

WELSH BRIDGE UNION BULLETIN.

Series 1
Number 11
July 1949

37, Llandennis Avenue,
Cardiff.

Edited by Harold Gould.
All letters, queries, articles, etc.,
to the Editor at the above address.

Phone : Llanishen 701.

.....

Editorial.

As we approach the end of the season, stock must be taken of the year's activities. It has been a busy year, full of incident, but because there are still a few months to go final assessments cannot be accurately made. We can, however, ponder on our completed Camrose Trophy ventures and on the fact that the high hopes entertained early in the season, when our record was Played 1. Won 1. were not borne out by the final reading of Played 4 Won 1.

What happened? That traditional Aunt Sally of all realms of sport, the Selection Committee, have heard hard words spoken, and criticism of their various selections must be considered..... but not here! Suffice it to say that the margins we lost by were not so great, the difference between success and failure was a small one. Furthermore, a number of critics are not quite fair, and let me quote just one example : would the Cardiff advocates (say) of trial matches play in them if they were held in Swansea, or maybe Llandudno? Whilst it must be admitted that Cardiff does boast a number of excellent players, this surely does not indicate that all Trials should be held there? I mention the point as one single example of how easy it is to oversimplify the problems which confront our Selection Committee. The question as to whether a player who will not travel for an away match should be selected for home games I leave to readers to argue amongst themselves.

Be these problems as they may one thing is certain. The Annual General Meeting is still a most democratic affair when all members may have their say. And having said, the body of members will give their fullest loyalty in 1950 to the decisions reached. Apropos the Annual General Meeting, it will most probably be held in September but one important matter is hereby forewarned..... only fully paid up members of the Welsh Bridge Union will be admitted. I do not like to say so, but quite a number of players who ought to have paid their subs. have not. It is still not too late to pay your 10/- per head, and we want as many players as possible to join and have their say. If you are doubtful as to whether the sub. has been paid or not, I shall be only too pleased to enlighten! But please be warned : no pay up, no criticise no vote.

.....

NOTICE FROM THE CAMBRIA CLUB (Cardiff)

OPEN PAIRS RUBBER BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Attention is drawn to all members of the Cambria Club, and the Welsh Bridge Union, of the coming leagues which will be held at the Cambria Club starting September, running throughout the winter season.

- (1) Open Pairs Rubber Bridge League.
- (2) Ladies Afternoon Rubber Bridge League.

These leagues are run for Partnerships, and the more entries we get the bigger the prizes, so it is hoped many entries will flow in. Non-members of the club can play in any of the events for an extra 1/- cover charge, and in time may like to join and become members.

I would like to remind members to watch the Notice Board, as throughout the winter season there will be many new events.

Will members who are interested please enter or send their names to the Club as so much work is involved in getting these leagues together. Do not leave it until September. Drop a line or ring Cardiff 4486.

Entries for the above competition which will commence September, and continue over the winter season, are now invited. This competition will be run on a league basis where every pair will play a match of 5 rubbers against every other pair. Prizes will be awarded to the top places, the number of prizes depending on entries. Competitors will pay into a 'Kitty Fund' the sum of 2/- per pair per match.

Rules governing the competition will be drawn up later. If entries are heavy this competition will be run in two leagues.

If 20 pairs enter, prize money should reach as much as £38 to be divided into the first four places.

A Ladies Afternoon Rubber Bridge league will be run in exactly the same manner only the Kitty Fund will be 1/- per pair per match.

If 20 pairs enter prize money £19 to be divided to the first four places.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of ourselves and the members of thanking Mr. V. Scarle for the time and work he put into the Ladies and Gents Individual Tournaments, which were a great success.

John Ralph.

Cambria Club.

You have all been there before. Declarer, South, playing four spades, wins your opening lead and plays a small club up to five to the K.J. on the table. You sit with ace to three. Probably your correct play is a nonchalant low card, hoping declarer will finesse the knave. But if you hesitate, you are lost: declarer will surely place you with the ace. Now suppose that instead of ace to three you have queen to three. You could have no reason to play other than small and under the present code, it would be a heinous offence to hesitate. Declarer, placing you with the ace, would put up the King and call you all the names under the sun when East took the trick.

Declarer is perfectly entitled to draw information from your behaviour, but if that information is wrong you have behaved unethically.

Now this seems plumb crazy to me. Bridge is a game of skill; and, to my mind, inferences should be drawn from the bids made and the cards played and from nothing else. The code is rightly severe against helping partner in any other way; why then should an opponent be allowed to profit? The answer is, I think, that it would be impossible to rule otherwise. In the case cited above, declarer has, initially, an absolute guess as to whether to play king or knave. Perhaps he was intending to play the king in any case. It would be most unfair, and indeed quite impracticable, to compel him to play the knave simply because your hesitation has shown that the king would be a winner.

