

WELSH BRIDGE

The magazine of the
Welsh Bridge Union

September 2008



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

When I joined the WBU, I quickly found that many members have been critical of a wide variety of things over a long period.

After one year in the post, as Chief Executive, I have a better understanding from within. Some players question the benefits of being a member or believe they pay too much. I cannot agree with this; less than 15p per week of anybody's money is not very much. The WBU depends on volunteers and we welcome offers of help. Please take an interest in National and Area matters and perhaps put yourself forward for election, where you can make a positive input and influence change or direction.

Some members have an interest in a 'player rating'; I am keen to investigate a scheme (alongside master points) to give players a performance-based rating. Rating schemes are in place elsewhere, notably Australia, but there is some resistance from higher-ranked players with little interest in Club Bridge, and I would welcome your views.

People criticise expenditure on our International teams. Good results bring plaudits but good results require support as well as skill and training. Our International players pay some of the costs from their own pockets and deserve our support.



NEVILLE RICHARDS

Many of our Clubs are seeing a decline in membership whilst 'social' bridge clubs appear to be ascendant. These run with simple systems, no convention cards, director calls or score cards. They have a game, but a very different one. Ironically, many of their players learned their bridge in WBU Clubs.

We still struggle within some clubs and at congresses with poor behaviour from a few. This puts off newcomers – I have seen it myself. I am very keen to bring these non-affiliated Clubs into the WBU. This will be hard and I ask you all to be ambassadors to show players and Clubs that their membership of the WBU is a positive step for keeping the game vibrant and alive.

**Selection of our Overseas
Bridge Holidays with LOCAL
departures from Cardiff,
Manchester or Bristol airports.**

THE WESTHILL HOTEL, JERSEY
21 Sept & 19 Apr - 5 nights £269
Half Board

Located in beautiful gardens.

4* PARADISE PARK, TENERIFE
16 Jan - 14 nights £639
Half Board

A favourite winter sun venue with our
Bridge players

**4* SANDS BEACH RESORT,
LANZAROTE, B&B**
26 Feb & 12 Mar - 7, 14, 21 & 28 nights
Long stay value and low single
supplements

**HOTEL BELLE AUREORE,
CAP FERRAT, FRENCH RIVIERA**
15 Apr & 27 Sep - 10 nights
Half Board

4* REGENCY HOTEL, DUBLIN
11 May - 4 nights
Half Board

4* IBEROSTAR PANORAMA, CRETE
06 Oct - 14 nights
ALL INCLUSIVE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE
SBU BRIDGE UNION OVERSEAS
CONGRESS IN TURKEY**

**5* MARES HOTEL,
MARMARIS/ICMELER - £585**
01 May - 7 nights, Half Board



Red/Green pointed event
Local departure airports available.

UK BRIDGE BREAKS
easily accessible from Wales

THE THREE COUNTIES, HEREFORD
Xmas - 4 nights, New Year & Easter -
3 nights, from £229.
Ideally situated at the gateway into Wales.

**THE WOODCROFT TOWER,
BOURNEMOUTH**
14 Nov - 7 nights, 22 Mar & 01 Jun -
5 nights from £239

Welcome to the September 2008 edition of Welsh Bridge.

You may see a few changes from the previous issue – I aim for evolution rather than revolution. I have tried to include more photographs. I like to put a face to a name and I am sure that others must feel the same way. I have also tried to increase the size of the typeface, wherever possible. I have reached the age when I should be wearing bifocals but am not – others are no doubt in a similar position!

Indeed as my predecessor pointed out, the age of bridge players in Wales is on the increase. Gone are the days when most players learnt the game from watching their parents or as a way to impress a prospective date. Nowadays many people learn the game at a more mature age. This change has come about partly through other pressures on people's time (working harder or for longer hours) and partly through competing ways to fill leisure time (television in particular, computer games and the like). After a hard day's work, it is not easy to find three hours plus to play bridge as well as fitting in eating, unwinding, family duties and travelling. The advent of on-line bridge provides the opportunity to play bridge for a shorter length of time, though for many it is just not the same as playing at the table.

No matter how long you have been playing the game, this magazine is or at least should be for you. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see more (or less) of in future editions, please let me know.

Julian Pottage

CONTENTS

1. Chief Executive
4. 2008-9 President
4. Financial statements
5. 2007-8 President
6. Camrose weekend 2
7. Lady Milne
8. Positive Ethics
10. Peggy Bayer
11. Master Point Promotions
14. Master Point of View
15. John Hockey Trophy
16. Camrose Comes to Cardiff
16. Forthcoming Events
17. Results Round-Up
18. Teltscher Trophy
19. Exit Available
20. Champagne Moment
22. To Err is Human
23. Knighton Club
24. Saint David and Goliath
27. Red Cards and Black Holes
28. Ron Klinger's Visit
28. Club News Bedwas
29. Teams of Eight
30. Good and Bad Points
31. Regional Round-Ups
34. Honorary Members
34. Obituary
34. Notes for Contributors
36. Negative Doubles
37. Bidding Competition Answers
44. Bidding Challenge
46. Wrexham U3A
46. New Duplicate Laws
47. Llangollen Swiss Teams

THE PRESIDENT



Hello

I am Jean Hand and consider myself privileged to serve as your President for this year.

I live in North Wales and, together with my husband Peter, run the Deeside Bridge Club. Also for several years I have organised both the Swiss Teams congress in Llandudno and the October 1-day events.

Bridge is an excellent game for all and during my term in office I would like, if possible, to promote more participation in competitive bridge. We need our competitions to stay alive, so any suggestions you may have on this would be most welcome.

I was very disappointed that the National Men's Pairs and National Men's Teams had to be cancelled recently; this is the second time that this has happened so my message to all our male members is that the future of this event is dependent upon you.

Finally, I send my best wishes to our new Editor Julian on this, his first issue of our magazine. Remember that we need your contributions to ensure its continued success so any items that you consider newsworthy please do not hesitate to submit them.



Best wishes
Jean

Email: jeanhand15cc@talktalk.net
Tel: 01244 830246

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A summary of the results for the last two years is shown here.

Income	2007	2008
Subscriptions	7687	8782
Master Points	8865	7720
Congresses	7152	9434
Competitions	2664	2254
Interest Rec'd	3907	4417
Other Income	1874	1883
	32149	34490
Expenditure		
Internationals	10660	14215
Administration	12334	12922
Publications	4228	5773
Training	929	676
Other Exp.	2563	1654
	30714	35240
Surplus (Deficit)	1435	(750)

As anticipated, the WBU made a small deficit in 2008, and I expect that position to continue for the foreseeable future – but since we have in excess of £100,000 on deposit that is not a concern at this point.

Congress income rose as the WBU took over the running of the Welsh Foursomes – the surplus far exceeded the previous licence fee. Competition Income continues to decline, as members become less active.

International costs resumed normal levels in 2008, after 2007's cheap quinquennial "play all away" year.

Publication costs reflect the upgraded WBU magazine.

The balance on the World fund rose to £52,572.

This explanation is deliberately brief – members are welcome to contact me with any queries they might have.

Linda Greenland (Treasurer)

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT



It was an honour to serve the members of the Welsh Bridge Union as their President for the year that ended last May.

So what were my main impressions?

First, the support that I received from all the Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council was terrific. This was a year of major change. The President of the Council changes every year but the Chief Executive does not.

When Linda Greenland decided to relinquish the post after seven outstanding years, she was going to be a hard act to follow. Neville Richards was appointed in her place and he was on a big learning curve getting to know all the individuals involved in our organisation. These are not just the other officers and Council members but those running the four Areas and fifty-four Clubs, members of sub committees, and those running the other Home Unions.

Council meetings amid this time of change were heavy with business and therefore lengthy. Council members worked hard not only in the meetings but also, in between times, either drafting discussion papers or considering and reacting to them so that meaningful decisions could be made at the meetings.

Despite the commitment of so many people, a group of moaner members

are always quick to find fault. All too often people voice complaints and criticisms before the facts of the matters have been established. Constructive criticism is always welcome in any organisation but it must be based on fact and not on rumour, disinformation or gossip. I endeavoured to attend as many events as possible and I appreciated the invitations that I received to various Congresses.

I should like to repeat the thank you's that I made at the AGM on 18th May; to all Council members and officers, in particular Noelle Bond, Master Point Secretary; Ken Richardson, National Tournament Director; Michael Bond, Membership Secretary; Elaine Sharp, Junior Co-ordinator; Sue Ingham and Gwynn Davis, Magazine editors; Mike Tedd, Website Manager; and Anne Jones, Chairman of Laws and Ethics Committee.

The Selectors who give their time, and the players who represent Wales at home and abroad, deserve appreciation of the time and skill that they contribute.

Last but not least, I wish to congratulate Neville Richards' on his first year as Chief Executive; I enjoyed working with him in his "running in" period.

Finally, I hope that all members enjoy their bridge over the next year and I wish my successor Jean Hand, good fortune in her year of office.

Judith Graham-Jones

Camrose Weekend 2

Wales went into the second Camrose weekend in a very positive position with an above average score, for the first time since the



current (2-weekend) format for the competition came into being. Four of the team who played the first weekend in Belfast were present – Adrian Thomas and Peter Goodman, Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees. New for this match – but the longest serving members of the Camrose squad – were John Salisbury and Mike Tedd, in place of Patrick Shields and Paul Denning. The team had no big losses over the weekend, and ended in a solid 3rd place, with a 56% score well clear of fourth and within touching distance of second.

Once again Wales lost to the two strongest teams, but this time came away with 8 VPs more than in their previous encounter. Wales beat two others and drew this time with Scotland. This deal from the Wales-Scotland match produced the biggest swing in a low scoring match.

South opened to show a weak two bid in spades at all tables (via a multi-2♦ at two tables). When Peter Goodman opened 2♠, it went All Pass and gentle defence let him make 11 tricks. When Scotland opened, Filip Kurbalija overcalled 3♦. North bid clubs and later doubled Tim's raise to 5♦. South pulled this to 5♠ on the basis of the known fit in clubs.

Double dummy the defenders can take six tricks against a spade contract: two hearts, two aces and two club ruffs. In practice, they managed five tricks – still a huge improvement on what had happened in the other room. So, while one table played 2♠ making 11 tricks, this table played 5♠ making 8 tricks – and it was doubled for +800. The decision to pull was not that bad as 5♦-X was due to make an overtrick for +650. In fact, it is a very respectable slam for East-West and even an acceptable grand slam (so long as they play in hearts rather than diamonds) – strange to think East-West did not bid at all in one room!

♠ KQ	♠ AJ5
♥ A10854	♥ Q73
♦ A3	♦ KJ
♣ QJ109	♣ AK652

♠ 42
♥ K6
♦ 86
♣ AKJ10984

♠ 73	Dealer	♠ A96
♥ J10732	South	♥ AQ85
♦ AK9743	N/S Vul.	♦ QJ102
♣ Void		♣ 63

♠ KQJ1085
♥ 94
♦ 5
♣ Q752

This was a difficult bidding hand from the match against Ireland:

Ireland bid to 7♣, which needed the miracle position of a singleton ♥J in the right hand but did not get it. Mike Tedd and John Salisbury bid to the safer contract of 6NT. By waiting until late in the play to tackle the hearts, Mike was able to discern the winning line in the suit. (K-J-9-6 lay over the queen.)

Patrick Shields

THE 2008 LADY MILNE by Sue Ingham



The 2008 Women's Home International Series

This year's Women's Home International Series took place in April in Dundee. It was the first time I had played for Wales, though my partner, Linda Greenland, is of course far more experienced. The team was quite different from last year's as Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija were unavailable, while Sheila Shea and Liz Commins had not survived the trial. Only Di Jones and Mary Moore remained of last year's team, and they were joined by Gilly Clench and Laura Woodruff, along with Linda and myself. Adrian Thomas was our NPC.

