

WELSH BRIDGE UNION BULLETIN

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Cardiff.

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Edited by Harold Gould.

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

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Contents include:-

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Editorial.

The team to represent Wales in their Camrose Trophy match against England will be T.G. Bonnyman (non playing Captain); E.J. Carter and Trevor M. Williams; J. Cope and V. Searle; S. Hoffman and A. Schneiden. The referee will be T. Youren and the match is arranged to take place at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff on December 10th/11th, 1949. There will be three sessions: at 2.45 p.m. and 8.0 p.m. on Saturday and at 2.45 p.m. on Sunday and the admission charge will be 2/6d per session. It is hoped there will be a large attendance and all are welcome, whether members of the W.B.U. or not. The English team has not yet been completed, but the four already selected are Messrs. Konstam and ~~MATHIAS~~; Terence Reese and Shapiro, surely one of the strongest teams England could play.

In view of the fact that the Welsh team has been selected, I feel it would hardly be fair to deal with Mr. Carter's most interesting letter point by point, but I would welcome replies from readers indicating whether they agree with what he says or not. But, speaking in a general strain, I personally still maintain that I should rather see Wales represented by a "winning" team that a team of what the late "Skid" Simons so happily named "Unlucky Experts". Although my original suggestion applied only to the first Camrose match I suggest now that if the Final of the Welsh Cup has been played off before the last International match has taken place, then that team, chosen "en bloc", should be given its chance. It may well lose - so may any other selected, but at least the Selection Committee will be working on facts and not on nebulous theories of the talents of players against whom they so seldom play, or see playing.

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The problem of assembling the material for this Bulletin is not so difficult, although I wish enthusiasts would give me a few more articles - particularly Regional news. What is a headache, however, is the stencilling and reproduction on to paper of indifferent quality. Are there any of us connected with the printing trade who would volunteer to do the job at a low price? I am afraid that it will be a low price until our funds improve, but I should welcome advice on this point from any knowledgeable reader.

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"The Basic"  
by Pablo Scarfi.

Author of "Basic Contract Bridge"  
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The "Basic" is not just another system, but as its name implies, the blending of the salient points of the most well known and accepted systems.

Culbertson, Barton, and Blackwood are the basis from which the system emerges: the mixture mixes well, it is easy to understand and remember, it is at least as accurate as any of the above three, and certainly more than many others.

We use One of a Minor as a double edged weapon: that is, with the first bid we announce the strength and pattern of our hand, whilst the first reply will tell us what scope there is for going to game or more, or whether we must be satisfied with a part score.

Since One of a Minor is the strong point of the system, I might as well, in spite of the limitations of space, give an outline of its working.

One Club as an opening bid, and from whichever position it is made, carries the following story: I have more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  H.T., my hand is balanced, I have not a 5-card Major biddable suit, and I wish to play this hand at No Trump if possible. Let me hear from you.

The reply of One Diamond shows less than 2 H.T., hence the opener will bid One No Trump, which is quite a safe contract when you hold over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  H.T. and the opposition has kept quiet: but if the opponents interfere with a bid in between, the responder can still enter the bidding in the next round if he has as little as 1 H.T. available.

When the reply to One Club is one of any suit, or 2 Clubs, the implication is as follows: I have 2 H.T. or more. This is my best suit which I intend to rebid if it is a 5-card, otherwise I will bid my next best, and if I cannot do either of these things I will raise your No Trump bid to 2 as a sign off from my side.

Here a game is in sight, and we are still down at the level of one. We know the minimum combined strength and we shall have no difficulty whatever in finding the best fit.

At this stage any interfering bid by the opponents can be doubled for penalties.

Again, assuming the reply is 2 of a suit, or 3 Clubs, the inference here is as clear as daylight: My hand is well above the 2 H.T. required for a positive reply. We have a sure game, and possibly a Slam: here is my best suit.

The opening bid of One Diamond is an elaboration of the same principle. It says, in effect, as follows: I have the H.T. strength for One of a Minor bid and I have a good 5-card suit which I will announce as soon as I hear from you.

