members didn't attend he always wondered why. What could they be doing that was better? His enjoyment was evident, and his familiar laugh would often ring around the clubroom, for he seemed equally amused by a hand unexpectedly gone right as by one going disastrously wrong. His company (and his laugh) will be sadly missed.

*Mike Bond*

## **FORTHCOMING...**

### **WBU CHAMPIONSHIP and OPEN EVENTS, APRIL TO SEPTEMBER**

#### ***April***

31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April    North Wales Spring Congress, Llandudno  
([jean@hand15cc.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:jean@hand15cc.wanadoo.co.uk))  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>                Lady Milne Trophy (Women's International), Newport  
29<sup>th</sup>                        Area AGMs and accompanying bridge events

#### ***May***

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>                    WBU May Congress, Cwmbran ([linda@wbu.org.uk](mailto:linda@wbu.org.uk))  
12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>                Webber Cup Final, Builth Wells  
19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>                Perry Shield and Spickett Bowl/WBU AGM, East Wales  
26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>                WBU Seniors Congress, Cwmbran ([anne@baa-lamb.co.uk](mailto:anne@baa-lamb.co.uk))

#### ***June***

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>                    WBU Men's/Ladies' Pairs, Builth Wells  
([peter@hand15ccwanadoo.co.uk](mailto:peter@hand15ccwanadoo.co.uk))  
24<sup>th</sup>                        WBU Teams of Eight Final, Builth Wells

#### ***July***

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>                    WBU Swiss Pairs, Llandudno ([margaret.smith9@tesco.net](mailto:margaret.smith9@tesco.net))  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>                Mid Wales Congress, Llandrindod Wells  
([philip.dorling@homecall.co.uk](mailto:philip.dorling@homecall.co.uk))  
27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>                Aberystwyth Congress ([DaiHayes@amserve.com](mailto:DaiHayes@amserve.com))

### **PROVISIONAL DATES**

#### ***August***

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>                    WBU Green Point Pairs/Teams, Cwmbran  
([r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com))  
25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>                WBU Open Pre-trial

#### ***September***

3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>                    WBU Simultaneous Pairs (clubs)  
8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>                    Welsh Foursomes, Porthcawl ([r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com))  
22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>                WBU Invitation Pairs  
29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>                WBU Open Trial