The weekend started inauspiciously when Linda found that she had booked herself on a different flight from the rest of us. Day One of my first international and already I'd lost my partner! Fortunately we were able to meet up at Edinburgh Airport, and even if the weekend did not quite go as we would have wished, there were no other major misunderstandings. Linda was a thoroughly supportive partner, and although the Welsh team struggled throughout, eventually finishing bottom of the standings, I never felt overawed or intimidated.

As to why Wales did not perform better, one has to remember that England and Scotland both had teams

with far greater experience, and there were times when our judgment or technique was found wanting. But my personal view, is that one does not have to play fantastically well to achieve respectability in the Lady Milne. It would be sufficient if everyone just cut out the nonsense.

The following deal was an example of what I call 'nonsense', although not perpetrated by us this time. In fact it accounted for our only victory of the weekend, against Northern Ireland.

Linda and I sat North/South. The bidding at our table, with East/West were vulnerable:

	♠ A6	
	♥ AK109762	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 543	
♠ K4	Dealer	♠ QJ10952
♥ QJ543	West	♥ 8
♦ J9	E/W Vul.	♦ Q10742
♣ Q982		♣ A
	♠ 873	
	♥ Void	
	♦ AK865	
	♣ KJ1076	

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Dble
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East's 3♣ was apparently Ghestem, showing spades and diamonds. However, as is traditional with Ghestem, West forgot the system, believing her partner to be strong with clubs. Her 3NT was therefore to play. As is also traditional, East then 'corrected' to 4♠. I thought this all unconvincing and doubled with confidence. West, believing her partner to be showing spades and clubs, 'corrected' to 5♣. Naturally I stood on my chair to double that. As you can see, 5♣ was not a happy contract for East/West, who emerged with just three tricks. That was 2,300 to North/South, and 19 IMPs in!

I wish I could report that this board was a true reflection of the team's performance over the weekend. At least it enabled us to win this one match, by 19-1.

These were the final standings:

<u>Result:</u>	
England	154
Scotland	148
Northern Ireland	113
Republic of Ireland	101
Wales	79

When I arrived back home on the Monday afternoon, I was greeted by my daughter, who came running down the stairs, shouting 'Mum I watched you on the computer, you were terrible! The commentator said the Welsh just throw Imps away'.

Thank you Charlotte! I have promised Charlotte that, if selected, I'll do better next year....

POSITIVE ETHICS By Simon Richards (NPC)

I was asked to provide a short piece on this years Junior Camrose held in Manchester in February but I have managed to block the weekend from my memory (or most of it anyway). The Wales Team underperformed winning only one of their eight matches and that, against Northern Ireland, was by the narrowest of margins.



One of the few memories I have is the spirit in which the games were played. Juniors often get a lot of bad press for their attitude at the table, wild and carefree bidding, poor table manners and at times questionable ethics – although I would hasten to add that one should not levy these comments at the Welsh Juniors.

There was one hand that sticks in my memory. The Bridge Base Online audience saw it but did not appreciate what had happened at the table. This hand, and the attitude of Scotland's Alex Wilkinson, shows how bridge should be played.

Put yourselves in Alex Wilkinson's shoes. It appeared that England had been gaining IMPs steadily during the match. You then pick up one of those distributional hands that you know will not be a flat board!

Everyone will be bidding a lot and no one knows who can make what.

You pick up:

♠ **Void**
♥ **AK975**
♦ **AK8753**
♣ **65**

At the other table the English pair had bid on to 6♥ rather than defending (an easily beatable) 5♠ doubled. The slam was doubled and went one off, for what one might assume would be a bad score for England.

Back to Alex Wilkinson and his partner, Andrew Sinclair, – could they do better to turn around Scotland's fortune?

I will not go through the bidding sequence as Alex and Andrew play a strong club system but, needless to say, their English opponents were heavily involved in the auction, as juniors tend to be, bidding both black suits. After a couple of rounds of bidding, Alex knew that he and his partner had a heart fit and that his partner had values opposite. LHO had bid 4♠ and Alex choose to bid 5♠, which he intended as Exclusion Blackwood, a convention that asks partner about Aces but to ignore the spade suit. His English RHO upped the ante by bidding 6♠, which was a poor bid as it should result in -800. Alex's partner then had the key decision.

After a very lengthy hesitation, Alex's partner doubled and the key moment for the 2008 Junior Camrose had arrived. Alex knew that their agreement was that this double showed one Ace (i.e.: the ♣A) as they play DOPE where double shows an odd number of aces and pass an even number, but he was also aware from his partner's hesitation that he might well have forgotten the system.

Ethically bridge players may not profit from any "Unauthorized Information" that can be gained from hesitations and other tempo violations. After some thought, Alex continued with the highly ethical bid of 7♥. This was doubled and went two down; Scotland lost a further 7 imps rather than gaining a possible 14, and realistically they had lost the Junior Camrose Trophy.

The English Team was so enamoured with Alex's ethics that he received a special presentation from the English Team at the closing banquet.

Positive ethics do pay!

PEGGY BAYER
CHANCELLOR'S CONFERENCE CENTRE,
MANCHESTER 16-17 FEBRUARY 2008
REPORT ON THE COMPETITION

The Wales team for the Peggy Bayer was:

Claire Evans and Becky Watkins
James Harris and Jonathan Richards

This year's event highlighted the further progress the team has made. In 2007, we finished fourth, narrowly behind Northern Ireland. This year we finished third – 16 VPs ahead of Northern Ireland, a very creditable performance from all 4 players. The 4 members of the team played in Jesolo (near Venice) in July 2007 and the experience they gained there has boosted their confidence, which undoubtedly helped to elevate their position in the Peggy Bayer. The England NPC, who was also in Jesolo, remarked on this to me.

After a difficult start in match 1 against the eventual winners Scotland, the team progressed steadily and solidified their third place with two strong wins in matches 8 and 9 against NI and the Irish Republic. Tiredness played a part in their last match against a strong England team as the 4 had played every match but by then their third place was certain.

The following deal in the second Northern Ireland match assisted in gaining us the maximum 25 VPs.

Against the boys in the closed room, the Northern Ireland pair subsided in 3NT making 12 tricks.

The girls were more ambitious – Claire gave due value to her fifth club (and nine of spades!) and pushed on to 6NT, which Becky duly wrapped up – gaining 13 imps to win the match by 43 imps.

♠ J5
♥ Q107532
♦ 62
♣ 1065

Board 22 ♠ K983
Dealer East ♥ A
E/W Vul. ♦ K93
♣ AQJ92

♠ 7642
♥ KJ
♦ QJ1087
♣ 73

The final table was:

Scotland	174 vp
England	161 vp
Wales	113 vp
NI	97 vp
Irish Republic	28 vp

Thanks are due to James Ewington of Durham University who assisted the NPCs in the Junior Camrose and the Peggy Bayer as well as providing the analysis of the teams' performance.

Keith Sharp
Non-playing captain

Master Point Promotions

Promotions achieved in the period 13/01/2008 to 15/05/2008

Local Master (New Rank)

Jane Beale	GA	Sheila Banham	DEE
Mike Beale	GA	Jill Birchall	CBY
Alan Blunt	MON	Tom Birchall	CBY
Brian Chadwick	S	Lisa Bristow	Y
Gaynor Fairchild	L	Tony Bristow	Y
Maureen Fee	GA	Keith Broadbent	S
Dan Gordon	R	John Brookes	A
Sylvia Hilton	RY	Clifford Brown	S
Barbara Hollow	P	Roberta Budd	GA
Gladys Irvine	T	Marlene Carter	NT
Rita Lawrence	RY	Mary Cartwright	PN
Rita Light	GA	Gregory Chinn	F
Gerry Morris	L	Jean Chinn	F
Mary Palin	W	Jean Clatworthy	RY
Kay Price	CBY	Dawn Claxton	AA
Hywel Probert	T	Tony Davey	GA
John Reid	DEE	Gwenda Davies	LP
Margaret Richards	RY	Peter Davies	S
Barbara Roberts	R	Sandra Douglas	MER
John Spottiswoode	R	Margaret Eccleston	CR
Elunid Thomas	A	Donald Ellis	PW
Jeff Thomas	A	Pam Ellis	A
Herrick Westcott	GA	Susan Enfield	T
Jean Westcott	GA	Eifion Evans	PW
Janet Wood	A	Margaret Evans	RY

Club Master

Kaye Bennett	NT	Eve Farrow	P
Margaret Caley	T	Gillian Greensides	S
Richard Caley	T	D Geoff Griffiths	S
Magda Corser	A	Jennifer Harris	CD
Annette Phillips	W	Jean Hellier	GA
Tony Phillips	W	Nova Husbands	MER
Anthony Stevens	NP	Huw James	C
Jane Thomas	S	Bill Jones	R
Tina Torkington	T	Roy Jones	CN
Rebecca Watkins	MB	Judy Lewis	T
Elaine Watterson	DM	Robin Lewis	GA
Thelma Wright	F	Felicity Maitland-Jones	AG

Area Master (New Rank)

Margaret Algar	MB	Pat Martin	GA
Pat Ashcroft	BRE	Margaret Mills	C
John Bailey	S	Rhona Mogford	GA
		Suppiah Navaratnam	W
		Stephanie Nicholas	PT
		Sue Norris	VOG

Freda Owens	MH	Frances Robinson	BEN
Barrie Phillips	BSC	John Sharp	S
Bill Pivett	S	Mary Sharp	S
David Richards	BSC	Martin Thorne	F
Pamela Richards	T	Tibor Varga	Y
Jacqui Roberts	A	Vince Vernon	L
Betty Rosser	PN	June Williams	MG
Herbie Rowley	CD	<u>County Master</u>	
Robert Squire	MON	Mike Cohen	L
Sarah Squire	MON	Irene Flannigan	GA
Susan Stephens	GA	Brian Griffiths	R
Jackie Stevenson	CD	Ian Grove	S
Margaret Taylor	SU	Mary Harries	R
Mike Taylor	T	Mary Harris	S
Alan Thomas	R	Gill Howells	CD
June Thomas	A	Carol James	PN
Sidonie Thomas	L	Olga Jinks	C
Joan Toy	MER	Sally John	L
Richard Tresias	W	Owen E Jones	LP
E C Turner	R	Jennifer King	AG
David Tyman	CAS	Martin Ley	S
Wendy Walker	CN	Meryl Morgan	PN
Pat West	S	Jean Pollard	MER
Jennifer Whately	GA	Cynthia Sadler	R
Ann Williams	S	Rod Sheard	W
J Woodcock	DEE	Margaret Smith	BEN
Alice Wright	MER	Geraint Williams	PW
Michael Yaxley	LET	<u>Master</u>	
<u>District Master</u>		Rosemarie Barr	LET
Bob Ansell	GA	Mary Blackwell	SU
Geoff Catley	GA	Lorna Davey	WS
Terrill Chadwick	S	Nicky Hancock	T
Rosalie Corduff	BEN	Mari Jones	PC
Heather Cummins	CAS	Tony Mason	WS
Janet Cunnington	C	Winnie Phillips	P
Jeremy Dawes	CAS	Margo Robinson	F
Sarah Dickson	W	Roger Salamon	PN
David Dunn	MER	Caroline Vincent	S
John Dyer	F	<u>Advanced Master</u>	
Rona Dyer	F	Nicholas Beswick	CRI
John Owen Evans	P	Barbara Buckland	L
Pam Evans	T	Jean Cole	NT
Glan James	L	Catherine Dudleyke	L
Veronica Kaser	GA	Tony Hall	SU
Joan Lewis	CN	Allan James	RH
Maureen Madden	PT		
Rick Malpas	S		

