

Series 1.
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Welsh Bridge Association Bulletin
Cambria Club
24 St Andrews Cres:
CARDIFF

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When I started this Bulletin, I ventured to my colleagues that I thought it might stimulate interest a little, and how right I was. My mail no longer consists of bills, circulars & the like, but includes letters from all over Wales with a nice even balance that I am right or that I am wrong. To those who feel that by my errors & omissions all is not exactly as it should be, I humbly apologise, but respectfully point out that mostly I record as I hear, and if my hearing ain't so good, well, I don't mind being told about that either.

Before proceeding further I would like to stress what is possibly our most important Bridge event, THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This will be held in a few weeks time - the exact date will be circularised later - with a most important agenda. Many of you feel that by such & such a procedure Welsh Bridge could be improved; that this should be altered a bit, or that that should be changed. Whilst opinions are always welcome you must agree that the best time to express them, is surely as The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. If you are in the habit of coming annually, please do not break the habit. If you have never been before, please do remember that you are very welcome - & if you want to bring your friends who are interested in Bridge, then bring them along too. By way of advance information, the agenda includes the President's Report, the incorporation of North Wales into the Association, the Election of Officers and area representatives, besides discussions on matters of policy, and various recommendations for 1948/9.

For the benefit of those who may not know the names of the present Officers and representatives, here they are:-

President Capt W.H.Ricardo
Vice-Presidents Emlyn Lewis, T.G.Bonnyman, Thos John.
Hon Sec/Treasurer H.J.Gould
Hon. Auditor F. E. Perry
Representatives:-
Cardiff John Fogarty, Miss McEachran
Swansea J. Laidlaw Murray, J.P., D.H.Jones
Bridgend D. McAllister
Newport Mrs Coulter
Pontypridd S. Hoffman, H. Thomas
North Wales Major Basil Tatlow.

(Note. Cardiff is entitled to one further representative)

I do not want to anticipate the meeting in any way, so it would be as well to leave the matter at that. With the reminder once again, that if it is possible for you to attend, then do please turn up. Club Secretaries are requested to do their bit, by giving all possible publicity when they are notified of the date & place. Its your Meeting, so please support it.

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COMPETITION RESULTS

THE WELSH CUP. In last month's bulletin, we announced that Capt Ricardo's team had won this trophy. This statement as it stands is not quite correct. The finalists were Capt Ricardo's Team & Mr S.Hoffman's team, but we are awaiting a ruling on a particular board, ~~a decision on the~~ result of the result of the Welsh Cup must rest in that well filled tray - "pending"

LADIES WELSH CUP This trophy was won by Mrs Hando's Newport team, who defeated a Swansea team, captained by Mrs Cullis. We understand it was a very close match, and offer our warmest congratulations to the winners. To the losers, better luck next time.

INTER CLUB MATCH.

On August 15th, Messrs I. Gaist (Captain) H. Harris, W. Crystal, S. Reed, S. Abrahams, I. Cotsen, S. Belman & J. Belman, representing the Cardiff Jewish Institute & Social Club, played Capt. Ricardo (Captain) Mrs Morgan, Mrs Bonnyman, Miss McEachran, Messrs J. Cope, V. Searle, Trevor M. Williams & H. Gould representing the Cambria Bridge Club. Over 32 boards the Cambria Club won by 980 points, which indicates the closeness of the match. It is hoped to play this match off twice per year, and the sporting spirit in which this game was played, augurs well for the success of the series. The gesture of Mr J. Sherman who most generously presented a cup to be played for between the two Clubs, is most heartily appreciated by all concerned. We thank Mr Sherman again for his generosity and assure him we really do feel gratified at this continued interest in our sphere of the sporting world

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FORMATION OF LEAGUES

It has been suggested that the formation of leagues would add to the general interest, and all possible is being done to encourage this idea. Pontypridd & District last year carried out a most formidable looking programme with enormous success, & it is proposed that a Tournament Committee be formed within the Welsh Bridge Association, to put all leagues on an official basis. Newport, in particular, seems interested in the idea judging by correspondence received, and verbally some Cardiff teams have expressed willingness to compete. Would all Club Secretaries & Team Captains, who would support such leagues, write as soon as possible to the Hon. Secretary, who will then be glad to give all assistance, & do such liaison work as it necessary? In view of the travelling difficulties, competing teams are assured here and now that they will not be called upon to make journeys of over a few miles, except in most exceptional circumstances. Please remember that the more teams entering, the more the leagues can be localised. At the moment all we need is an idea of how many teams are interested in the scheme....there is no need to furnish the names of individual players - the name of the Club or team Captain will do.