Responder will bid his suit if he has one, and provided he holds a minimum of 2 H.T. With less than that he will bid One No Trump, and although this bid denies the possession of 2 H.T., it does not rule out the possibility that he may re-enter the bidding as soon as he knows his partner's best suit, or to counteract any interference from the opposition. In this case, even after a negative reply, a game contract is not entirely out of the question.

The replies to One Diamond are pretty well the same as stated for the bid of One Club. The basic difference is that as a negative you reply One No Trump, since the Diamond opening clearly indicates the desire to play the hand at a suit declaration.

This bid of One of a Minor is absolutely forcing for the first round, even, of course, if we have 90 on score.

The question I am often asked is this: "What are you going to do when you have a genuine One Club or One Diamond call?"

This question seems natural enough, and I hope that my answer will clear the point.

With  $3\frac{1}{2}$  H.T. only I bid One No Trump. With anything over that, I bid 2 of my minor suit and to the latter my partner will reply normally, as if replying to one of a major. If my partner has to pass, and I am left in it, I am still in the best spot. If I go down, my opponents have missed a better contract.

Since all the rest of the system is almost common practice among approach forcing players, the fact that we open with 2 of a Minor on certain hands, has been the cause of some controversy, but strangely enough the argument put forward is not to the effect that the bid is in any way unsound, but that our opponents will confuse a 2 Diamond call with a two bid of the Culbertson system.

The remedy here is very simple: LEARN BASIC BIDDING.

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PALOOKA - PALOOKA

by Major W.B. Tatlow

It is the experts who get the limelight but it is the rank and file who keep the game alive. Henry Cotton and Dai Rees receive, and rightly so, many columns a year in the papers about their powers and performances, but there are hundreds, nay thousands, of handicaps 16 - 24 golfers to every Cotton and Rees and if this were not so then Cotton and Rees and others like them would not exist.

As in Golf so in Bridge - for every Harrison Gray or Jack Carter there are thousands of players quite happily at home or in their Club. Many have never played duplicate, some not even ever heard of it; and to them "squeezes", "end plays" and "Coups" of all kinds, just don't exist. Even in the bigger Clubs there are lots of players who just haven't got a chance. They win sometimes but must be enormous losers

on balance, because of their inferior skill. Yet all the articles in the Bridge Magazines and in the general press are for the expert. A profound and learned dissertation on squeezes or on the finer shades of meaning attached to some of the more intricate bidding sequences by the Masters is most interesting to the slightly better-than-average player who aspires to greater heights, but it does not mean a thing to the "palooka". What he wants is an A.B.C. primer not a treatise on higher mathematics. So here goes to try and state a few obvious facts which really everybody knows but does not apply.

Most people these days know the Milton Worth Count  $A = 4$   $K = 3$   $Q = 2$   $J = 1$  and more and more people count their hand before making an opening bid; which they will not do on less than 12 - 13 points at least, and they won't respond without 6 or 7. But how many palookas really use the information as to the count of their partner's hand and their own in the higher strata of bidding?

The first point is to realise that there are 40 points in the pack and that given normal distribution it requires 25 - 26 in the combined hand to make game at "No Trump", it needs almost the same for 4 of a Major with a good trump suit and slightly more if the trumps are diamonds or clubs. Once you have realised this, everything becomes easier. Suppose your partner deals and you hold  $AJX$ ,  $Q$   $10XX$ ,  $KX$ ,  $QJXX$  - not a very enticing selection but once you have him open the bidding with 1 H or 1 S you know at once that even if he has opened on a minimum, game is probable; and if he has opened on a maximum or near max. you may be in the slam zone - so it does not matter what system you are playing you just make a bid he cannot pass and see what happens. If he makes an encouraging bid, do a spot of encouraging yourself. Whereas if he makes a negative minimum response indicating that his hand is a minimum then you just bid game in No Trump or in his suit as you think best. The point is, if you can trust his first bid then you want to be in a game Contract at least.