But there is, theoretically, a way round the impasse. You could say - "I have no intention of allowing deduction to be drawn from my hesitation. Therefore, I shall take exactly the same time for every bid or play. As it is sometimes necessary to trance for a couple of minutes, that means, of course, that every time it is my turn to perform, I shall produce my stop-watch and there will be a delay of 120 seconds, dead." Now this would obviously kill bridge as a game. But is there any reason why you should not be allowed to say - "I shall normally make my bids and plays quickly. But I reserve the right to trance for a few seconds when there is no need, to prevent you drawing deductions from those other occasions when I have, willy-nilly, to trance". ? None, that I can see. It would improve bridge as a game of pure analytical skill. And it would take away some of the enormous advantage that the expert has over the palooka; for the expert is so steeped in all the standard situations that he rarely has need for a give-away trance.

Perhaps, in self-defence, I had better end by saying that till the code is changed it must be abided by, and that for the time being no one could be more stern than I in prosecution of the unethical trancer.

(This article by Edmund Phillips, the Competition Editor of the Contract Bridge Journal, opens up quite an angle on the "trance". I welcome readers observations on the matter. Ed.)

NORTHERN NOTES.

By: Major W. B. Tatlow.

There is not a great deal to report as far as North Wales is concerned. There is no official "Close Season" for Bridge and we play our favourite game all the year round, but naturally there is not the same high "Tempo" in the Summer as during the Winter.

We had an "invitation Week End" in May -- what with one thing and another the response was not as good as we had hoped for, but it was all very enjoyable and we think our visitors went away pleased. On the Friday night we had a match-pointed competition for the Hospital Cups which are presented to the winners of the North Wales Open Pairs Championship. These Cups have been put up for competition now on five occasions, generally at Congresses, but they have never yet left North Wales, or indeed Llandudno, and although there were some excellent pairs from the "North Western competing, Messrs. Moses and Davies obliged again.

On the Saturday and Sunday eight teams, from Blackpool, Liverpool, Manchester (two) Stafford, Llandudno and Bangor and a mixed team comprising one Blackpool pair and one Llandudno pair played a series of matches for the "Medical Cup" - the North Wales Open Team Championship. This Cup, unlike the Hospital Cups, has never previously stayed in North Wales but this time Mr. S. Moses Llandudno team (S. Moses, P. Davies, Mr. & Mrs. W. Gordon and Mrs. J. E. Austin who played in two matches) were successful. Each team played a match of 16 Boards against each other team, the new International Match Points being used. After five rounds it was possible for any one of the leading six teams to win. Teams with the best chances seemed to be Llandudno (S. Moses), Manchester (B. Franks) and Liverpool (E.L.Figgis) but each of these slipped up and lost a match they were confidently expected to win. The defeat by Bangor, however, was the only mistake the Llandudno team made, so at long last the Medical Cup has found a resting place in North Wales for twelve months at least.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for a Congress at the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno. May 4th. - 8th. 1950, when both these Trophies and numerous other prizes will be up for competition. Put this date in your Diary. We think we have deserved our reputation for putting on popular and enjoyable Congresses and we aim to make 1950 the best ever.

The Flint combined Clubs sent a team to Llandudno in May to play a return match. We had the most pleasant recollection of our visit to Flint earlier in the year and this time our friends, playing very much better than in the first encounter, gave us a real fright and lost by only a very small margin. If only Mr. Gaitskill would give us a drop more petrol we should all like to see them in the North Wales League next year. Perhaps they still can be persuaded? We hope so.

The Llandudno Bridge Club (Payne's Corner House) is open in the evening throughout the summer and they will be pleased to welcome any South Walians on holiday. Please contact me -- Major W. B. Tatlow, 22 Trinity Square, Llandudno. Tel. 6229 or home 6992.

(A number of South Wales players have been to this Club, and without exception have been loud in their praise of the hospitality extended. Major Tatlow really means his invitation, and if any of you are ever in his district you are urged to contact him and he will look after you in really great style. Ed.)

I WAS THERE.

By: Elizabeth Susan.

When Poppa went to the University for Scholars & Sailors on Sunday, June 26th., he took me with him, and although the weather was a little on the warm side I enjoyed seeing something quite out of the ordinary. We arrived late as usual, and Professor Viv Searle was waiting on the doorstep of St. Andrews with a cane in his hand and a look on his face, so Pop nipped smartly in and put the Blame on Uncle Bert who, he said, had spent the time of day telling us of his Killarney experiences, and how he and Aunt Bec had kidded the mad Irish into giving them two prizes at their Congress.

