

WELSH BRIDGE UNION BULLETIN.

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Editorial.

We open the New Year with reasonably bright prospects for the future of the W.B.U. There is a revival of interest in Duplicate Bridge which is all to the good of the game and after a toughish post-war couple of years our chances in the Camrose Trophy Series of International Matches certainly seem a little brighter. Readers might care to make a note of the following fixtures which have been arranged, so that where-ever possible they will be able to attend and lend moral encouragement to the players. The dates and venues have been decided, but fuller details as to hours of play etc. will be made known at a little later date. The matches are:-

v Scotland	at Llandudno	February 19th/20th.
v N. Wales	at Porthcawl	March 5th/6th.
v England	at London	March 26th/27th.
v Eire	at Dublin	April 23rd/24th.

The news that the Cambria Club, Cardiff is to remain open under the management of the present Steward and Stewardess is good news, and has been gladly received by all members. I understand that Capt. Ricardo and Mrs. Morgan will be visiting us frequently which softens the blow of the departure of our good friends to some extent. Various alterations are being made, additional facilities will soon be offered, and if plans materialise (and there seems to be little reason why they should not) the Cambria Club will soon become a Club second to none, London included.

Finally, there is the matter of the Congress. Before the end of the month the Brochures, programme of events and entry forms will be available. You will receive a copy, but if for any reason you do not get one, please do not hesitate to ask. We want as many entries as possible. The Congress Committee are working really hard for your every comfort at Porthcawl, the Hotel charges are most reasonable and we are willing (to the best of our ability) to find you partners for the various events, should you so desire. As you know, this is our very first venture and we do want you, all of you, to come along, if only "to show willing".

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O B I T U A R Y.

It is with the very deepest of regret that we have to announce the death of Florence Lermon, the wife of our old friend Harry Lermon. Florence was well known to all of us and much loved. As a hostess, and we played and visited Harry's "open house" almost weekly, she was second to none and the brave manner in which she bore her illness over so many years was wonderful beyond words. We shall miss her very much indeed and offer our sincerest condolences to Harry, the Children and all her family, and hope they will have many years of trouble free life to compensate them a little for their great loss.

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The hard working Hon. Secretary of the Jewish Institute and Social Club Cards Committee, Mr. Harry Harris, is seeing results for his efforts in the success of their Monday evening features.

During December they defeated a team representing the Cambria Club (8 a-side) by 2,680 points, and decided the Club Pairs Championship (Handicap). The winners in this event were N/S Messrs. J. & S. Belman, E/W Messrs. Felman and Mansfield.

The Club seeks further opposition, and wishes it to be known that they would welcome fixtures for teams of 4, 8 or 12 a-side, any Monday evening. Enquiries direct to Mr. H. Harris, 60, Caerphilly Road, Cardiff.

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The Presentation.

By:- T.J. Bonnyman.

Just before Christmas, all members of the Cambria Club were invited to a farewell party given by Capt. Ricardo and Mrs. Morgan (Tommy & Evelyn) prior to their departure to Worthing, where they are opening, or rather taking over, a well established Bridge Club. On behalf of the members of the Cambria Club, Mr. John Fogarty (President of the Welsh Bridge Union) presented Tommy and Evelyn with a Picnic Case as a token of the respect and esteem in which they are held by all.

Many years ago, in 1929, after a trip to London, Tommy came home with an entirely new form of Bridge which was being played by the then Auction Bridgites. It was known as "Contract" and he called in his intimate friends "to have a go". From this, the very first introduction of Contract to Wales, a Match was arranged between a representative team of Wales in which Tommy played, and a team brought down and Captained by Colonel Buller. As I remember, it was played in the Park Hotel, and was most interesting, the Welsh side being narrowly beaten. From then on, Tommy nursed and fostered Bridge in Cardiff and District, giving lessons and exhibitions in Morgan's, The Hayes; Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson were brought down and gave a very interesting series of Lectures and exhibition games, and then Frank Perry and Tommy in conjunction opened the Cambria Bridge Club in Park Place in September 1934. Here was started Duplicate Bridge and Competitions, and a really flourishing Club resulted, giving pleasure and much enjoyment to a large number of enthusiastic Bridge players.