Malcolm James	NT	Sheila Williams	GA
Ann Kelly	GA	<u>Tournament Master</u>	
Angela Mayner	LD	Ann Cook	R
Philip Moody	NT	<u>Premier Master</u>	
John Owen	BEN	Morag Clare	LD
Margaret Phillips	AG	Geoff Griffiths	L
Neville Richards	RY	Jim Morton	WS
Wendy Selby	A	Jean Parry	MB
Doug Silcox	T	William Pink	RY
Gwen Thomas	P	David Pritchard	W
<u>One Star Master</u>		<u>Regional Master</u>	
Doreen Anthony	A	John Dow	CBY
Helen Barrie	OH	Dewi G Jones	PD
Helen Cottam	GA	Linda Pinnock	VOG
Sheila Dickinson	L	<u>Premier Regional Master</u>	
Maura Gough	WS	Chris Blackman	CAS
Vida Halford	PC	Chris Burdett	W
Eivona James	GA	Anne Davies	S
Alan Jones	BV	Terry Dolan	P
Eleanor Jones	BR	Liz Radclift Jones	GA
Joan Jones	BEN	Elwyn Roberts	W
J Barrymore Lee	CAS	<u>National Master</u>	
Jeanie Lewis	MER	Jane Brook	BV
Alun Richards	A	Bob Hinton	GA
Paul Smith	BRE	David Mitchell	R
Derek Taylor	SU	Frank Scott-Verdon	PN
<u>Two Star Master</u>		Jane Scott-Verdon	PN
Anne E Hughes	PR	Eddie Urbanski	PW
Sally Jones	MB	Vaughan Williams	NT
Tommy Moore	BV	<u>Premier National Master</u>	
<u>Three Star Master</u>		Tony Carsley	M
John Anderson	D	Liz Hutchinson	GA
Dave Brook	MG	Joan Jenkins	PN
Lawrie Buckland	MB	Sheila Pike	LD
Anne Johns	PN	Peter Richards	CR
Martin Jones	L	Marie Topp	LD
<u>Four Star Master</u>		<u>Life Master</u>	
Maureen John	MB	Brian Crawford	W
Mick Rogers	MG	Philip Dorling	NT
Ron Thompson	GA	Steve Webb	C
Ron Waterhouse	F	<u>Senior Life Master</u>	
Hilda Williams	MB	Barry Jones	W
<u>Five Star Master</u>		<u>Grand Master</u>	
Margaret Bancroft	VOG	Paddy Murphy	CBY
Margaret Doig	LD		
Christine Forbes	BRE		
Godfrey Lewis	MB		

Master Points Of View

by Noelle Bond



Have you looked at the promotion list yet?

Since the last promotion list, the WBU has introduced two new ranks, Local

Master, requiring 1 Master Point and Area Master, requiring 5 Master Points. All the 25 Local Masters are new; all of the 74 Area Masters are promoted from Club Master. Introducing these ranks into the system was not as much work as for the new ranks last year, (even Mike did not moan about changes to the computer program – although it must have taken him all of ten minutes!), but cobbling together a promotion list including them was hard. (I had complaints from the editor about the way I did it!) If we introduce any more new ranks, I hope it will not be for many years, preferably when someone else has taken over as Master Point Secretary.

A new junior member made her debut in a WBU event, the Ladies' weekend at Builth Wells (and brought down the average age considerably!). She intended to play on the first day only, but so enjoyed it she came again on the second. I was very sorry that the points she won were not quite enough to make her a Local Master.

I must think what more we can do to let everyone know when the masterpoint year ends. Every year points arrive long after the April 30th deadline and I have to disappoint people. One member wrote that he did not know about the year-end until he read the last magazine but unfortunately, he did not get his copy until May. Of course, some people phone every

year to enquire when the year-end is. I do not know whether they genuinely forget or are just hoping I will delay it specially (no chance whoever you are!). Maybe they are just checking that nothing has changed.

We had the usual problems with the year-end post; missing and empty envelopes, points fallen out, etc. I had to go to the door to sign for letters more often this year than ever before. On April 23rd, our new postman, who looks about 12, said 'See you tomorrow'. He sure did! Thank goodness, he did not call too early. (Probably his mummy would not let him leave home until he had had a proper breakfast.)

One member called to say I had not entered all his points but, fortunately, he had kept a record, (which I advise everyone to do). I expected to get a simple list of his points, but no! He had photocopied every certificate before posting – and now sent me the photocopies. (Did he keep a copy of these, I wondered). I went through his record on the computer and, yes, there was a difference. All the points copied on to one sheet were missing. I do sometimes make mistakes, but could not understand this. So I grovelled in my hi-tech WBU masterpoint storage system (a vast pile of shoe-boxes) and retrieved all his points.

I checked everything but, in the end, I had to say, 'Sorry, I don't have those points. What can have happened?' Well, here is what he wrote back: 'Believe it or not, I found the missing points in the scanner where I had put them to photocopy.' There has to be a moral here; I just do not know what it is.

I frequently get calls from people who cannot find their entry in the latest Journal. This is usually because the entries are in rank and masterpoints order, not name order. So, in response to requests, I persuaded Mike to change the computer program to produce a Journal-type list in name order, as well as the usual one. There is not room to put this new list in the Journal, but you can find it on my web site among all the other masterpoint stuff. It is called 'Journal Alpha Order' (clever title, eh?).

While talking about my web site, I should mention that we now have a broadband connection and my new web address is <http://www.noellebond.plus.com>. Email is wbupoints@noellebond.plus.com. If you try to get on my web site and cannot, please do not panic. I will panic enough for everyone. You should always be able to get to it from the masterpoint link on the WBU web site.

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy

**(Most Points Registered in One Year) as at
END OF YEAR 15/05/2008**

Peter Goodman	236
Filip Kurbalija	203
Liam Sheridan	179
Patrick Jourdain	172
Adrian Thomas	164
Mike Best	163
Tony Ratcliff	160
Trish Tracy	157
Mike Tedd	138
Susan Ingham	131
Gwyneth Dew	122
Jane Brook	117
Peter Milewski	117
Colin Nash	116
Mary Moore	116
Roger Penton	115
Barry Jones	113
Mark Roderick	112
Gordon Roxburgh	112
Glenda Dorling	107

As many of you will know, Mike is now looking after the WBU membership list. He had a call from a lady member recently asking whether she could change the club that she was registered with because it was in the wrong Area. Apparently, when playing one evening in a club, she asked the treasurer to register her with the WBU, but only later did she realise that she did not really know where she was that night. Geographically challenged, you might say. I told Mike he could not laugh. I remember him telling me that when he was working in France, after spending a late evening in a remote village, he arrived at the Mediterranean coast at about two a.m. and did not know whether to turn right or left for Montpellier, and his hotel. (He was saved from ending up in Spain by finding a couple walking home, who managed to understand his feeble French.)

—

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy

**(Most Points Registered in One Year) as at
15/07/2008**

Ian G Metcalfe	64
Stan Newman	51
Huw Jones	47
John J Evans	47
Pam Edwards	38
Filip Kurbalija	32
Marcia Rogers	29
Tony Ratcliff	29
Sheila Pike	27
David Stephenson	26
Norman Large	26
Jill Knight	24
Barrie Robinson	22
David Batterley	20
Paul Gagne	19
Terry Reilly	18
Esme Parry	18
Diana Harris	18
Vera Robinson	17
Patrick Jourdain	17

CAMROSE COMES TO CARDIFF IN 2009

The first weekend of the Camrose Trophy will take place at the Park Inn, Eastern Avenue, Cardiff from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 January 2009. The 4 home countries, Republic of Ireland plus an invited team compete over two weekends. This annual competition always provides interesting deals, plenty of triumphs and a few disasters with which the ordinary club player can sympathise. The event is open to all spectators who can watch with expert commentary in the onsite VuGraph theatre. You may also follow the play live online via BridgeBase Online (BBO), which you can upload free of charge.

However, this competition cannot run smoothly without a substantial team of tireless and willing volunteer helpers. We need volunteers to ensure that competitors are collected and delivered back to airports and stations; recorders to sit in with players to record the bidding and play onto the BBO system. We also need help with the admin work that goes with setting up and scoring matches and 'floaters' who can fill in on anything that the Tournament Director and Match Manager request.

So, just when you do not want to consign thoughts of your summer holidays to the past (I am writing this on a sunny and hot July day) I hope that you will put the date in your diary and email or phone me to register your support. We do not expect every supporter to work through the whole weekend; the playing times are roughly 7.30 to midnight on Friday and 10.00 am to 7.30 pm Saturday and Sunday. An idea of how much time you can give to helping would be most helpful.

I look forward to seeing old and new bridge-playing friends.

Margaret Lane (Match Manager)

Email: Margaretelane@aol.com

Tel: 01792 361800

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following is a summary of WBU Championship and Open events from October 2008 to March 2009.

For more details, visit the WBU web site www.wbu.org.uk

October 2008

8-9 BGB Simultaneous
11-12 Green Point Swiss Pairs,
Holywell

November 2008

1-2 WBU Open Trial [2]
7-9 South Wales Congress,
Porthcawl
14-16 Llangollen Congress
30 Veteran Pairs

December 2008

Lady Milne Trial

January 2009

9-11 Camrose [1], Cardiff
12-14 BGB Simultaneous
17-18 Graded Masters, Porthcawl

February 2009

14-15 East Wales Congress, Cwmbran
20-22 Junior Camrose, Northern
Ireland
28-1 Mixed Pairs Final
March

March 2009

2-6 St David's Simultaneous Pairs
6-8 Camrose [II], England
14-15 WBU Open Pairs Final
29 Portland Pairs, North Wales

RESULTS ROUND UP

This is a summary of results from February to July 2008. For more details, visit the WBU web site www.wbu.org.uk

WBU Championship Events

WBU Mixed Pairs 2008

Noelle Bond, Mark Roderick

WBU National Open Pairs 2008

Mike Tedd, John Salisbury

Webber Cup 2008

Keith Shuttleworth, Brian Nicholls,
Roger Bowles, John Waller

WBU Ladies' Pairs 2008

Mary Moore, Di Jones

Ladies' Welsh Cup

Gilly Clench, Laura Woodruff, Lee
Collier, Carmel Wiseman

WBU Teams of Eight

Cardiff: Sue Ingham, Trevor Towers,
Gwynn Davis, David Birt, Geoff Evans,
Mike Best, Liz Atkinson, Chris Rochelle

WBU North Wales Swiss Pairs

Alan Oddie, Jon Williams

Inter-Area Events

Perry Shield 2008

East Wales: Filip Kurbilija, Tony
Ratcliff, Mike Best, Mark Roderick,
Philip Felman, Trevor Towers

Spickett Bowl 2008

North Wales: Liz Commins, Sheila
Shea, Gill Knight, Joan Marray, Beth
Wennell, Margaret Barnes

Congresses

East Wales Swiss Teams

Alex Hydes, Edward Levy, Jason
Hackett, Rob Myers

North Wales Swiss Teams

Janet de Botton, Justin Hackett, Jason
Hackett, Nick Sandquist

Mid Wales Teams

Pam Crisp, Jennifer Baker, Neville
Shorrick, J Williams

WBU Seniors Congress

Pairs: Gwyneth Dew, Liam Sheridan
Consolation Pairs: Di Harris, Alan
Screen

Butler Pairs: Shelagh Flett, John Scott
Teams: (=1st) Mike Hirst, Jim Luck,
Patrick Jourdain, Roger Penton
(=1st) Keith Shuttleworth, Joe Patrick,
Brian Dyde, Peter Sherry
All-Age Pairs: Gwyneth Dew, Liam
Sheridan

Aberystwyth Congress

Championship Pairs: Brian Nicholls,
Keith Shuttleworth
Consolation Pairs: Warner Solomon,
Louise Solomon
Mixed Pairs: Gwyneth Dew, Liam
Sheridan
Swiss Teams: Mike Hirst, Ann Hirst,
John Salisbury, Mike Tedd

Simultaneous Pairs

St David's Day Pairs

Anne Johns, Trish Tracey

THE SENIOR HOME INTERNATIONALS

by Patrick Jourdain



The Welsh Seniors team

Mike Hirst, Patrick Jourdain; Mike Tedd, Peter Hand (npc), Paul Gagne, Jim Luck, Liam Sheridan.

The annual Home Internationals for the Camrose Trophy has completed 64 seasons. Participants are England, Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Over the years, the series has been expanded to include one for Women (the Lady Milne), for Under 25s (the Junior Camrose) and Under 20s (the Peggy Bayer Trophy). The obvious missing link was one for Seniors. Over the last weekend in May 2008 in Oxford that gap was remedied by the launch of the Teltscher Trophy.