However, into the Lecture Room we went, where the twenty pupils were all standing to attention, clothed in their Sunday best. Uncle Abbie was a centre of attraction, having attired himself in a most magnificent 180 lb. tent neatly pressed and designed to fit like a jacket. Uncle Trevor, not to be outdone, was wearing a jacket of the same material, just as neatly pressed (almost) and shaped to fit like a tent. But enough of fashion notes, the lecturer is waiting.....

The Professor called for his blackboard and easel, and demonstrated to his pupils what knots he wanted them to get into during the afternoon. Nobody understood a word of what he said except my daddy, who is awfully clever but unlucky. The pupils were then neatly taxed, paying money to Uncle Cope with a smile on their faces, and some of them haven't smiled since the day the Ladies team beat them by some 1600 points. They then asked daddy what they were supposed to do next, but they didn't seem to be taking his advice so I went with him to Room 1 and watched him make a mess of every one else's chance of winning the Men's Individual Invitation Competition.

Thirty eight Boards were played in all, and then Prof. Searle and his learned team of assistants retired with a couple of pencils, two pads, a brunette, a book of logarithms, a bottle of smelling salts, a sextant and "The Rules of Solo", emerging about half an hour later to declare Jack Carter the Winner and Jack Cope 2nd. in the "nett" and vice versa in the gross. (Our initials have something to do with this, says Josephine Culbertson). Whereupon Congratulations were offered, and the sailors went home to explain to their wives why they were so late and why they hadn't won, whilst the winners stayed behind to count their money and to cook the results in such a way that they could reasonably be presented somewhere in the Bulletin.

In the meantime Pop took a Poll of Opinion on the whole thing with the following result : --

The first five	declared it to be	95%	skill and	5%	luck.
The second five	" " " "	80%	" "	20%	"
The third five	" " " "	45%	" "	55%	"
The 16th. 17th. 18th	" " " "	10%	" "	90%	"
The 19th. and 20th.	" " " "		ALL LUCK.		

Be that as it may, if I had have been asked I should have said that there is an element of luck, over-riding skill, but the greater the number of hands played the less the percentage of luck.

Witness one hand that poppa dealt himself as follows :

Spades K. 10. 9 Hearts K. 8.
 Diamonds J. 9. 5. 3 Clubs Q. J. 9. 5

Having passed and then hearing his partner call One Heart, Pop found the call of 2 Diamonds. Partner now responds two hearts and here comes the dilemma. The competition is "match - pointed" so the next bid may make the difference between a "top" or "bottom". What would you do? Daddy, of course, did the wrong thing and for the rest of the time heard the plaintive wail of his partner telling one and all of his cold bottom.

Cue bids proved the undoing of some of the scholars. Six tricks by Declarer in a contract of two clubs doubled and redoubled usually indicates no points for that particular hand, so does a final declaration of six hearts when the trump suit ought to be spades! Calls during the bidding of three of a suit to indicate Queen and another are not always understood, but in each of these instances it is happy to record that at least two of the four players at the table can sit back contented, and if half the population is happy it isn't too bad, is it?

However, the boys of St. Andrews did enjoy themselves. Uncle John and Auntie Renee gave them a good spread; the Professor's organisation really was wonderful, being complete even to little fixture lists; the handicap committee provided fair and reasonable assessments; all twenty pupils were provided with numerous excuses as to why they did not do their exercise to perfection; and the prize winners counted their money and found it all there. What else could boys ask for?

::

Result of Men's Invitation Individual Tournament, played at the Cambria Club, Cardiff on Sunday June 26th. 1949.

The placings are based on the nett score. Handicap and handicap final position follow in brackets in that order. For example L.E. J. Carter 171 points (Scr. 2) indicates Scratch handicap, and second place.

1. E. J. Carter 171	(Scr. 2)	2. J. Cope 169	(12. 1st.)
3. A. Schneiden 157	(10. 4)	4. S. Reed 156	(12. 3)
5. J. Evans 155	(8. 5)	6. S. Hoffman 151	(10. 8)
7. A. Stone 150	(Scr. 13)	8. C. Bloom 147	(12. 10)
9. M. Hayes 146	(16. 6)	10. P. Latner 143	(12. 12)
11. H. J. Gould 142	(14. 11)	& L. Leron 142	(20. 6)
13. E. Fine 140	(8. 14)	14. H. Schneiden 138	(8. 15)
15. T.G. Bonnyman 137	(24. 8)	16. V. Searle 133	(8. 18)
17. B. Fligelstone 128	(16. 16)	18. T. M. Williams 127	(10. 20)
19. S. Abrahams 126	(18. 16)	20. I. Cotsen 122	(16. 19)

::

In a match at the Cambria Club a Ladies team of sixteen players captained by Mrs. Lloyd Evans beat a team of Men players captained by V. Searle by some 1800 points over 32 Boards. As a mere man --- nuff said.