In 1938 Mr. Perry retired from the management of the Club and Capt. Ricardo and Mrs. Morgan took charge, and early in 1939 the Club moved to St. Andrew's Crescent. Then came the WAR and Tommy for the second time joined up, not in the Army this time, but the Royal Air Force; but Mrs. Morgan carried on with the Cambria Club and in spite of all difficulties of Air Raids, changing conditions, troubles with Staff etc. she stuck it out and never once were the members let down. So you see what we as members of the Cambria Club owe to our Host and Hostess, Tommy and Evelyn:- all those afternoons and evenings' pleasure at the Bridge Table, mixed at times may be, with Tommy feared as an opponent and perhaps more feared as a partner, but pleasure which we shall all miss sorely. As well as the enjoyable competitive bridge which has been a big feature of the Club, always nice and comfortably housed.

So much for the cards. Now for the Man. Tommy has, and will always be, a sportsman in the true sense of the word. He loves all games played in the right spirit. When a boy at Malvern, he set up the record for The Ledbury Run which remained

unbeaten for twenty years; he played for his School Eleven; he played Football for Cornwall; Hockey for Berkshire; and was an outstanding Croquet player. Had it not been for his eyesight, he would have no doubt played Cricket for some County. He was, I always think, the longest hitter of a golf ball and the truest of anyone I ever saw, and when he was on his game he really was grand to watch. He won International honours at Golf (apart from Bridge) and got into the fifth round of the Amateur Championship. It can be said that "For a good golfer he was a grand bridge player" and he loved both games. Apart from his games he is a poet of great ability and those who have read his poems have had many laughs and real enjoyment from them. He is a fund of information in the literary world and he also loves the good things of life, "Wine, Women and Fast Horses", but never grudges asking his friends to join him.

It is all these human virtues and failings making up Tommy that we love so much and which have made him our friend.

We sincerely hope that you, Tommy and Evelyn, will have success and happiness in your venture and we promise you that you have not finished with us yet as "we will be seeing you".

Contract Bridge Reminiscences.

by:- Trevor.M.Williams.
J.P.

My friend the editor has asked me if I would send a contribution to the excellent bulletin which we have enjoyed reading for many months past. I have assumed you would naturally like me to write something about Contract Bridge and my early association with the game, particularly from a competitive point of view, now going back for more years than I care to remember.

My earliest recollection was a match played at Cardiff between Col. Walter Buller's team which included Capt. Ewart Kempson, Mrs. Gordon Evers (one of the most brilliant lady bridge players in the country) and one or two others whose names I have forgotten, and a team which I picked, comprising Simon Rivlin, (Captain) A. Stone, E. Fine, H. Belman, Sam Hauser (familiarily known as "Pyschic Sam") and myself. The match was staged at the Angel Hotel where we had a large and enthusiastic gallery and during the evening, my friend Sir. Robert Webber, came in and welcomed the teams. The stakes were £1 per 100 and the match, which was over 100 boards, was a ding dong one right up to the end, the score being announced after each hand. Up to the 99th board there was very little between the two sides, when an interesting hand came up.

In our room, against Abbie Stone and myself, Col. Buller and his partner bid 3 No Trumps and made, I believe 5. In the other room Simon Rivlin bid the hand up to 6 Diamonds when the call reverted to his partner Sam Hauser who felt - and rightly so - that any pair would be bound to arrive at 6 Diamonds. He argued to himself that if Col. Buller and his partner in our room arrived at the same bid the match was lost for our team. After many minutes of cogitation Sam decided to bid 7 Diamonds. Unfortunately I have forgotten the hand but Simon Rivlin told me afterwards that if the hand had been played from his side, it was probably a make, but poor Sam was one down and as a result we lost the match by 1,100, whereas, if Sam had been satisfied to stop at 6 Diamonds we should have won.