The event was an immediate success with all who took part. The hosting costs were borne by a Patron. The players mostly met their own expenses. The Patron fielded a team of famous British internationals to make the numbers even.

The standard was high, with three of the England Senior team due to represent England in the European Open Championships two weeks later.

Wales had a terrible start. The

format is a double round robin of ten 14-board matches with each victory pointed. At the end of the first cycle, Wales had won no matches, lying fifth of the six teams. In the second cycle, Wales did not lose a match, became the only team to register a win over England, and rose to third place, tied with Scotland.

In the final match, Wales met the Patron's team who were lying second. Wales had its chances to move up into second place, but ended with a draw.

On this deal, Mike Tedd earned a good swing for the Principality:

♠ J763
♥ 63
♦ AJ32
♣ 974

♠ 10 Board 17 ♠ 942
♥ AKQ87 Dealer N ♥ J1092
♦ 10865 Love All ♦ KQ7
♣ A85 ♣ J106

♠ AKQ85
♥ 54
♦ 94
♣ KQ32

West (Tedd)	North (Simpson)	East (Jourdain)	South (Sheehan)
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Tedd was at the helm in Four Hearts. The defence began with two rounds of spades. Tedd ruffed, drew trumps, and led a diamond to the king. He eliminated his last spade with a ruff and led another diamond. Colin Simpson, North, rose with the ace and exited with a diamond to dummy. Tedd led the jack of clubs and, when Sheehan covered with the queen, he allowed it to win. Sheehan was endplayed into conceding the tenth trick for declarer.

Declarer's eight of clubs meant there was no defence for on a low club from North declarer can play low from dummy and generate a second club by force. If South had held the eight, it would have been necessary for North to find the club switch earlier while South still had an exit card.

In the Senior (round 9) match between Wales and Ireland, there was a swing to us:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dowling	Gagné	Godden	Sheridan
2♦	DbI	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
J. Hand	Comyn	P. Hand	Moran
2♦	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The atmosphere between the Celtic Seniors is always friendly so I cannot resist mentioning that during the auction there was a delay on one side of the screen.

EXIT AVAILABLE

Wales Senior Team at the European Championships in Pau

Mike Close (non-playing captain), Liam Sheridan, Diana Harris, Paul Gagné, Peter Hand, Jean Hand, Alan Screen, Jean Cufley (scorer)



♠ A986
♥ AJ6
♦ A84
♣ A95

♠ J4
♥ Q98732
♦ K9
♣ 1084

Dealer W
Love All

♠ 107532
♥ 5
♦ QJ1063
♣ K6

♠ KQ
♥ K104
♦ 752
♣ QJ732

Waiting for the tray to return, one player whispered to his screen-mate, 'Perhaps they are discussing their former wives.' The reply came at once 'we may have a long wait.'

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

As usual North was in Three No-trumps after a Multi (or Two Heart) opening from West and a diamond lead from East, overtaken. Both declarers ducked the first two diamonds and won the third, losing the option to throw East in with the third round of diamonds. The Irish declarer picked up the hearts but relied on West for the club king to go one off. 50 to Wales.

Gagné for Wales showed that winning the third diamond does not matter provided, as one might expect, East also held long spades.

After winning the third diamond, declarer unblocked the spades and picked up the hearts with a finesse against West. The third heart squeezed East in three suits. East actually threw a winning diamond in order to retain guards in both black suits. Declarer threw him in with the fourth spade and later received a ninth trick on the club return. 400 to Wales and a 10 IMP swing, which contributed to the Welsh win 43-26 or 19-11 in VPs.

Since declarer was in the North hand at the key moment, he was committed to playing East for the club king. As he knew the distribution in spades and diamonds, if East bares the club king, declarer would have dropped it.

The principal benefit of winning the second diamond is this: where you retain the third diamond as an exit card, you can unblock the spades, play a low heart to the jack, cash the major suit aces, and return to dummy with a heart to the king. That retains the chance of taking the club finesse if you read that East did not hold it.

Overall Wales won 5 matches and finished with 200 VP out of a possible 570.

♠ QJ97
♥ QJ10985
♦ 1073
♣ Void

♠ 103	Dealer	♠ AK86542
♥ AK4	North	♥ Void
♦ A65	Love All	♦ Q982
♣ AKQ93		♣ 75

♠ Void
♥ 7632
♦ KJ4
♣ J108642

The first board of Round 18 in the Open (and Round 6 in the Women) caused some anguish around the field:

In the Open match between Wales and Norway, this was the unopposed auction at one table:

West	East
Tedd	Salisbury
	4♠
4NT *	5♥
6♠	Pass

* Roman KeyCard, agreeing spades Mike Tedd, as West, had been hoping to bid the grand (if East bid 5♠ to show two key cards and the queen of spades). When his partner denied holding the queen of spades, he settled for the small slam.

South led a diamond. Salisbury put up dummy's ace and, not bothering to cash

the top hearts (he expected to return to dummy with a club), played a trump to the ace.

When South showed out Salisbury shrugged his shoulder, cashed another top trump, and tried to reach dummy with a club.

North unkindly ruffed, and the defenders made two trumps and two diamonds for three off.

'Sorry,' said dummy, who was sitting with four top winners that not been utilised.

-150 was a flat board as at the other table Norway had gone 3 down in 7NT! Wales lost the match by 25 IMPS (10-20).

In the Women's event, Wales was playing Spain. On the same deal, the Welsh East was in Six Spades doubled (North it was who doubled). Not realising that North had doubled (at least in part) for a club ruff, South lead a heart. Declarer won in dummy and led the ten * of trumps. When North failed

to cover declarer let the ten run. A moment later declarer had cleared the trumps and was claiming her slam.

We have to report that although declarer's Spanish was not good enough to understand what passed between the defenders, she did not think it would qualify as an entry for this award.

The Welsh Open Team finished with 255 victory points out of a maximum of 540 from 18 matches.

** Low is better: if trumps are 4-0 but clubs 3-3, declarer can succeed by force on a trump endplay/ coup but she is an entry short after North covers the ♠10. JYP*

Wales Open Team at the European Championships in Pau

Tim Rees(captain), John Salisbury, Filip Kurbalija, Peter Goodman, Adrian Thomas, Mike Tedd





Liz Commins, Betty Gardner, Sheila Shea, Peter Commins (scorer), Daphne Patrick

(captain), Laura Woodruff, Gilly Clench

To Err is Human.... By Daphne Patrick

At very short notice, the selectors asked my partner Betty Gardner and I to join the Welsh Ladies team in Pau for the European Championships. I was the oldest in the team and selected as captain, which was a great privilege and honour.

Anyone who thinks a trip to Europe playing bridge is easy, should think again. The team played 3 x 20 boards daily. We had to be at the playing venue by 10.00 am every morning, finishing about 8.45pm. We then took dinner before falling into bed. This we endured for 10 days with 2 afternoons off. The weather was very hot and, unfortunately, the playing area at the Casino Beaumont had massive windows!

Now when people write articles they usually select a deal that shows some brilliance. This article is going against the norm.

This deal we played against France (who were leading at the time and subsequently won the competition). Unfortunately, Liz felt unwell so the team was Betty and Daphne, Laura and Gilly.

The bidding was immaculate:

	W	N	E	S
				2♠ (1)
Pass	2NT (2)	Pass		3NT (3)
Pass	6NT		All Pass	

Betty

♠ A5
♥ AQ9
♦ AJ1064
♣ AQJ

♠ 64

♥ J1087654

♦ 5

♣ 1053

Dealer

South

♠ 9832

♥ K32

♦ Q972

♣ K2

Daphne

♠ KQJ107

♥ Void

♦ K83

♣ 98764

1. Lucas Two, showing 5 spades and another suit of 4 +
2. Asking partner to describe range and other suit
3. Max point range (8/9) and a minor

We had avoided the contract of 6♣. This goes off on a diamond lead because West scores a ruff when East gets in with the ♣K. In fact, many teams succumbed to this.

Regrettably, the author failed also despite being in the correct contract. East led a spade. The slam clearly depended on a favourable club break or a successful diamond finesse. So declarer won in hand with the ♠A, ran the spades and took the club finesse, which lost. East switched to a diamond and then came a 'brainstorm'. The ♦K had to be the entry for the clubs but incredibly declarer called for the ♦K!

This hand is locked in my memory for-

ever. It was no consolation to know that even if the slam had made we still would have lost the match. Nerves had set in with the TV coverage for the home team etc. The teams each bid 3 slams in this match: the French went down in 1 the Welsh in 2.

There are thoughts by some members that the WBU should not be supporting teams all over the world but they should know that the Welsh Ladies personally spent the equivalent of being on holiday. This was in part for the privilege of keeping Wales on the bridge map.

I was very proud of the team – the team spirit was very high and a thanks to Peter Commins who helped in the scoring, saving us 25 euros/match. We also nearly converted him into a bridge player!

KNIGHTON CLUB NIGHT



To set the scene – Knighton is a small market town on the English border – our railway station (still active!) is actually in England and Offa's Dyke runs through the town. For several years there has been a thriving Bridge group playing Rubber Bridge in local hostelrys close to the town. This club has encouraged new players and singles and has done much for bridge in the area. The nearest Duplicate Clubs

though have been nearly 20 miles away – some in Wales and some in England. At the Llandrindod Bridge Club, my husband and I met up with Neville and Margaret Richards who were very keen to support new clubs in Mid Wales. With their great support and, through them, the support of the Welsh Bridge Union we had a meeting of interested players in early January 2008. At this, it was decided to meet weekly at the Knighton Hotel in the centre of the town every Friday at 7p.m. and to review how the club was succeeding in three months time.

Here we are in June and I'm pleased to report we are still going strong!! We have had over 40 players through the doors although attendance is a bit erratic. We range between 2 and 6 tables but have now bought all the tables, boards, boxes etc we need and have affiliated to the WBU. The Knighton Hotel provides us with their ballroom free of charge so we feel duty bound to purchase a few drinks to lubricate our minds! We have an enthusiastic committee set up; a good director in the person of Kevin Collins, with my assistance in his absence. We have arranged for Mike Amos to run a Directors course in the area. We have played in the World Simultaneous Pairs competition with the Rhayader Club where some of the club did very well and we all thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful evening.

It has been good to see how much interest there is in the area and that we have been able to set up the club without affecting other established groups. Our aim is to encourage new players and to set a balance between a social and competitive environment. At present, we are able to accommodate players without a partner. I hope that, over the next few months, our attendance figures will continue to improve and anyone on holiday in this wonderful part of the world will be very welcome to join us.

ST DAVID & GOLIATH

by Gilly Clench

Having just returned from Pau, lying third from bottom, you might expect the Welsh Ladies' team not to be particularly happy. Not a bit of it – we were delighted with our achievements, one of which was beating 3 of the top 5 teams: Italy, Spain but best of all Germany. The German team features the No. 1 women's pair in the world, Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, and is this match that I have chosen to plough through. We were so pleased that our team, said by some to have no chance of winning a match or staying off the bottom, was never *on* the bottom. We lay 8th at best but dribbled down to a very tired end, winning not one but *nine* matches. We had a fabulous captain in Daphne Patrick, who saved us all by making up the team with Betty Gardner at the 11th hour. Daphne also scored most of her own matches, without complaint.

Lack of any funding from the WBU (apart from the entry fee) caused us many problems, one of which was that Laura and I could not afford separate rooms. Since we have very different sleeping patterns, this exacerbated our tiredness, particularly as we played 21 of the 24 matches, partly due to illnesses. The age and health of the team was also against us in what amounted to an endurance test. The Scots received £1,000, the Irish €1,200, and the English absolutely everything. What is going on Wales? Don't we have £120,000 in the bank? What is it for? I really do not understand, as I am sure the majority of club members would not want our national teams to seem like the poor relations. We stayed out of town because it was cheaper and therefore could not rest well in between matches and had to rely on two cars for transport, so there was a fair bit of hanging about.

