

WELSH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION BULLETIN.

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37, Llandennis Avenue,
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Edited by Harold Gould.

All letters, queries, articles etc., to the Editor at the
address above.

Contents include:-

"Be Prepared" By Major W.B. Tatlow.
"Grin" By Sam Abrahams.
"I was There" By Elizabeth Susan.

Editorial.

First, mention must be given to the National Trophies Competitions, details of which were presented in last month's Bulletin. A very fair entry for all events has been received, but to my certain knowledge some teams that intended entering have not yet done so. Some for very good reasons, and to assist them it has been decided to carry the closing date forward to November 15th. After this date no further entries will be considered, so if you feel this paragraph applies to you, will you please note it's contents carefully.

Our deepest sympathies to our good friend Abby Stone on the death of his sister two weeks ago. We feel deeply for him and offer sincerest condolences.

Money, money, money, Annual subscriptions to the W.B.A. was fixed at 10/- per head at the General Meeting, this sum to cover amongst other things, the cost of this Bulletin. Would all who have not yet remitted their sub. please do so as soon as they can to address above?

The New Laws are now in operation and we await guidance on the new phraseology. It seems that one popular question might be "Is your lead really necessary?". Or maybe an electric buzzer at each table (conveniently placed) might be used to stop that lead from the wrong hand. And then, maybe, a gong to be sounded when a contract is three down, Vul, doubled and re-doubled.

Finally, as you will observe elsewhere in the magazine, the Camrose Trophy Match v Scotland has now been arranged to take place in Llandudno on February 19th and 20th. We hope to organise a party to go for the week-end to lend moral support to the selected team and we are promised a first rate couple of days by our new Union colleagues.

NORTHERN NOTES

By Major Tatlow.

The North Wales Bridge Association continues to grow. Clubs as far apart as Flint and Caernarvon have affiliated and will, we hope, get much pleasure and enjoyment from joining in the various competitions as opportunity (and petrol) permit.

The North Wales Bridge League has made a start. Unfortunately owing to Petrol restrictions it is limited this year to Bangor and Llandudno districts, but seven teams are competing and home and away matches against each other will give a programme of 12 matches for each team during the Winter session. The first three matches were played on the 20th October and resulted as follows (home teams first):-

Bangor Ladies (Mrs John Roberts) lost to Llandudno No.2
(Major W.B. Tatlow) by 2360

Llandudno No. 3 (Mr.H.Cooke) beat Menai Bridge
(Mr.C.C.Vallance) by 1370

Colwyn Bay (Mr.A.D.Wilde) beat Llandudno No.4
(Mrs. Rugman) by 1470

One North Wales team has entered for the Gold Cup and the Hubert Phillips Bowl. In the Gold Cup they were drawn against Mr. Abby Stone's team at Cardiff, and were looking forward to making the long journey one week-end but, unfortunately, Mr. Stone had to scratch owing to a family bereavement. We were very disappointed but quite understood and we do offer him our sincere sympathy.

The Blackpool Congress starts on November 5th - a suitable night for "fireworks" indoors as well as out! Nearly 30 players from North Wales are going and we hope we shall not come empty away.

We are pleased to know that the Scotch match is now definitely fixed for February 19th-20th. We shall really get busy about this match early in the new year and no stone shall be left unturned to ensure that it is a financial and social success. We hope it will also be a success for the Principality on the Green Baize but that is a matter for the Players! "Tis not in mortals to ensure success but we'll do more - deserve it!"

Here is a hand from one of our duplicate pairs competitions. Dealer "West"

W.	N.	E.	S.
-	1 H.	2 C.	2 D.
-	3 H.	-	4 C.(!)

?

What should North say next holding S. K, H. KJxxx, D. K10x, C. A'xx? Playing 2 Club "Norman" 4- No trump. (4 Clubs is not an asking bid!). No prizes offered for correct solution!

PORTLAND CUP.

All Bridge players will be interested to learn that the first round (Local) of this important trophy will be held at the Cambria Club, Cardiff on Sunday November 14th at 2.30 prompt. As you know, the Portland Cup is a pairs competition, to arrange the "movement" all intending competitors are requested to enter their names not later than Saturday November 13th. There is a list on the notice board, and if you cannot reach the Club to enter your name, would you please telephone Cardiff - 4486 as soon as convenient?

I understand that Swansea and Pontypridd are also arranging local "heats" and players in those districts are recommended to contact Mr. T. Laidlaw Murray and Mr. S. Hoffman respectively. I am sure they will be only too pleased to give all assistance and a helping hand if required.

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G R I N.

By Sam Abrahams.

(With apologies to Robert W. Service)

When you're playing against the experts, and you're getting
messed about;
When you're feeling pretty sickly and you think you can't
last out -
GRIN.

Don't let them see you falter, let them know with every trick,
Although you're head's going round and round, your heart is
pretty thick -
SO GRIN.

This game is just another fight, and may the best man win.
If they hold all the aces let them see you lose -
AND GRIN.