Another friendly match which I well remember, was one staged at the Park Hotel against a team brought down by my friend Hubert Phillips, better known as "Dogberry" of the "News Chronicle". Before that match I issued a friendly challenge to any likely aspirants who would like to play against a London Team and I recall that the only response I received was one from my friend Jack Carter, who at that time was unknown to me. Jack was not such a good player then as he is to-day, but at least although he had only played in more or less domestic bridge, I must hand it to him that he had the courage to challenge a team which at that time was regarded as the best in South Wales, and I will be frank enough to admit that if the other members of his team had been as good as he was, even in those days, we should have had to look to our laurels. On the occasion of that match the reigning Lord Mayor of Cardiff was kind enough to drop in and offer a welcome to the teams. An interesting feature of the match was that in order to give as many players as possible in Cardiff a chance of playing against a first class London team, I got together a team of about 12 players, which gave Hubert Phillips, who is a very humorous speaker, the opportunity of making a very happy retort when replying to the Lord Mayor's welcome to say, "When I promised Trevor Williams to bring down a team to play in Cardiff I little thought we would be expected to play against Cardiff Rugby Club".

Another interesting match I recall was when I took a team to London to play against a team captained by Mr. Bernard Westall, now Managing Director of De-la-Rue, the well-known Manufacturers of Playing Cards. We played at Mr. Westall's office in De-la-Rue's building and a very happy match it was. One of the players against us being Capt. Theodore Instone, a brother of the late Sir. Samuel Instone, other members of the team being Mr. Hubert Phillips, B. Kohnstamm and one or two other well-known players whose names escape me. It was a two day match and the first day was a disastrous one for us, as we were over 5,000 down. On the second day we "pulled our socks up", and one hand will always remain in my memory. It was a hand where Eli Fine and Simon Rivlin bid brilliantly up to 7 Spades. Eli played the hand

and Kohnstamm had to find the lead. He held in his hand King and 2 of Hearts and he led the 2. When the hand went down Eli, who was playing the hand, found in dummy Ace, Queen and one or two other hearts, and if he had played the Queen he could have laid the hand down without troubling for 7 Spades, but he could not afford to finesse the very first card, as if the King had been on his right he was down immediately. After a good deal of hesitation he played the Ace and finally made the hand by a squeeze. We all felt at the time that it was a brilliant lead as any other card would have put Eli out of his troubles immediately. We lost the match by a small margin but we all treasure very happy recollections of that week-end particularly as it was the first "Away" match I or my bridge friends ever remember playing.

I have played matches in many countries on the Continent including Holland, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. In Holland, during the visit of the Cardiff Business Club, my friend Tom John and I were the only two members of the team who had any experience of competitive Contract Bridge. We played before a large gallery and although we lost, we did not disgrace ourselves, and "a good time was had by all". Another enjoyable match which I remember playing was in Paris just before the war, when I took over a team of 4 comprising Simon Rivlin, Jack Belman, Pat Latner and myself. We played against a crack French team at the R.A.C. Club in Paris and we beat them comfortably. They were most hospitable and gave us a banquet at the Club. As we had beaten them at Contract Bridge they asked us whether we would play them at their own game of Plafond. Nothing daunted, we agreed, and in that game they were easily the winners, due largely to the fact that as most of you readers are aware, you score a slam even though you may not call it. In defending a hand, therefore, you have to be very careful not only to try and defeat the contract but to make sure the opponents do not make a slam. One hand which I was defending, where I had two Ace, Queen suits, I naturally did not lead from either of them, and as a result the opponents made a slam.

One of the most enjoyable matches I have ever played on the Continent was against Switzerland during a visit of the Cardiff Business Club in 1947, at the Zurich Bridge Club against a first class Swiss team. To be perfectly frank it was more of a social event than a serious Bridge Match and was one of those occasions where we enjoyed such lavish hospitality, that the whole of the members of the team were not sorry to have lost. Mr. Nebel, the President of the Zurich Bridge Club who is a wealthy Swiss Manufacturer entertained us to a 7 course banquet prior to the match and after the match we were again entertained to a sumptuous supper which commenced just before mid-night and which was followed by a Cabaret specially engaged for the occasion. The whole of the members of the team were presented with a happy Souvenir of the occasion.