We had a great time, though, and it was a very happy affair with lots of support and bonding between the team, the highlight being Betty's 65th birthday on Thursday 26th June, with copious amounts of champagne and a delicious meal. Betty was thrilled that she was in our winning team against Israel on that day (of course, if we had been in contention we would not have celebrated to such a degree!). I am so glad that I was able to get to know Liz Commins and her husband, Peter (roped in to score most of the time, thank goodness); and the charismatic, loveable and talented Mrs Shea and to cure her of not eating after 6.30 p.m. Because of all this praise, I hope she will forgive some of the comments henceforth.

Anyway, my first dilemma was whether to bid on over this auction on Board 2:

West	North	East	South
(Laura)	(Auken)	(Gilly)	(von Arnim)
		Pass	1♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	?	

Would you bid on? Would it make any difference if partner had bid 4♥ over 1♦?

Well, if you find the 5♥ bid, it happens to be right; only *one* pair did so, over any bid by West, so I was quite happy, though rather surprised at my partner's unusual restraint.

The full deal:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ10984 ♥ Void ♦ J63 ♣ K984</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board 2</p> <p>♠ A763 ♥ 93 ♦ K72 ♣ QJ73</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dealer East Vul N/S</p>
<p>♠ Void ♥ KQJ108764 ♦ Q8 ♣ 1062</p>	<p>♠ J52 ♥ A52 ♦ A10954 ♣ A5</p>

West	North	East	South
(Laura)	(Auken)	(Gilly)	(von Arnim)
	1NT	3♠	4♦ (transfer)
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5♥ was one off, for 12 IMPs to Wales. Sabine could be forgiven for thinking her partner had a singleton, but 4♠ is a good save anyway, so we were always gaining. In the other room it went:

West	North	East	South
(Alberti)	(Liz)	(Schraverus)	(Sheila)
	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The next board to present a difficult decision was Board 5.

North opened 1NT

On the next board, Sheila went into action and they found a save in 4♠ doubled over 2♥, instead of a two off 3♣, which might

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 963 ♥ AQ5 ♦ KQJ74 ♣ K4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board 5</p> <p>♠ AKJ875 ♥ 8 ♦ 1098 ♣ Q109</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dealer N Vul N/S</p>
<p>♠ Q2 ♥ 1042 ♦ A652 ♣ J875</p>	<p>♠ 104 ♥ KJ9763 ♦ 3 ♣ A632</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q74 ♥ 1095 ♦ J93 ♣ AQ87</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board 11</p> <p>♠ AKJ83 ♥ 632 ♦ A7 ♣ K63</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dealer S Love All</p>
<p>♠ 52 ♥ AKQ74 ♦ K8542 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 1096 ♥ J8 ♦ Q106 ♣ J10954</p>

In our methods, I can show the equivalent of a Weak Two in spades, but I figured that they might have a heart fit, so I chose 3♠ (I hear a lot of gulps) to take up space, which led to this auction:

not have been doubled – right idea, wrong contract!

On Board 10, the German No. 1 bid the cold 4♠ with 13 HCP opposite 9 over my weak 1NT, so we were 5 IMPs behind (not that we knew that, of course).

Board 11 was right up our street:

West	North	East	South
(Laura)	(Auken)	(Gilly)	(von Arnim)
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other table, Sheila, perhaps getting a bit bored now, stuck in a double over their 4♣ bid, which may well have put them off, so we were back to 6 VPs in front.

Next, we arrived in the only non-making of three possible games:

♠ 10762		♠ A4
♥ AQ8		♥ K7
♦ 8754		♦ AKQ102
♣ A2		♣ Q873
♠ KQJ93	Board 12	
♥ J64	Dealer W	
♦ J963	Vul N/S	
♣ K		
♠ 85		
♥ 109532		
♦ Void		
♣ J109654		

West	North	East	South
(Laura)	(Auken)	(Gilly)	(von Arnim)
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

For us, 2♠ was a passable fit jump, showing five spades and three + diamonds. After 3♣, one of us needed to ask about a

heart stopper (Laura, I think; Gilly, she thinks).

The German EW pair had a very different auction: I might have thought of 5♦ on the East hand after a Lucas opening by West showing a maximum 5/5 with diamonds!

West	North	East	South
(Alberti)	(Liz)	(Schraverus)	(Sheila)
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The next two deals clinched it. On Board 13 the Germans played in 2♥ making 11 tricks when Laura made a semi-psychoic 2♣ rescue bid over their double of 1NT, while an aggressive 2NT raise by Mrs S led to the making 3NT. On Board 14 we competed to 3♥ (the EBU website has this wrong, so we seem even more lunatic than we really are), so they subsided in 3NT while Sheila and Liz reached 6♦. I admit to a flight of fancy on Board 19, bidding 4♠ when 3♠ was the spot, as did the other East; but Sheila gaily bid on to 5♦ doubled – all of us too high. We came to our senses on Board 20 and gained 5 IMPs to win 18-12. What a great start; thanks, Patrick, for writing up this *1812 Overture* in the Bulletin.

Until Round 15, this four had not lost a match together. If we had finished after 11 rounds, Liz and Sheila were an amazing 15th on the Butler and we were only 10VPs below 10th place. We were poised for the Venice Cup – optimistic, maybe, but not as much as Sheila who kindly offered to sponsor us if we obtained a place!

(I am pleased to report that I have just heard all players are to receive some retrospective funding from the WBU, though not as much as in previous years).

RED CARDS AND BLACK HOLES

by Laura Woodruff and David Burn



David Burn

(Photograph courtesy of the English Bridge Union)

This is the second part of the guide, the first part having appeared in the Mach 2008 issue. If you would like a printed copy of the complete version, please contact laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk

What happens when you have revoked and why

Players often complain that the punishment for an established revoke is out of all proportion to the crime. A mistake made absentmindedly, which might have made no difference to the outcome, gives declarer an extra trick and allows him to make a contract for which he had no legitimate play. This seems harsh, especially at teams where the difference between +100 and –620 can decide the match.

The reason for the revoke penalty is simple: if there were no penalty, there would be no disincentive for those who play carelessly or unethically and, over a large number of boards, they would be likely to gain some advantage. In addition, revoke cards can give unauthorised information. Since it would be unreasonable to expect Directors to decide in any individual case whether the offender intended to revoke, the penalty applies without exception.

There are two kinds of revoke penalty.

- The first, which is not (unless you have ruffed partner's winner) a penalty at all, is that a trick won by a revoke card is transferred to the non-

offending side. In addition, if this and the penalty for revoking below are not enough to compensate declarer for the tricks he would have won without the revoke, the Director will restore equity. So, for example, if a revoke stops declarer from being able to reach a suit in dummy that would have given him four tricks, those four tricks will be transferred.

- The second kind of penalty is a true penalty, in effect a fine for careless play, and transfers to the non-offending side an extra trick over and above the one (if any) they lost on the revoke. Any revoke* will result in at least one penalty trick being transferred, in addition to any trick won by the revoke card. (A second trick will not be transferred unless the offending side won tricks after the revoke. Tricks won before the revoke are irrelevant.)

*Revokes at trick 12 can always be corrected before the cards are returned to the board, but if the revoke card has given the offender's partner useful information, declarer will be able to specify which of his two remaining cards the offender's partner must play to the trick.

Claims and how to avoid making duff ones

Claims are a trap for the unwary. It may seem to you obvious that you have the rest of the tricks, but the defenders cannot see what you are thinking and it may not be at all obvious to them.

If you are going to make a claim, you should be certain that there are no trumps

out and no cards higher than any you are claiming in a side suit; and you should state clearly what line of play you intend to take. If you have forgotten that there is a trump out, you will almost always be forced to concede a trick to that trump; and if you don't state a line of play, the Director is obliged to rule that you lose to any normal (but not irrational) line of play, taking account of your standard as a player.

Once you have made a claim, *play must stop*. Neither you nor the defence is entitled to ask you to play out the hand.

If the opponents dispute your stated line of play, you must call the Director; the Director will consider your claim and award it if your line will succeed, or award the opponents the number of tricks they are entitled to if not. If a trump is still out that could win a trick on a normal line of play, the defence will be awarded a trick unless you have stated that you intend to draw trumps or that you intend to play on a high crossruff.

If you have not stated a line of play, or if you now attempt to state a different line of play, the Director cannot accept the claim unless there was no other rational way to play the hand (you are not obliged to throw kings under the opponents' aces, but you are obliged to take finesses the wrong way). You should therefore be sure before claiming that a) you state the line you intend to take and b) your intended line works on any lie of the cards.

Finally, *expert players should be cautious about claiming against less experienced players*, especially if they intend to claim on an expert play such as a squeeze. It may take more time for the Director to verify the claim than if play had continued; also, the opponents are likely to be left feeling baffled and as if some vague injustice has occurred.

DAPHNE PATRICK & RON KLINGER



Ron Klinger, one of the world's leading teachers and writers, visited Wales recently, lecturing in Cardiff, Newport and West Wales. He stayed with Joe and Daphne Patrick. The picture pre-dates Daphne's change in hairstyle!

BEDWAS CLUB NIGHT



Bedwas Bridge Club meets in Bedwas Working Men's Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm. The club has been going about 15 years but has only recently decided to affiliate to the WBU. The club offers a relaxed atmosphere, welcomes visitors and is happy to have new members. If you would like further details, please contact Mark Seward on 01443 651054 or e-mail Mark.seward@ntlworld.com.

WBU TEAMS OF EIGHT

by Gwynn Davis



The victorious Cardiff octet: back from left to right are Trevor Towers, Geoff Evans, Chris Rochelle, Gwynn Davis, Dave Birt and at the front are Mike Best, Sue Ingham and Liz Atkinson

On a fine Sunday in June 2008, nine teams representing clubs throughout Wales converged on the Royal Welsh Show Ground in Builth Wells. This year the stakes were higher than usual because the previous year a team from Haverfordwest had toppled the Cardiff squad from their habitual place at the top of the podium.

The following deal was of some interest. At all four tables at which the Cardiff team was involved, West played in what looks like a routine Four Spades. At only two of those tables did declarer succeed.

♠ K984

♥ J932

♦ 985

♣ 82

♠ AJ1075

♥ K10875

♦ 1063

♣ Void

Dealer E

Vul N/S

♠ Q63

♥ A64

♦ A2

♣ AK973

♠ 2

♥ Q

♦ KQJ74

♣ QJ10654

How do you propose to tackle Four Spades as West, on North's lead of the ♦ 8? Since you can discard two diamonds on the clubs, superficially you might anticipate just the one heart loser, given a 3-2 break, leading to a more or less certain eleven tricks. You would then have the chance of a successful trump finesse for the twelfth. This seems reasonable at matchpoint scoring, when the neon light flashing 'Overtricks' might well dazzle declarer. Is this still right at Teams with the actual IMP scoring?

Declarer at my table won the diamond lead with the ace, immediately threw two diamonds on the ace-king of clubs and took a losing trump finesse. Declarer ruffed the diamond return, drew a second trump, discovering the bad break, and then turned to hearts. When he

simply cashed the ace-king, the 4-1 break resulted in one off.

If declarer, having taken a losing trump finesse, plays a heart before the second trump, he may still succeed. He needs one heart ruff in the dummy, and the fact that South has no trumps remaining actually assists him here. Even after taking a second round of trumps, declarer might still succeed. If he ducks the first round of hearts to South's singleton queen, he can get the ruff in dummy; alternatively, if he cashes the heart king and covers North's card on the next round, he loses only one trick in hearts. Perhaps these are double dummy lines, with declarer in effect playing for bad breaks in both major suits. There is a much simpler approach to making ten tricks, guaranteed against almost any distribution. Was it necessary for declarer to pitch diamonds on his winning clubs in the first place? It is certainly tempting to rid oneself of any diamond losers, but an alternative line virtually guarantees ten tricks if declarer abandons any thought of shooting for a Pairs top. This is simply to discard hearts rather than diamonds on dummy's two top clubs. Now there is a diamond loser, but a diamond ruff in dummy is sufficient to bring the total number of tricks to a minimum of ten, with the trump finesse still available for a possible overtrick. We probably all play too much match-pointed pairs. It is a corrupting influence on young and not so young brains!