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NORTHERN NOTES

We are looking forward to a busy winter in North Wales. With the return of the basic it is hoped to revive the old North Wales League and to arrange some inter-club & town matches. Our friends of the North Western Contract Bridge Association have an autumn congress at Blackpool November 5th-7th where we shall be represented. Is it too much to hope that South Wales will also send a team!

We are looking forward to a Welsh Congress next spring, this time we hope in South Wales, when we shall try to win the North v. South match. We lost the match at the Llandudno Congress last April by a narrow margin. We were leading at the end of the first session and in the second session were handicapped by the absence of some of our better players who were engaged in the finals of the N.W.C.B.A., Pairs Championship, which was unavoidably held at the same time! We rejoice that it has been found possible to come to so friendly an arrangement with the South. Our thanks are due in particular to Mr. Carter and Captain Ricardo. Co-operation between North and South Wales in any sport or pastime is not easy because of geographical difficulties, but we hope that the foundations have been laid of a truly representative Welsh Bridge Union, which will foster and develop the game not only in the North and South coastal belts but in all parts of the principality. It will not be easy but, where there's a will there's a way, and enthusiastic support from North and South should eventually bring the Western and Central areas into the fold.

Stanley Moses and Percy Davies very much enjoyed their experience playing in the Camrose Trophy Match, Wales v Northern Ireland at Belfast. Stanley's many friends in the North and South (particularly Cardiff) will be interested to hear that he has had yet another operation (his 20th I believe) this time free gratis under the new scheme. It was a great success.

He says he feels, and he certainly looks, better than he has for years. This is good news and we all rejoice with him and offer him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

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LOCAL GOSSIP By Elizabeth Susan

The British Bridge League whose Chairman (Sir A.Noel Mobbs) is also Chairman of the Portland Club and President of the International Bridge League etc. has done original honour to Wales by Electing Mr.F.E. Perry as Vice Chairman for 1948/49. We congratulate Mr. Perry and the B.B.L. on its choice.

All Bridge players join sportsmen in other realms of sport in congratulating the Glamorgan Cricket Team on their magnificent performance in winning the Cricket Championship: If Cardiff City, Swansea Town and Newport County do what is expected of them, if Cardiff Rugby is served up as excellently as last year, if Wales can win the Triple Crown and the Camrose Trophy, we shall need a Ministry of Sport to inaugurate some rationing. But there are too many "ifs" about this.

Is it true that last Saturday evening, when his opponents reached a contract of seven hearts, J--H -O-A-- said "Tote Double"? And when they went three down went to the bar to collect the dividend?

In view of his forthcoming Continental Holiday, Mr. Trevor Williams requests that anyone acquainted with Portuguese bidding should contact him immediately. Not you, Harry, sit down.

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BRITISH BRIDGE LEAGUE

Booklets containing details and entry forms for the B.B.L. competitions, which include the Gold Cup, the Hubert Phillips Bowl, the Lady Milne Cup, etc., have now been received and forwarded to Secretaries of the Clubs affiliated to the W.B.A. The closing date for entries is 27th September, 1948; and anyone desiring a booklet is requested to apply to their local Club Secretary or direct to the Hon. Sec. of the W.B.A.

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THE BRIDGE PLAYERS ALPHABET By S. Abrahams

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|--|--|
| A is for ACES
we all like to hold | N is for NO TRUMPS,
three's game, without doubt. |
| B is for BIDDING,
don't psyche so, we're told | O is for OVERTRICK,
contract made without worry, |
| C is for CARD SENSE,
without which you'll fall, | P is for PARTSCORE,
we're in no hurry. |
| D stands for DUPLICATE,
the best test of all. | Q for the QUESTION,
"Do you play the Strong Two?" |
| E is for ENTERPRISE,
and with this you will double, | R is for RE-DOUBLE,
hope you took the right view, |
| F is the FREAK
which will land you in trouble. | S is for "SIGN OFF",
dont bid higher, I beg. |
| G stands for GRAND SLAM,
we trust it's "on top", | T for the TRICKS,
that will get you a leg |
| H is the HUNCH
which tell you to stop. | U is for UNDERBID,
there's a penalty to pay, |
| I is for INFORMATION,
"Partner I've four aces", | V is for VULNERABLE,
think twice what you say. |
| J is for JUMP-BID,
Now we're going places | W for WASHOUT,
it means you break even, |
| K stands for KIBITZER,
expert near table, | X is for EXPERT,
he can always make "seven." |
| L is for LEAD,
partners suit it I'm able, | Y is for YARMOROUGH,
it wont bring you fame, |
| M stands for MIS-COUNTING, | Z is for the ZEST, |