When you cut the club's palooka, and know the worst's ahead,
When you're doubled in a contract and the prospect's filled
with dread -
GRIN.

Don't appear as if it's hopeless, let them think you've game
on sight.
If you cannot help but go one down, don't fail without a fight -
SO GRIN.

When the cards are stacked against you, and they make game
every hand.
When each finesse you make is wrong, and it's hard to understand -
GRIN.

Don't let them think it worries you, let them see at every play,
You might be having an uphill fight, but you still can win
the day--
SO GRIN.

So come - please cut - another deal, fresh battles to begin.
You'll show them what you're made of - to win - to lose -

And so it is in life my friend, when you take it on the chin.
 If you're the man that can play the game, when you lose, you'll
 pay -
 AND GRIN.

"BE PREPARED!"

By: Major W. Basil Tatlow.

One of the best Bridge books I have read for a long time is "Streamlined Bridge or Bidding without Tears" by Victor Mollo. The writer is supremely indifferent to what system is used, although he is obviously influenced by "ACOL" and "BARON". The book is devoted to the basic structure of bids and the logical inferences to be drawn therefrom, and is particularly good in dealing with the minimum hands of normal shape. The late Lord Baden Powell gave the Boy Scouts the motto "Be Prepared" and it is an excellent slogan for Bridge Players as well - except that in the case of Bridge players one might almost say "Be Prepared for the worst". Or, as one well known author writing on Match Pointing once paraphrased an equally well-known saying, "Take care of your 'bottoms' and your 'tops' will take care of themselves!"

The whole theory is to arrange your bidding so that whatever positive reply your partner may make you have a natural re-bid at a level which the combined count of the two hands can stand. This combined count is arrived at by adding the total number of points in your own hand to the minimum your partner should hold to justify his response. The difficult hands to manage are the 4432 shape with a count of 12-15. You should generally open on a hand with 12 points, practically always with 13 and always with 14. With an up-to-date partner you need not be too particular about the strength of the suit you bid provided you have the necessary all round strength somewhere in the hand. A good partner will not immediately support the suit you bid at the "one" level without 4 cards thereof himself, nor should he bid "one no trump" if he has a 4 card suit of his own which he can bid at the "one" level. "One heart" is a lower bid than "one N.T.". Why therefore should "one heart" be considered a stronger bid than "one N.T." in response to say "one club"? It is true "one heart" demands a response whilst "one N.T." does not, but if the opening bidder is very minimum he can sign off with "one N.T." himself and the result is the same except the stronger hand is playing it!

With S. AKQx, H. K32, D. Qx, C. 5432, bid "one club" and then over one diamond or one heart bid one spade. If partner's response is "one spade" you can bid "two spades" and if his response is "one N.T." bid "two clubs"! Partner also has 4 clubs, for if he had four diamonds, hearts or spades he should have bid that suit in preference to "one N.T." and with 8 clubs between the two hands, even though they be the 8 bottom ones, and a combined count of 19-20 at least, the hand will probably play better than in one N.T.

Now just pause for a moment and see what happens if you open that hand with "one spade". If partner responds one N.T. you can pass, or if he bids "two clubs" you can just scrape a raise to "three clubs", but if he has a poor 7 point count he will be "working". If partner (as he probably will) replies two diamonds or two hearts you have "had it". You must respond. Partner may hold a good hand, yet any response you make is a downright lie! You cannot now parade your pitiful club suit by bidding it at the "three level", you cannot re-bid your spades because that affirms a five card suit you cannot bid "two N.T." because that proclaims about sixteen points and invites partner to bid game on nine points and moreover

you won't be very happy about the red wuit not bid by your partner, and finally, you cannot raise your partner's suit on Kxx, or Qxx- at least you should not, if he is a modern. You may safely raise an old fashioned partner on Kxx of hearts but a modern hand might well be S. xxx, H. Q10xx, D. xxx, C. AKx.

With 4432 shape and 12-15 points the best rules are:-

1. If clubs are one of your four card suits - bid one club.
2. If the two four card suits are "touching" - bid the higher ranking first (except diamonds and clubs see above, although one D. is not irretrievable).
3. If the two four card suits are spades and diamonds the position is "fluid" and difficult. If you open "one diamond" you can bid "one spade" over "one heart" but you have no decent re-bid over "two clubs"; likewise if you open "one spade", you can bid two diamonds if partner responds "two clubs", but you cannot adequately cope with a response of "two hearts".

With four spades, four diamonds, a point count of 15 and a few 8's, 9's and 10's as well, including say K10x in hearts or clubs, it is not too bad. If the K10x is in clubs open "one spade" and if it is in hearts open "one diamond" then over the difficult response of "two hearts" or "two clubs" respectively, you can risk "two N.T.'s". In either case partner will have bid at the "two level", so he has at least seven points and as you have 15 you have 22 between you and all suits "stopped" apparently and two N.T. should not be too difficult. Even if he raises you to "three N.T." on nine points you have a chance.