GOOD AND BAD POINTS

By Julian Pottage

The world of duplicate bridge can seem to have a vocabulary all of its own. To someone who just graduated from the classroom environment it can seem a bit daunting. In this series, I hope to take the mystery out of some of the terms.

You may hear someone say 'I had a good 12 points' or 'I had a bad 12 points.' What do good and bad mean in this context?

Hand A is a 'bad' 12-point hand. What is bad about it? The 4333 shape is one poor feature. This is the worst possible shape, giving few chances of setting up a long suit and no ruffing value (in a suit contract). The fact that the high cards are in all the suits is another poor feature. Honours work better in combination rather than isolation. The scattered honours means the hand has only one and a half defensive tricks (one for the ace of spades and a half for the king of diamonds).

Hand B is a 'good' 12-point hand. The diamond suit with four honours together and a fifth card provide four almost certain tricks.

Hand A

♠ A53
♥ Q84
♦ KJ52
♣ Q106

Hand B

♠ AQ5
♥ 843
♦ KQJ105
♣ 62

Having the honours in combination in spades as well as diamonds also improves the defensive worth of the hand. It contains two and a half defensive tricks – one and a half for the ace-queen of spades and one for the king-queen of diamonds.

How might the fact that A is a bad 12 points and B a good 12 points affect your bidding? If partner opens 1NT (12-14), you should content yourself with an invitation to game on hand A. On B, by contrast, you should jump to 3NT.

REGIONAL ROUND UP



MID
By William
Pink

My work as tournament organiser only started in May after Mike Jones, who has done a wonderful holding job for the area, has returned to the position of master point secretary. Mid Wales is the minnow of the four areas, but our top players tend to hold their own in national events, and entry to area events is healthy.

We are struggling at club level where most of the affiliated clubs exist with five or fewer tables. Last year I took my club, Rhayader, into the Mid Wales family. This was with a lot of anguish from the older players who were sure our only objective was to provide bridge for better players and their fun and enjoyment would disappear. Those who have stayed with me know that this was far from the truth and our aim is to provide better, fun and enjoyable bridge at all levels. With my near neighbour, Neville Richards, the WBA Chief Executive, we have arranged events with local clubs, which players see as very enjoyable. We both assisted Knighton to become an affiliated member of the MWBA. We respect the feelings of the Llandrindod Wells Club in that they are very reluctant to move away from a non committed, leisurely, weekly bridge evening. Only positive action, not to

change but to add to the game, will alter their feelings. Many players in the area only play with friends and fear that the bridge club is much too frightening for them. We must show our aim is only to help all players of all levels to enjoy the game.

This must be our policy all over the area and, over the summer, I will visit, with my wife, the affiliated clubs on their club nights to see what MBWA can do for them. One suggestion is to provide an area league for all levels of play, but I am sure there are other things we can do. I am looking forward to this and I wish all our top players every success in area and national competitions, all our club players' fun and enjoyment with their bridge, and all our clubs in increasing their membership.

NORTH **By Allan James**

Congratulations firstly to Jean Hand our retiring Chair, on her 'promotion' to the WBU Presidency. Her untiring work in our region is and will remain appreciated.

Congratulations too to our Spickett team on their victory this year. Lastly congratulations to Liz Commins and Sheila Shea for their performance in Pau in June.

Subsequent to Jean Hand's retiring as our Chair, I was surprisingly nominated to the Regional Council Chair. Morag Clare is now the Hon. Secretary. We all enjoyed the Swiss Pairs Congress at Llandudno – full results are available on the WBU web site. The whole weekend was superbly organised by Margaret Smith, while Neil Morley's

TD team ran things very smoothly. All the players deserve applause for the friendly way they acted towards each other. A late rush brought attendance up from the expected 39 tables to a healthy 47. The venue is already booked for July 4/5th next year, so please make a note in your diaries as soon as you get the 2009 version!

Please also note our 1 day Swiss Pairs Congress in October of this year – full details on the WBU website. This is at a venue new to Bridge so come along and make it a success.

WEST

by Kate Craven

Playing Away: In March 2007, the Western Area submitted a motion to the WBU Council. We pressed for more WBU resources to go toward the needs of the average Club member in order to renew efforts to promote bridge and to encourage wider participation in WBU and Area Events. Council agreed that renewed efforts must be made to encourage players out of their Clubs and decided that a working group, consisting mainly of ATOs, be established to thoroughly examine the issue and possibilities. Unfortunately, this initiative never got off the ground – although we live in the hope that the idea is still alive!

Having urged action from the WBU, the West could hardly remain idle within our own patch. So this year, we have more initiatives than ever to promote bridge and to try to entice members to play away – a first step on the way to participation in Area and WBU Events.

In Haverfordwest, lessons are continuing and an extra 'No Fears' night has been set up on a Wednesday; which hopefully will support those moving into the Club from beginners' classes.

From September, also on a Wednes-

day, Llanelli B.C. is setting up a new bridge evening for recent learners and improvers. Help with bidding and play will be available, gently, on request, from more experienced volunteer players in a friendly and supportive environment. Also, because they guarantee everyone a partner, we will watch this initiative with interest. Again, this evening will provide on-going support for the beginners' class that the Club organises.

For 25 years, Bill Nicholls at Mumbles has held lessons at the Club on Monday afternoons, and the sessions on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons provide improver lessons and ongoing support for Members to develop their game.

In Swansea, a Tuesday night No Fears event has been popular for a number of years, and this has supported development of the skills of Lloyd Lewis', Val Kennewell's and Colin Thomas' learner classes – although it is disappointing how few of these learners – who continue to play in daytime non-affiliated Clubs, - actually play in the Swansea Club. Obviously, they still enjoy bridge, and as the non-affiliated Clubs are playing duplicate, we have to ask ourselves why keen learners are not moving into the world of the WBU?

The Friday night session at Bridgend Club is the 'friendly' night when they always welcome less experienced players. And here, on some evenings, each of the Club's Committee members in effect give up 'their' evening to welcome and play with novices and intermediates from the classes given by Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

Also with a view to encouraging less experienced players to start playing away from their Clubs,

Irene Thomas is to introduce a new Event at the Porthcawl Congress in

November. The competition will be for emerging players and newer intermediates and will take place at the Rest at 2pm on Saturday, November 8th.

We hope players will enjoy it enough to return.

So throughout the West, Clubs have renewed efforts to promote and encourage wider participation. We hope that, before long, the WBU will identify and promote the all-Wales initiatives that everyone agrees we need to keep our favourite mind sport alive.

Western Round-up

The number of tables at Events in the West has broadly held up over the 07/08 season, although disappointingly low compared to, say, 10 years ago. One factor that helped is definitely our new regular venue at Saron Welfare Hall. It has proved to be consistently comfortable, with easy access from the M4/A48, no parking problems, excellent self-catering facilities; - all conducive to a comfortable and enjoyable day out.

Winners of the Events were

Ladies' Pairs

Jennifer Wardell and Binnie Job

Vince Bevan Trophy

Carmel Wiseman & Wendy Thornton
National Mixed Pairs (Q)

Laura Woodruff & Mike Close

National Open Pairs (Q)

Tony Ratcliffe and David Jones

National Teams of Eight (Q)

Swansea: Margaret Lane & Val Kennewell;

Robin Parris & Colin Nash;

Steve Kennewell & Peter Lane;

Bob Alderdice & John Jamieson.

Laidlaw-Murray Teams of Four

Steve Kennewell & Val Kennewell;

Margaret Lane & Peter Lane.

John Isaac Pairs & AGM

Kevin Thomas & Liz Crockford

EAST

By Steve Webb

East Wales Round up

Welcome to the new club of Bedwas.

Duplicate is held on Thursdays at the Bedwas Working Men's Hall, starting at 7.00pm.

Further contact details are available on the EWBA web site.

Thanks to Mid Glamorgan for holding a heat of the worldwide simultaneous at Pontyclun on 6th June. Despite playing on Friday, which is not the usual club night, 19 pairs competed against 5643 others from a total of 38 countries. The heat winners were Denis Mottram and Betty Lewis from Barrivale with 61.72%.

Representatives from East Wales dominated the Teams of Eight competition held at Builth on 22nd June. The winning team from Cardiff (Sue Ingham, Liz Atkinson, Geoff Evans Trevor Towers, Mike Best, Gwynn Davis, David Birt, Chris Rochelle) won comfortably. The runners up were Gwent Bridge Academy.

The East Wales bridge league is reaching its usual late finish and the remaining contenders for the title are The Graduates and Royal Bulawayo. The Patent Office won the second division.

New teams wishing to enter for the forthcoming season should contact Mike Best on 02920594678.

Patrick Jourdain is organizing a league for teams of four to take place at Cardiff BC on various dates during the winter. Similar to the IPL cricket league, star players are placed in squads to provide top quality competition. Please contact him for details.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS



Noelle Bond (left), Patrick Jourdain (centre) and Linda Greenland (right)

HONORARY MEMBERS

For the first time in many years, we have some new honorary members. This award recognises the exceptional service that Noelle (currently WBU Master Points Secretary), Patrick Jourdain (currently Chairman of East Wales) and Linda (currently WBU Treasurer) have given to the Welsh Bridge Union.

OBITUARY

Cecelia McCreary died on 23rd June 2008 after a long illness.

Born on 22.11.1925, she was a very keen bridge player. She was director of the Cardigan bridge club from its inception in 1988, and worked tirelessly for this club, which she ran very efficiently until her retirement in 2005 due to ill health.

For many years, she was the treasurer to the Mid Wales Bridge Association and for some years organized the Mid Wales Congress in Llandrindod Wells.

- Contributions are always welcome, though discuss with the editor before submitting as we have limited space.
- Deadline for articles for the next issue is 16 January 2009.
- Wherever possible, please write for one page or a half page. A template is available on request.
- Please use one space between each card in a diagram but otherwise be sparing with spaces, using tabs instead to space out diagrams.
- Please use sx, hx etc rather than suit symbols; do not use S, H etc.
- .doc .docx .wps and .rtf files are all acceptable. We can scan neatly typed manuscript if you lack access to modern IT.
- Photographs are very welcome. Do not reduce size for e-mailing as higher resolutions print better.
- Apart from articles by the editor, we can only print what we receive. A few more articles for club level and on matchpoints would be welcome.
- We reserve the right to edit articles for space or clarity.
- Sorry, there is no monetary payment for articles; think not what the WBU can do for you but what you can do for the WBU!

Please send articles to the

Chief Executive,
Meadow View, Llanddewi,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6SE
or by e-mail to Bridge@deepvault.com

Excel Bridge

&  Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines



Head for the Sun!



18 night cruise to Cape Verde Islands

Departing from Dover 27th January 2009

Ports of call : Funchal, Tenerife, Dakar (Senegal), Praia
(Cape Verde Islands), Mindelo (St Vincent), Lanzarote, Lisbon

- ◆ 4 star BALMORAL
- ◆ Sailing from Dover - NO FLYING
- ◆ Free National Express/Parking
- ◆ £125 per cabin on board spend
- ◆ Bridge run by Ralph & Lesley Smith
- ◆ All bridge fees included in the fare



Prices from: Inside £1368pp
Balcony £2432pp

Outside £1638pp
Suites £2941pp

Singles **only** £2400



You **MUST** phone us for our booking code

Tel: **01275 840006** Website: www.excelbridge.co.uk

Generous prizes

'Excel for Excellence'

EBU Licensed

BEGINNERS PAGE NEGATIVE DOUBLES By Julian Pottage

If you have recently switched from rubber bridge to duplicate, you will find that some things are just as they are in rubber while others are the exact opposite. A case in point for the latter is the meaning of a double after partner opens the bidding and the next player overcalls:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1 ♠	2 ♦
Dble			

In rubber bridge, this double would be for penalties, meaning you want to defend 2 ♦ doubled. In duplicate, most people play negative doubles (this is why you alert the double if it is for penalties but not if you play it for take-out).