I'd been daydreaming most of the evening, but was suddenly brought out of my reverie by my partners "Double" and the opponents more sharpish even, "Re-double". My partner looked at me very confidentially and said it was my lead; I asked for the bidding and with me sitting WEST: N & S VUL and SOUTH The Dealer, the bidding had gone :-

South	West	North	East
1 H	NB	1 S	NB
3 C	NB	3 D	NB
3 S	NB	4 H	NB
4 NT	NB	5 H	NB
5 NT	NB	7 H	Dble
NB	NB	ReDble	

My hand (West) consisted of:-

S. x.x.x. - H. K.9. - D. J.9.x.x. - C. x.x.x.x.

Without the Double and the Re-Double, I lead a Diamond, but now I take it that my partner is asking for a definite suit, and I'm darned if I know which one. So I started to think, and the more I thought the more I slipped away from the present. I got to thinking of a few days ago. My brother, his wife, my wife and myself were returning from our holidays, when the remaining two seats in our compartment were taken by two girls; one very, very goodlooking, and the other, to me the MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD! She said she could cook, bake and play bridge. (Whoever heard of a bridge player being hungry?) So we discussed a hand that had occurred the previous evening. Both side VUL, playing the strong Strong No Trump, my partner opened with 1 N.T. The opposition do not bid and I am holding :-

S K.J.10.5. H 6.6. D 4. 2. C K.J.10.8.4.

Knowing my partner might pass two-notrumps, I bid three N.T. which was a make, but came in for a lot of criticism. Anyway, I asked this girl what she'd bid, and she replied "I think I'd sign off with two clubs" - and then a voice as lovely and as fascinating as could be said, "Oh, No! I think it's a perfect 2 N.T. Bid". Well, may be it is 2 N.T. but I'll go 3 N.T. if I get the same hand again. AFTER ALL BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP.

It also appeared that only a few days previous she'd been playing at CROCKFORDS in no less company than HARRISON-GRAY, SHAPIRO, etc. (or may be she said she was kibitzing whilst they played) but it was a real delight to hear her talk. She was remarkably sensible about Bridge; for instance, when the girls were asked what they would bid on dealing themselves 13 Clubs, one of us said: "7 Clubs of course", whilst the 'Most ... World' said "Oh, no; I'd pass, or bid anything but 7 clubs!" (For those readers who think I'm joking, deal out the remaining 39 cards; imagine South to hold the 13 Clubs and after he's bid 7 Clubs, just see if East or West will let him play it in that contract! Similarly, the person holding the 13 suit need have no fear of the hand being passed out after he's passed.) In an effort to belittle her bridge prowess I asked what she would bid in the following circumstances. The opponents VUL: your partner the dealer, and playing the very weak "Three" open with "3 Clubs" Your R.H. opponent passes, and your holding is :-

S 5.3.2. - H 5.4.3.2. - D 4.3.2. - C 4.3.2. (What do you bid?) With very little hesitation, she said: "3 N.Trumps" which, on second thoughts is, you'll agree, a very excellent bid, as its going to take a very plucky VUL person to start bidding at the level of "Four."

And so I dreamed about "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World," and as I dreamed I fingered my cards: my fingers suddenly gripped the 9 of Hearts, because it is written somewhere that the HEART NINE is the WISHING Card and if one wishes hard enough and so I thought of "her" with the Beautiful Look ... when I suddenly realised that Dummy was going down - because I had played the Heart 9!

Here are the 4 hands. Can any reader, if playing South, truthfully say he would have made 7 Hearts with the same opening lead?

S	A. Q. J. 4. 3.	S	x. x.
H	A. 10. 6. 5.	H	--
D	--	D	K. Q. J. x. x. x. x.
C	K. x. x. x.	C	Q. J. 10. 9.

S	x. x. x.	N	S
H	K. 9.	W E	H
D	x. x. x. x.	S	D
C	x. x. x. x.		C

S	K. J. 10.
H	Q. J. 8. 7. x. x. x.
D	A. x.
C	A.