Generally speaking however, with four spades and four diamonds and the other two suits divided 3-2 and with 12-15 points I prefer to open "one club" even if my clubs are a worthless doubleton. A good partner will not trust your club bid very far unless by re-bidding them you show that they are genuine and he will strive to keep the bidding open on very little.

Suppose for instance you deal and pick up S AQxx, H.Kxx, D QJxx, C Jx - bid "one club". If partner responds "one diamond" bid "one spade" and if he now bids 2 C bid two diamonds - he should have a fairly easy contract! If over you 1 C partner responds "one heart" again bid "one spade" and if he now bids "two clubs" bid "two diamonds" and a good partner should appreciate the position and give you simple preference by passing two diamonds or bidding two spades. If partner's response to your opening 1 C is "one spade" bid "two spades" (he has not got four diamonds or four hearts, or he would have bid them first). If partner's response is one N.T. pass. He has four clubs or he would have bid his other four card suit first. Lastly, suppose partner responds "two clubs" he should have either -

- (a) Five clubs and say 5-9 points
or
- (b) Four clubs to an honour or so and 8 or 9 points, no other four card suit and a bit too good for a bid of "one N.T." and not good enough for "two N.T.'s."

In either case "pass". There is no future in the hand and you have a fair chance of making "two clubs".

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I WAS THERE.

by Elizabeth Susan.

I've had my measles and I'm quite better, thank you. So by way of relaxation Daddy took me to the Jewish Institute & Social Club saying the change of air might do me good after Uncle Trevor's cigars.

Well, Daddy sat down to play and he thought he was cutting for partners - but because the Lemon Brothers don't pay each other he had to partner SAM THE ENGLISHMAN; so really they were only cutting to see who should arrange the cards.

Daddy won and this is what he produced; with himself sat South:-

		S. Jx.		
		H. AK10 8.		
		D. KQ10 x.		
		C. J9x.		
S. --		(N)		S. KQxxxx.
H. Q9xxxxxx.	(W)		(E)	H. --
D. Jxxx.				D. A98x.
C. x.		(S)		C. Axx.
		S. A.10 9xx.		
		H. x.		
		D. x.		
		C. KQ 10 xxx.		

He gave a cough, and bid One Spade, quickly closing his hand so that no-one should see what he'd bid on. Now Harry Lemon bid 2 Hearts ("In English, daddy, not in Portugese") and Sam asked "Who dealt the cards please?" All was explained to him, more than all, if you know what I mean, and he said "Double". Cap. Louis Lemon now says "Two Spades" and Pop gulps. When he gathers his wits together, he points to a corner of the room, and that (in this division) means "X" or "Over the Top" or as they say in the Cambria "I Double".

Comes the super bid from West:- "Three Diamonds".

"What he said", says, S. the E. pointing to Pop.

"Who said"? says the Lemon brothers in chorus.

"Him", says Sam.

"What was that?" asks the L. brothers.

"Double".

"Then I Re-double", says Cap. Louis.

Pop now feels sorry he came to the club at all. If he'd gone to see "Hamlet" it might have been better; but still he didn't and he must do something, so he bids 4 Clubs as bravely as he can in his most confident voice. Two passes, but the blow falls and East doubles.

The Queen of Hearts is led, the dummy goes down and does my daddy feel pleased! It's a "make" and perhaps an overtrick. But you, dear Reader, could have told him an age ago that his

K HEARTS GETS TRUMPED. The return of K Spades covered by the Ace goes the same way home, another heart (BUMP!) the Queen of Spades - and oh! dear me! the Ace of Trumps. 300 of the best of brightest to the enemy and a clip on the ear for me for telling him he should have gone three no trumps!

Ed. Hands like that are enough to give anyone the measles.

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LAST MINUTE JOTTINGS.

The "Contract Bridge Journal" provides articles of great interest to enthusiasts. It is a monthly magazine costing 2/6d. per issue or 30/- per year post free. If anyone wishes to become a subscriber would they please remit 30/- to me, giving their full name and address and I shall be glad to arrange it all from there on.

On November 1st. the revised laws came into being and copies are obtainable at 2/- each plus postage. To prospective purchasers:- the old firm once again.

What chance a bumper Xmas issue? It can be done if articles are forth-coming on any subject of general interest. Please do your best.

Puzzle corner has had to be left over for this month, but many thanks to those who corresponded or contacted me. Some of the bidding provided was ingenious, but mostly I suspect the bids were made only with the certain knowledge of partners cards. Would you really bid 4NT. holding S. A.Q.10. H. K.Q. J.xxx. D. xx. C. xx. if your partner opened "One Heart"? I doubt it!

So to the last minute reminders to those who have forgotten:- Your annual subscriptions are due and entries for Trophies must be in by November 15th. at the latest. Nuff said?

So many people have asked who is on the Selection Committee, that for general information here are their names:-

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|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Messrs. Eli Fine. | M. Hayes. | T. Bonnyman. |
| F.E. Perry. | J.L. Murray. | |

and of course the President of the Union, Mr. John Fogarty.

All Camrose Trophy matches will probably be played during February/March/April, of next year and we are looking forward to four successful games.

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