A typical hand for the double is this:

♠ 8 6
♥ A J 7 5
♦ 7 5
♣ K J 10 8 4

You have too good a hand to pass but not enough to bid 3 ♣ and not enough in spades to bid 2 ♠. Without the option of a negative (take-out) double, you would be stuck.

You may have noticed that you have four hearts, and often you will have four cards in the unbid major(s) when you make a negative double.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1 ♦	1 ♠
Dble			

Negative doubles apply equally at the one level. With the above hand, you would also

double on this sequence. Double is a much better call than 2 ♣ because it brings hearts into the equation.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1 ♦	1 ♥
Dble			

If the opponents overcall 1 ♥, normal is to play that bidding 1 ♠ shows five spades and that double implies four spades.

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ 7 5
♦ 7 5
♣ K J 10 8 4

Double is therefore correct on this hand.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
		1 ♣	1 ♦
Dble			

If the opponents overcall 1 ♦, normal is to play that you can bid 1 ♥ or 1 ♠ with four cards in the suit bid and that double shows four-four in the majors. I am sorry if this seems inconsistent! You would double on a hand like this:

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ A 10 7 5
♦ 7 5
♣ J 8 4

What do you do if you want to penalise the opponents i.e. you have length and strength in the suit overcalled? The normal thing to do is to pass smoothly. You hope partner will reopen with a double, in which case you will pass again, converting partner's reopening double into a penalty double. A thoughtful partner will allow for the possibility that you may want to defend when deciding whether and how to reopen.

WBU BIDDING CHALLENGE

Competition Answers



The winners of the bidding challenge from the March 2008 magazine were:

1st	Margaret Lane	67
2nd =	Mary Moore	66
2nd =	Roger Penton	66

The non-expert prizes went to:

1st	James Boulton	65
2nd	Nicholas Beswick	54

Tim Rees

HAND 1

NS Vul. - Scoring: Teams

♠ A 9 7 6 4 3
♥ A K 9
♦ Void
♣ K Q 9 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
	3♦	Pass	?

3♥ 10; 3♠ 8; 4♣ 6; 3NT 5; 4NT 4; 6NT 4

We have many points, but there is a problem: either long suit might have two losers in it. If so, slam is unlikely. We might be OK if we pick a trump suit with only one loser, as then we could ruff out the other suit. 6NT might also be OK. 6♣ on a 4-3 fit is the final option.

So how do we investigate? It is standard nowadays to play 3♠ as forcing, so that is an option. 3♥ would normally show a stopper, looking for 3NT. 4♣ might be natural or a cuebid for diamonds, depending on partnership agreement. If we decide we do not like any of these, we do what Peter Milewski suggests: 3NT. *I prefer to go for what should be a safe game rather than the slim chance of a spade slam based on (say) ♠K-Q-x with partner.*

Pat Shields looks for spade support: 3♠. *My hand is enormous. With solid diamonds and the ♣A partner would have bid differently so a grand slam in diamonds is out but he could have:*

♠K Q x ♥xx ♦A J 10 x x x x ♣A x

This would make 7♠ rather good. I will start with a forcing 3♠ to see what I can learn. Nothing else is likely to get an informative response.

Mike Close is making a waiting bid: 3♥. *My first thoughts were to blast 6NT as we seem to have the values, but there are often two losers when we have no fit. So I will make a waiting bid of 3♥ and, if partner bids 3NT, I will invite with 4NT. If he spades next, I can*

check on aces. Most pairs play 4♣ as a cuebid, so there is no point in that.

I think the key is partner's spade holding. We want to find this out at as low a level as possible, to give us a chance to stop out of slam on a misfit. 4♣ (if natural) gets the auction up too quickly, so partner's spade preference might be on a poor holding. If we bid 3♠, partner might have no heart stopper, making it hard to play in NT below slam. 3♥ looks right, letting partner show spade support if he has it, and bidding 3NT otherwise (he surely has the ♣A).

♠ K ♥ J 10 x ♦ A K x x x x ♣ A J x

Spades were 4-2, so the only making slam was 6♣. It is tough to get there!

HAND 2

EW Vul. - Scoring: Teams

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ Void				
♥ Q 10 4 2			Pass	1♦
♦ A K 10 9 5 4	1♠	1♣ Pass ¹	Pass	?
♣ J 10 7				

¹ Double would be for take-out

3♣ 10; 2♣ 9; Dbl 8; 2♦/2♥ 7; 3♦ 4; 2♠ 3

Double looks a nice easy bid, asking partner to select the best fit. Some of the doublers are hoping partner passes:

Margaret Lane: *Dble. What else? I have an ace more than I promised with my initial bid and the spades are bound to be stacked. It does not look as if 3NT is going to be a great contract because the only suit we are likely to be able to develop is clubs. I think I will just settle for +200 or a quiet part score if partner has opened very light.*

However, it could be dangerous to defend 1♠ doubled when they have a 9-card fit. Mike Close is showing his second suit: 2♥. *Partner wants me to double but I think doing so is wrong at the one level when I have no trumps – 1♠ could easily scramble home. We have at least an 8-card club fit if partner has spades, so they have a fit also and we should be bidding to the 2 level anyway. I expect to hear a sulky 3NT from partner next...*

The problem with this is that you are essentially committing yourselves to a NT contract if partner lacks heart support. As partner probably has five clubs and four spades, heart support is unlikely. Nicholas Beswick is going for the best fit: 2♣. *North's inability to rebid suggests he has opened light. EW may well make 1♠, a worse score for us than if we go one down in 2♣ (though 2♣ may well make). Although my diamonds are worth a rebid, North has not supported them and my hearts are too weak to show at the two level.*

Partner is likely to pass 2♣ and we might miss game. I think an invitational 3♣ is best. Partner should realise that we are not inviting him to punt 3NT, and we might get to a making suit game. If partner passes, 3♣ should be safe.

Partner held:

♠ J 10 9 x ♥ A K x ♦ x ♣ A Q x x x

HAND 3**NS Vul. - Scoring: Pairs**

♠ A 7 5
♥ Q 8
♦ A Q J 10 7 5 2
♣ 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	2♥	Pass	1♦ ?

4♦ 10; 3♣ 9; 3♦ 8; 4♥ 7; 4♣ 6; 3♥ 5

Partner has shown 10+ points by bidding 2♥, as he is forcing you to rebid at the 3-level. If you make a simple 3♦ rebid, this is consistent with a 3163 minimum, and partner might well pass. As we do not want him to do that, we should try to bid something else. One possibility is a jump rebid:

Pat Shields: 4♦. *I have extra values here (7 playing tricks) so a simple 3♦ rebid looks too little. Since I have an easy force with 3♣, 4♦ is non-forcing, so I choose 4♦ to describe this.*

Roger Penton: 4♦. *This should be highly encouraging to partner as it should show tolerance for hearts. The alternatives of 4♣ or 4♥ should show at least 3 hearts. While 2♠ might help to get to 3NT, might it end the auction?*

Another possibility is to cuebid 3♣, but what will we do when partner bids 3NT? Mike Close knows: 3♣. *Set up a forcing auction and find out more from partner – will pull 3NT to 4♦, implying some heart tolerance.*

So we have two suggestions for auctions to show long diamonds plus heart tolerance. I do not think I have agreed either of these auctions with any of my partners, so hoping that partner is on the same wavelength is optimistic.

Given that its pairs, it could be right just to support hearts. 4♥ is more likely to be the right contract than 3NT, especially if partner does not have the ♦Kx. However, I think a natural 4♦ bid is the best description of the hand. Partner had:

♠ K x x ♥ A K J x x ♦ K x x ♣ x x

This gave twelve easy tricks in hearts or diamonds. 4♦ or 3♣ is likely to get you to slam (although what will partner bid over 3♣?).

HAND 4**EW Vul. - Scoring: Teams**

♠ K 10 6 4 3 2
♥ 7 4
♦ Q J 7
♣ A K

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♠ ?

3♥ 10; 3♠ 7; 3NT 6; Pass/5♦ 2

At first glance, this one seems obvious. We have two stoppers in the unbid suit, so 3NT was the bid selected by most competitors, some with misgivings:

James Boulton: *3NT. Clubs are double-stopped. It may be a bit of a struggle as partner probably has very little in spades and I have very little in hearts but, at teams, you should bid games and 3NT looks best.*

Peter Milewski: *3NT. I prefer not to bid my rotten spade suit a third time, and think that there is a reasonable chance of setting up either hearts (or spades if he has a doubleton honour) before the second club is knocked out.*

Both these answers hint at the problem with this hand: your club stoppers could easily be knocked out before you have a chance to set up either of the majors. Even if you do set up one of the suits for five tricks, you might still need to set up tricks in another suit, and you will not have time to do that.

Roger Penton is showing his sixth spade: $3\spadesuit$. *I could bid $3\heartsuit$ false preference but partner may be 1552 and not bid 3NT because he has no club stopper and feels he is good enough to go to $4\diamondsuit$. I could bid 3NT with clubs stopped but partner will never know that you have six spades (even though not a strong suit). First, I need to show six spades, which could play opposite a big singleton.*

The problem with $3\spadesuit$ is that partner might raise with a small singleton. Pat Shields suggests a more flexible bid: $3\heartsuit$. *I could show the club stoppers, extra spade, or doubleton heart. Since the last of these leaves the option to play $4\spadesuit$ or 3NT while the others are more committal, I bid $3\heartsuit$.*

I think that is right. Partner knows you do not have three hearts, as you did not raise hearts immediately. Therefore, he will not insist on hearts unless it is right; he can bid $3\spadesuit$ with two of them.

Partner had:

\spadesuit x \heartsuit A 10 9 8 x x \diamondsuit A K x x \clubsuit x x

3NT is two down, $4\heartsuit$ makes, and $4\spadesuit$ (although a poor contract) also makes as the cards lie.

HAND 5 NS Vul. - Scoring: Pairs

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
\spadesuit 9 4 2				
\heartsuit J 10 9 5 4 2	$1\heartsuit$	Dble	Pass	?
\diamondsuit 6				
\clubsuit 10 6 2				

Pass 10; $2\clubsuit$ 8; $1\spadesuit$ 7; 1NT 2

It is rarely right to pass for penalties unless you have some points, but the decent heart intermediates make it an option to pass. If we do not pass, which 3-card suit do we bid? The competitors are not keen on their answers:

Nicholas Beswick (and Simon Richards similarly): *Pass. My hand is worth three tricks in hearts but little in any other suit. I could take out into $1\spadesuit$ or 1NT but that risks a penalty double when we are vulnerable. If partner is strong, it is still unlikely that we could*

make game but we would have a goodat the 1-level is more appealing than higher, so I choose 1♠ here. chance of collecting a decent penalty.

Pat Shields: 1♠. Short on values and will be unable to control any further developments, so I cannot pass 1♥. Bidding

Mike Close: 2♣. Always 2♣, never 1♠! I have been here before. If you bid 1♠, partner with his 4054 23-count blasts 4♠, beams as he puts down ♠A-K-Q-J. He then wonders why you lose control of the trumps when they make you ruff top hearts twice. If you bid 2♣, partner will torture you with at least one cue bid – why spoil his fun?

Partner is likely to be very strong, and is going to raise anything we bid (or even worse, cuebid 2♥ to get more information). Rather than get to a contract we almost certainly will not make, I think it is best to pass and hope it goes off. As Nicholas says, I have three trump winners, and partner's high cards should produce four more.

If I had to bid, 2♣ seems better than 1♠, as it is less likely to excite partner.

Partner had:

♠ Q x x ♥ A x ♦ A Q J x x x ♣ A K

Passing the double would work very well. You get +500, and you cannot make any game.

HAND 6

Game All - Scoring: Teams

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 7 3 2				
♥ 8 7 4 2	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
♦ A Q 8 5 4	Pass	1♠	Pass	?
♣ K				

1NT 10; Pass 7; 2♠ 6; 2♦/2♣ 5; 2♥ 2

This is quite a common situation. You do not really want to pass with 9 points, but there is no comfortable bid. Let us hear some arguments for each of the possible actions:

Roger Penton: *Pass.* To bid more on a misfit could lead to a negative score. While partner could have a bit in reserve for 1♠, what can you sensibly bid to improve the contract? 1NT is probably the only contender but not attractive opposite a weakish 4225.