(Ed. note: Yes. We "South Sitters" would have, because while "He" was dreaming, we were peeping)

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CONGRESSES

A congress is being held at **PORTRUSH** (Northern Ireland) between September 18th and September 25th and having seen the programme we must admit it looks a most attractive affair.

A few weeks later Bournemouth stages its Annual Congress (29th October to 1st November) and being so accessible quite large parties from all over South Wales are being formed. Whilst we obviously cannot guarantee to obtain accommodation we shall be only too pleased to do our best to fix up such players as come to contact us. But there is no need for me to stress that in these hard times it is a case of first come, first served. As a consolation to those who leave such things to the last minute, it is worth remembering that Portrush and Bournemouth are seaside resorts and the sands there are particularly comfortable to sleep on.

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BRIDGE IN THE R.A.F. By W.H. Ricardo

In 1940 I was summoned to the R.A.F. as an Officer to defend Aerodromes. This was during a critical period when invasion was expected at any moment, and the aerodromes that we had to defend were equipped roughly with about a queen and a jack. I was put in command of a relief aerodrome with about 15 gunners, three machine-gun posts, and a limited amount of ammunition, so that we should have lasted about five minutes against a raid by the Hun. Fortunately for us the Hun passed throughout and we were not called upon to make any desperate sacrifice bids.

Things were sort of quiescent and the Group Captain of my parent station thought that a guest night might elevate the morale of the Officers as they were hard at work with training, and a little relaxation would do them some good, especially as the cellars were in the blissful state of pre-war era.

Someone had unfortunately told the Group Captain that I enjoyed some small reputation as a bridge player, and I was duly summoned after dinner to play a rubber or two with the Medical Officer, the Adjutant and the august figure of the Group Captain himself. The very first hand I cut with the M. O. against the Group Captain and the Adjutant.

The M.O. opened the bidding with one spade and the G.C. said two diamonds.

This was my hand -

S H D C	x K x x x Q 10 9 x x K x x	What would you do chums ?
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I committed the atrocity of doubling and after a horrified silence all round, the Commander of the Station had to chalk up 700 to the opposition. I glanced around and saw to my consternation the paralyzed expression on the face of the Adjutant, a rather non-committal look on my partners face and a terrific thunder look on the face of the August Presence.

I realised then that I had committed the unpardonable black of doubling the Group Captain in a simple overbid. It was clear that I should be immediately posted next day unless I managed to atone for this offence and I resolved then and there to keep my trap shut for better or for worse.

The next hand the G.C. opened with 1 Diamond and this was my hand:-

S H D C	A.K.x A.K. x x x x A.K. x.x.
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Choking back a sob of emotion I passed, and so did everyone else. There was just a chance that he could make a diamond. If he had five Diamonds to the Ace, King, Queen, the Queen of Spades, the Queen of Clubs and only two Hearts, he could scramble home. So I started on my two top spades, two top clubs and the Ace and King of Hearts.

Glory be, my diagnosis was correct. He trumped the third heart, Diamonds broke for him, and he had the two missing Queens. Chalking up 20 to himself he remarked to me "I didn't think I could have made one Diamond my boy, if you had not led out your top Clubs." "No, Sir" said I, "I don't think that I played that one very well." I had got the technique however, and all was well so that at the end of the session the Bridge Book was brought out by the Adjutant and plus 1/3d at 1d per 100 was duly entered against the name of the Group Captain and a pleasant evening was had by all.

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CIRCULATION OF THE BULLETIN.

There appears to be a little doubt about the circulation of the Bulletin, and to clear matters up we should like to add that (a) it appears monthly (b) it is sent free to all member of the W.B.A. (c) if you are not getting your copy please advise any officials of your Club who will be pleased to see that you get on the mailing list (d) articles of local or general interest are always welcome. Articles and queries to H.J.Gould, 37 Llandennis Avenue, Cardiff, please

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NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

Next month's issue will contain details of the commencement of matches for Cups and Trophies. Team Captains interested in competing in the Welsh Cup, Webber Cup, Cambria Cup, Ladies Welsh Cup etc. are therefore advised to start assembling their teams now. We hear of new teams entering the arena --- so old established "cracks" are commended to look out for their laurels.

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The Editor and his Assistants regret minor slips in the preparation of this Bulletin and apologise for any errors and/or omissions.

Perhaps the time will come when the Bulletin can be properly printed.

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