::

Elizabeth Susan says the Men's bidding must have been even worse than her spelling. Who ever heard of a dictionary for a Birthday present?

COMPETITION RESULTS.

1. National Trophies.

The Welsh Cup. (Ladies)

WINNERS : Miss McEachran ' s Team. (Cardiff)
RUNNERS UP : Mrs. Rogers' Team (Newport)

Congratulations to the winning team, comprised of Miss McEachran, Mrs. Bonnyman, Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. David. In the final round of the Ladies Welsh Cup, played at the Cambria Club, Cardiff, they beat Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Hando, Mrs. Coulter and Mrs. Taylor on May 11th. by a margin of 2,860 points after a good sporting game. To the runners-up, who incidentally were the holders of the Cup, we say "Hard Lines, and better luck next year."

.....

The Welsh Cup.

Semi-Finals: E. J. Carter (Cardiff) beat D. McAllister (Bridgend)
V. Searle (Cardiff) beat G. Bowring (Swansea)

This competition commenced with a record number of entries and the teams in the Final are E. J. Carter (Capt.) & S. Hoffman, A. Schneiden & H. Schneiden v V. Searle (Cpt)& J. Cope, B. Fligelstone & H. Gould. I am advised that spectators will be welcomed to this 48 Board match.

In the Searle v Bowring match there was a rare struggle, and subsequent investigation of the score cards showed that if the match had been a 32 Board one and not a 36 the Swansea team would have won. The other semi-final was pretty much as close, and it seems only fair to say that any of these four teams might have won the Cup, nor will I be astonished to see one of them win it next year.

.....

The Cambria Cup.

In the semi - final round Mrs. Hando's team will play Mr. Bonnyman's, with an all Swansea tie to determine the other finalist between Mr. Jones and Mr. Murray.

In the quarter finals, Mrs. Hando of Newport gained a walk-over, as Mrs. Jones (Barry) had to "scratch". Mr. Bonnyman beat Mr. Searle, Mr. Jones (Swansea) beat Mr. Carter and Mr. Murray beat Mr. Bowring. May I request early action by the semi-finalists, please?

.....

CAMROSE TROPHY

.....

When Wales played Northern Ireland each team held the same record of having played three matches and won one, but Wales started strong favourites and were generally expected to win by a comfortable margin in this final match of the 1948/9 series. As it turned out Northern Ireland not only won by 1800 points, but showed a superiority in every department of the game and were not unduly flattered by the final score. Time and time again their bidding was more concise and accurate than that of the Welsh team who, although outwardly calm, must have felt more than disturbed when they saw dummy hand laid out before them. Indeed, in one hand ... Board 44... the Welsh pair in one room passed throughout whilst in the other room the opposition bid three No-Trumps which they made comfortably, the aggregate gain to N.I.B.U. being 800 points in this one hand alone.

The Irish team, captained by that well known player Mr. E. Goldblatt, included three players new to International honours. They were J. Green, R.D. Gardiner, and J. McRobert. The other two players, Messrs. Vard and Cohen are so well known in Bridge circles that it came as no surprise to see their consistent steady play. The Welsh team was captained by Mr. Laidlaw Murray (Swansea) and included Messrs. E.J. Carter and H. Schneiden, Mrs. Fletcher and Trevor M. Williams, all of Cardiff, and Dr. Macnair and D.H. Jones of Swansea. Of these, Mrs. Fletcher is the only new International and although any 100 Board Bridge match must be a big strain, Mrs. Fletcher fully justified her inclusion. Indeed, in many of the hands her bidding and play were the one bright spot.

Summing up, one feels that our defeat lay not in the playing out of the cards or in defence, but in bidding. Time and time again players erred in their judgement and one is inclined to wonder if the much played Acol system, so successfully used by the English players and so little played in Wales, should not be given a fair trial next season. Whilst it is true that any of the leading systems should produce the correct final bid, could it be that Acol allows more for the very human mistakes? Behind the scenes, Mrs. Cope recorded and lived up to her reputation of being the best score recorder in the British Isles, Messrs. Cope and Searle attended to the detailed work without any hitch, and Mr. Terry Youren proved a most efficient referee.

.....

In a Ladies Individual Tournament played at the Cambria, of 28 entries the leading players were:

- 1st. Mrs. M. Lloyd Evens.
- 2nd. Mrs. E. J. Carter.
- 3rd. Mrs. David.

I am informed that another Ladies Competition will shortly be held and entries are invited in the usual way.