Nicholas Beswick: *1NT.* I bid again as partner may have a hand strong enough for game but I do not want to mislead him on the strength of my suits.

James Boulton: *1NT.* My initial thought was to make a wimpish pass, but my hand is better than minimum for a response, and the points I hold are useful – the singleton king of clubs is particularly good given partner's 1♣ bid, and the ace and queen of diamonds look good too. So I do not want to pass. I also do not want to support spades yet with 3 of them, so 1NT seems best despite the lack of heart stopper.

Mike Close: 2♣. False preference to the 5-1 fit. 1NT is a possibility – opponents are quiet, so partner may have a good hand – I would prefer him to bid 2NT if he can, to try for game.

Betty Lewis: 2♦. Nothing else to say with no heart stopper for a NT bid.

I dislike passing with 9 points, as then partner will worry every time he has 16+ and start jumping needlessly. If we are not going to pass, we should make a bid that gives us a chance of getting to the right game, and has a chance of making if partner is weak. As this is teams, we need not worry about what is the highest-scoring partscore.

1NT seems to fit both objectives. We have enough hearts to make it unlikely that they can cash five of them (also, no one has overcalled 1♥).

2♣ and 2♦ might both be 5-1 fits. 2♠ is likely to be a playable spot, as partner will be able to scramble some tricks on a crossruff. However, if partner is strong, we will end up in 4♠, which is unlikely to play well on a heart lead. 2♠ would be more attractive at pairs, as it could easily score more than 1NT.

Partner had:

♠ K J 10 x ♥ A x ♦ J 10 ♣ A Q 10 x x

Most actions will work out OK.

HAND 7

Game All - Scoring: Teams

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 3				
♥ 9 6 5 4 2		1♠	Pass	1NT
♦ 3	Pass	3NT	Pass	?
♣ K Q J 9 6 4				

4♥ 10; 5♣ 10; 4♣ 9; Pass 8; 4NT 2

This problem is perhaps slightly unfair. I have not come across the situation before, and I had little idea what the right answer was. Let us see what the contestants think:

Roger Penton is removing to his long suit: 5♣. *A diamond lead might prove to be devastating for you in 3NT, and it risks a heavy negative score, which teammates would not appreciate. 5♣ should have good chances although there is a risk of losing 3 top tricks. 4♥ could look stupid opposite a doubleton.*

Margaret Lane is removing to her major: 4Hx. *If my partner is truly flat with 19 HCP (with a 4-4 hand I hope partner would bid the lower suit first) we should be in a suit. Either 4♥ or 5♣ could be right; 4♥ is my choice and I will risk an early club ruff.*

Peter Milewski is leaving 3NT: *Pass. Partner should have 19 points, decent stoppers in the red suits and at least ♣A-x. The worst that I see happening is they cash four diamonds (or maybe five, in which case c'est la vie).*

The other option is 4♣. As no one will have discussed this auction, partner will not know whether this is to play or forcing. If it is forcing, it might show something like we have. If partner passes, that might be right as well. For sure trying undiscussed bids is not good for the partnership...

I got someone to run a simulation, assuming partner has 18-19 points and a 5332 or 4333 shape. The results were quite close: 3NT made 48% of the time, 5♣ made 63% of the time, and 4Hx made 66% of the time. Therefore, removing 3NT will be right more often than not.

At the table, partner held:

♠ K Q J x x ♥ A J x ♦ K x x ♣ A x

Nothing made, not even 4♣ as there were two hearts and two aces to lose.

HAND 8

EW Vul. - Scoring: Teams

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ K J 10 8 7				
♥ K 3		1♥	Pass	1D
♦ K Q J 10 7 2	Pass	3♣	Pass	3D
♣ Void	Pass	3NT	Pass	?

4♦ 10; 4♠ 9; 6♦ 7; 5♠ 6; 4NT 5; Pass 4; 4♥/6NT 2

Partner has shown 16+ with a spade stopper. We have 13 points and decent shape – how do we progress from here? The key to the hand is likely to be how many wasted values partner has in clubs, but it is not going to be possible to tell partner this.

If we think partner has a lot in clubs, then passing could be right. However, this is somewhat pessimistic. If we are going to bid on, we could offer a general invitation:

Simon Richards: *4NT – quantitative. Both suits should run if the opponents do not have too many aces to cash!*

Alternatively, we could emphasise our diamonds or show our second suit:

Pat Shields: *4♦. Still slam interest here even opposite short diamonds. I do not know how I will be able to judge to bid 7♦ but, if I set the trump suit, I can at least ask for aces next.*

Peter Milewski: *4♠. I think partner to bid like that should have A-Q stiff in spades or at worst A-x-x; if we play in NT, a club lead could awkward. Help! Should I be thinking of a spade slam? Perhaps partner after realizing I am 6-5 in diamonds and spades will go on if he has three spades and good controls. I prefer to rely on that than push to slam myself. Anyway, how would I explore when we have not agreed a suit?*

James Boulton: *4♠. I think that must show a genuine spade suit in this situation, be forcing and be a 5-card suit to introduce it at the 4-level. Partner must have a spade stopper for his 3NT bid (probably A-x, A-x-x or Q-x-x) so I think spades is the right place to play. Note that partner has reversed so slam values are close – I have a feeling that 6♠ may be the best spot. Telling partner about my spades now with 4♠ is the best start to getting there.*

Finally, we could bid what we think we might make:

Roger Penton: *6♦. Clearly, partner has the ♠A for the 3NT bid (and may have the ♠Q) and surely one of the red aces, most likely hearts. There must be a play for 6♦ with the spades coming in or discards on the hearts.*

It seems best to invite a slam. Playing in NT is unlikely to be right, since if partner has two club stoppers, there are likely to be holes outside. As the diamonds are playable opposite a singleton, 6♦ is the most likely slam. If we are missing the ♠Q, we might be able to discard our spades on partner's hearts or top clubs.

Therefore, I have given top marks 4♦, closely followed by 4♠. Other bids either commit us to slam, or make it difficult to get to a suit slam.

Partner held:

♠ A x ♥ A x x x x ♦ A x ♣ K J x x

6♦ and 6♠ would both make. 6NT is a poor contract, needing the spades to run. Partner will accept a suit try for slam, but he will pass 4NT.

SEPT 2008 BIDDING CHALLENGE

In the following six problems, you are South and you have to find the right bid. Tim Rees will award marks based on several factors: what he thinks is the right bid; what worked at the table; the number of votes given to each bid; and the comments given in respect of each bid. Although there is no need for you to include comments, if you do so, you may increase your score. In addition, Tim will include good comments in an article for the next issue of the Magazine, so there is a chance you will see your views in print.

The system is straightforward: Acol; 4-card Majors; Weak Twos in ♦ / ♥ / ♠; 12-14

NT; Stayman; Transfers; Blackwood.

Defensive bidding methods comprise:

Sputnik Doubles; Weak Jump Overcalls; and Double for take-out following pre-empts.

The closing date for entries is Monday, 3rd November.

Anyone may submit an entry, but only WBU members are eligible to win prizes. In addition to your **name and address**, please supply your **WBU membership number** when you enter.

The prizes will be £30, £20, and £10 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd; and there will be two **non-expert prizes** of £20 and £10.

To meet the definition of non-expert you have to be below the rank of Regional Master. If you qualify, please state clearly 'Non-expert' on your entry.

Entries you may submit by email to trees@trl.co.uk or by post to:

WBU Bidding Competition, 163 Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6DR.

Alternatively, you may enter via the WBU website. Good luck!

WBU Bidding Challenge – Sep 08						
Hand 1	EW Vul. - Scoring: Teams					
♠ A 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ A K 8 6 5 ♦ 5 ♣ 10	West - Pass Pass	North - 2♣ 2NT	East - Pass Pass	South 1♠ 2♥ ?		
Hand 2	Love All - Scoring : Pairs					
♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ K 10 5 ♣ A 8 4	West 3♦	North Dbl	East Pass	South ?		
Hand 3	Love All - Scoring : Pairs					
♠ 10 8 5 ♥ J 2 ♦ A 10 7 6 4 ♣ A 3 2	West - 1♠	North - 2♦	East 1♥ Pass	South Pass ?		
Hand 4	Love All. - Scoring: Teams					
♠ K Q ♥ 9 8 7 2 ♦ K 9 5 3 2 ♣ 7 5	West - 2♣ ¹	North - Dble	East Pass Pass	South Pass ?	¹ Precision: 11-15 natural	
Hand 5	NS Vul. - Scoring: Teams					
♠ Q J 6 3 2 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ A J 8	West -	North -	East 3♦	South ?		
Hand 6	NS Vul. - Scoring: Teams					
♠ A 10 8 7 6 5 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 10	West -	North 1♥	East 2♦	South ?		



Photograph from Left;
Mr Derick Gwilliam
Chairman Wrexham U3A
Mr Arwel Jones Mayor,
Wrexham County Borough Council.
Neville Richards
WBU Chief Executive
Mayor's Chauffeur

**WREXHAM GARDEN VILLAGE
 BRIDGE CLUB.**

Report by Gwen Hurst

On Tuesday 15 July 2008, the Wrexham branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) held its second very successful Open Day. During the past two years, the Wrexham U3A has grown to over 260 members. The U3A started in Toulouse in France in 1972 initially as a service for retired teachers. In 1981, Dr Peter Laslett of Cambridge saw the need to modify the French system to become a UK wide community based service, for all who had retired because of age, illness or other reasons. The aim was to help people remain both physically and mentally active for as long as possible.

Wrexham U3A has many interest groups in their organisation, examples range from the physical; walking, table tennis, gardening etc., to the mentally challenging; Bridge, Scrabble, Chess, etc.

Through the use of its club premises, equip-

ment and staff, Wrexham Garden Village Bridge Club were able to help establish the U3A Bridge Group.. This partnership has not only brought new opportunities to members of the U3A, but has also helped to increase the membership of Garden Village Bridge Club.

The Bridge group members decided it would be excellent publicity if Mr Neville Richards could attend the Open Day. All were very pleased, and much appreciated Neville's presence when he found time in his busy schedule to attend the Bridge promotional event at the Wrexham U3A Open Day.

NEW DUPLICATE LAWS

In case you have not already heard, a new set of Duplicate Bridge Laws came into effect on 1st August 2008.

All clubs and tournament directors, who have not already received a copy, should please contact Neville Richards or Ken Richardson for a free copy.

The new laws are very similar to the old laws that they replace.

For players the two main changes are (i) you should shuffle your cards before returning them to the board or wallet; (ii) as defender, you may now ask 'having none partner' if your partner discards to check that it is not a revoke.

Directors will notice a few more changes, particularly in the area of revokes; for further details please contact Ken Richardson.

NOTE TO ALL READERS

Except for articles contributed by WBU officials in an official capacity, any opinions expressed in *Welsh Bridge* do not necessarily represent the views of the WBU. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the contents of *Welsh Bridge*, the WBU accepts no liability in the event of any inaccuracies.

**Welsh Bridge Union
Swiss Teams
To be held from
14th - 16th November 2008
Royal International Pavilion
Llangollen**

2.00 pm Mixed Pairs and Open Pairs

We welcome local players who only wish to play pairs for this one session. Table money £2 per player (no charge for full congress entrants).
Cash prizes.

Friday Evening—new this year—we will have

TWO START TIMES—7.15 and 8.30 pm

All you early birds who turn into pumpkins at midnight are invited to start play at 7.15 so you can finish by around 11.00. We will run the two sections separately on Friday and merge them on Saturday.

Swiss Teams (3 x 8 board matches)

Saturday 15th November

12.45 pm Swiss Teams (4 x 8 board matches)

7:30 pm Swiss Teams (3 x 8 boards matches)

Sunday 16th November

12 noon Swiss Teams (4 x 8 board matches)

Entry Fees

Full Congress £50.00 per player