So far I have written of past events all of them enjoyable and of which those taking part treasure happy memories. Now may I put in a word for a future event and that is the first Welsh Open Bridge Congress to be held at Porthcawl the first week-end of March. The Committee, comprising F. J. Gould, Maxwell Hayes, J. Ludlow Murray, J.P., Frank Perry and myself with John Fogarty as President are working very hard.

Major. Basil Tatlow is Tournament Director assisted by Mr. H.D. King of the English Bridge Union. We have prepared a very attractive brochure which we hope to issue very shortly. The Managements of the Seabank and Esplanade Hotels, where the events will be staged, have met the Committee very well and are quoting special Congress terms. We anticipate a very large attendance including competitors from all parts of the British Isles, and some of the leading figures in British Bridge. The Honorary Secretary is Mrs. H.J. Gould who is unsparing in her efforts day and night to make the Congress a success.

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JOTTINGS.

All South Wales Bridge players will be interested to know that the Cambria Club, Cardiff, is to remain open with the present Steward and Stewardess in charge. The Club will be open daily from 2.30 p.m. till mid-night, with the exceptions of Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Duplicate, partnership, and matches will be arranged in accordance with the wishes of the members, and I am also informed that teams wishing to play off matches will be accommodated whenever possible. Enquiries direct to the Cambria Club, please.

The E.B.U. Congress is being held at Harrogate January 29th, 30th and 31st. Anyone interested applying to me will receive fuller details on request.

Could I remind readers once again that the annual subscription to the W.B.U. is 10/-d. per year. Many of you have paid up, but many are still in arrears. We do not aim to make a large profit, but obviously we need the cash to pay current expenditure, so if this paragraph applies to you, please send along the 10/-d. without delay.

"Renee" and "Josephine" and "John"(of the Cambria Club) wish to thank all those who so generously subscribed to their Christmas Box. They also wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

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THE TWO CLUBS SYSTEM.

By: W.H. Ricardo.

Have you ever seen anyone take a ten pound note out of his pocket and throw it in the fire? Well, I have, and this is how it happened.

My partner, vulnerable, opened with a bid of 2 clubs. He had arranged to play the strong two, but that is immaterial to the issue, as from my hand it looked to me that he had forgotten, and was still playing the 2c system which he usually plays.

This was my hand:-

S.	K.J.x.x.
H.	A.x.x.
D.	x.x.
C.	Q.J.x.x.

A very strong hand you will admit in response to a 2 club opening, and I replied 2 spades. He now bid 3 diamonds and I took the bull by the horns, and bid 4 No Trumps. His reply was 5 spades (Blackwood) and I then said 6 spades which was passed all round.

This was his hand:-

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

Would you be surprised at the contract failing to make by four tricks, the player on my left holding six spades to the Queen, 10 and no diamonds, also a few hearts to the K.Q? The King of Hearts was opened, and how would you play it chums?

The ridiculous part in the hand by my friend, is his second bid of **three** diamonds. All he should be interested in is whether I have the Ace of Hearts and one King, and his second bid should be 4 no trumps. Having got a five D reply, five no trumps, next for Kings gets a 6D response, and his next bid, should be seven no trumps. It is very simple, and yet these big hands so confuse the ordinary player, that they cannot grasp the value of their hands.

Actually a positive reply over a two club must denote an Ace and a King, so he could have saved himself a great deal of anxiety by going straight to seven no trumps after the first reply of two spades, to his 2 club bid. Why he should put out a 3 diamond bid is impossible to imagine, or what he understood by my 4 NT bid. Could I have six spades to the oomph and five Hearts

to the zymph, or did he even try to look beyond his eight diamonds to the back yard concrete slabs?

Fifteen tricks in No Trumps and 4 down in six spades. All this at 5/- per 100, so now can you see the tenner disappearing in the smoke up the chimney?

It could only happen to the 2C system, and an unimaginative player at that. Give it to Wibbie Gee and Elizabeth Susan to bid and a seven contract is landed in two twists of a lamb's tail, When anyone asks me to play the two club, I wish to commit Mayhem or Arson, fiddling about here and fiddling about there and ending in an unspeakable contract.

"YES DEAR".

by: Palooka.

"One down, darling, sorry."

"Why for goodness sake, did you bid the grand slam, if you could not make it?" She took the travelling score slip out of the envelope and continued; "Three pairs have played this hand already. None bid the seven but each of them made the small slam. A bottom up to now, and a bottom it will remain."

"But darling," I replied, "there are still 6 pairs to play the hand and some of them might bid the seven and go light, just as I did. Perhaps even doubled, then it won't be a bottom."

"Don't talk silly. What's the difference between sharing a bottom or getting 2 or 3 match points. The pairs who will bid the grand slam will make it, because it's a laydown as the cards are distributed. Had you made it, we could share the top, but now....."

The bell rang and we had to move to the next table. "Remind me after the contest to show you what a palooka you are," was her final thrust.

Only readers who are used to playing with their wives in bridge competitions will understand my incompetence for the rest of the evening. I overbid and underbid; I misplayed the hands in attack and defence, and we finished last but one.

We arrived home after midnight. Till then she had been quiet, but I knew, she would start again. I felt somewhat uneasy. She is recognised in bridge circles as a good player and on top of it, she is my wife! I thought it over and over again, but I could not find the way to make "seven". In my thoughts I admitted the overbid, but

not the possibility of making the contract.

There was no need to remind her. As soon as the light was on, she took a pack of cards and reconstructed the hand, as follows:-

She

S. A.x.x.x.
H. A.x.x.x.
D. J.10.9.
C. K.x.

S. K.Q.J.x.
H. Q.x.x.
D. x.x.x.
C. x.x.x.

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

Me.

S. x.
H. x.x.
D. A.K.Q.x.x.
C. A.Q.J.x.x.

And now the thunderstorm began. "Look," she said, "nobody wants to play with you, you're such a rabbit, so I had to be the victim again. Worse luck, you held the South hand. Without interference by opponents the bidding went, you as dealer:-

Your Bids.

1. Diamond.
2. Clubs.
3. Clubs
3. No Trumps
4. Diamonds.
5. Hearts
7. Diamonds.

My Bids.

1. Spade.
2. Hearts.
3. Diamonds.
4. Clubs.
4. No Trumps /Blackwood/
6. Diamonds.

"Now why were you so optimistic."

"Well darling, you bid so strongly, I could expect to get rid of my losing heart on either your King of Spades or Hearts, which I had reason to place with you. Besides, I saw an alternative chance of discarding your hearts on my clubs to ruff my second heart with dummy's trump. Agreed?"

"Yes I agree. But now we come to the point. First of all, my bidding was sound, and secondly, you could have made your contract."

"No, dear I could not. And if you can show me how to make it even with 52 cards faced upwards, I shall buy you the new hat you asked for."

"Watch carefully", she said, "Provided the diamonds in opponents hands are divided 3 : 2 (which was actually the case) the contract cannot be lost. The King of spades is led, which you take with the Ace and ruff a small spade with your Ace of trumps. Cross to dummy with a small diamond and ruff a spade again with your King of trumps. Enter dummy with a small trump again, and ruff the last spade with your diamond Queen. Now enter dummy either with a club or heart and discard on your jack of diamonds your losing heart. Shall I carry on?"

"No dear, I can follow now, and I am sorry for the misfortune."

"The only misfortune was that you had the hand, and now, please give me the money for the new hat."

"Yes Dear."

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COMPETITORS CORNER.

The following results for the first round are to hand:-

Mr. S. Reed v Mr. P. Scarfi.....Mr. Reed's team won by 1,810 points.

Mr. A.J. Rees v Mr. G.T. Needham.....Mr. Rees' team won by 200 points.

Information regarding the Webber Cup and Cambria Cup will be forth-coming in the course of the next week or so.

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ERRATUM.

On page two of the Bulletin credit for winning the Club pairs championship (Handicap) of the Jewish Club has been given to Messrs. J. & S. Belman. This should read Messrs. J. & H. Belman.

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