I could give heaps of similar examples - for instance you hold  $S.KXX$ ,  $H.KXXX$ ,  $D.KX$ ,  $C.XXXX$  and the bidding has gone 1 C. from partner 1 H. from you, 2 NT. from partner or even 1 S, 2 H, 2 NT, a good partner is guaranteeing 16 points by his 2 NT response so you know that your 3 K's make 25 in the two hands and again you want to be in a game. Other bidding sequences mean different things and it all depends on your partners and your system. Once you can add your own count to your partners advertised minimum to make 25 - 26 points you want to be in game and you must take steps to see the bidding does not stop until you are. In the same way if the Combined count comes to 31 - 32 you want to investigate a slam and are interested in "Controls", and if it does not then you are not (or should not be) interested. It does not follow that because you have 26 points you both make a game or if you have 32 you will make a slam. Many a time I have seen hands go down in a game with 28 - 29 points and other hands make 3 NT's with only 19 to 20. I saw a hand only the other night with only 21 points in the two hands and 5 Hearts was called. If opponent makes the normal lead from his hand, seven hearts is unbeatable; but those hands are freaks, with 25 points I want to be in game and with 32 I want to be in a slam if Controls are O.K. whether I make the Contract or not.

It is so easy if our palooka will just remember these simple facts:

40 points	=	1 pack
10 "	=	Average Hand
12-13 "	=	Better than average (open the bidding)
16 "	=	Good - Hand
22 "	=	Whale of a hand - A.K. or Q.J. from partners and game in something should be on (open forcing two or two clubs)
25 " in two hands	=	Enough for game in N.T. or in a Major distribution being suitable.
31/32 points in two hands	=	In the slam zone - a small slam should be there or thereabouts if Controls are held, but investigate to make absolutely sure that the missing 8 points are not two aces.

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NORTHERN NOTES by

MAJOR W.B. TATLOW.  
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The bridge season does not start quite so early in North Wales as it does in the industrial centres because a very large number of our members are engaged directly, or indirectly, in the holiday industry, which means that they cannot take their own holidays until the "season" is over. October and even the first part of November is, therefore, a very dead month so far as locals are concerned, and we do not really get going until the middle of November.

Arrangements have now been completed for the North Wales League and two new teams have joined. It has been decided, therefore, to restrict the matches to one match between each two teams, either home or away, and not two as in former years. The Fixture List has been drawn up and at the time of writing these notes, is in the hands of the respective Captains. The first matches are due to take place on the 23rd November.

The North Wales Area has this year been accepted in the North Western Contract Bridge Association Inter-Area League. These matches are between Teams of Eight and consist of home and away matches with five other areas, Blackpool and the Fylde including Preston, Southport, Bolton district, Manchester Area and the Liverpool Area. These matches do entail a considerable amount of travelling and for that reason it has been considered impractical heretofore for North Wales to compete; but, with the goodwill of the other areas, we are giving it a trial. After all, we have to travel five times to the Lancashire Area whereas each of the other areas only has to travel to us once, so if we are willing to do it they should not grumble. Up to the time of writing we have played two matches; away to Manchester and home to Southport, and I regret to say have lost them both. We were compelled by circumstances, particularly holidays, to take rather a scratch side to Manchester and as they had a very experienced and seasoned team in the field, we hardly expected to win. We did, however, hope to do better against Southport. We were almost at full strength. At any rate the Selection Committee had practically every well known pair in the area available with one exception, and the result that we were

beaten by some 4,000 odd points, even remembering it was teams of eight and not teams of four, was disappointing. However, we hope for better things next time.

North v. Scotland. We are very pleased to note that this year this match is to be a full length one of 100 boards under Camrose Trophy conditions, and that our friends in the South have accepted the date of January 7th-8th, 1950. It is our turn in the North to stage the match this year, and we are taking the opportunity of using it for propaganda purposes in a new area. Wrexham Bridge Club has just joined the Association and they have agreed to stage the match in Wrexham at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel. Judging by the telephone calls I am receiving, they appear to be putting a great deal of enthusiasm into this and we are looking forward to a very pleasant week-end. Incidentally, the South Wales team will have some 50 or 60 less miles to travel.

Blackpool. The North Western Contract Bridge Association's Annual Congress is taking place at Blackpool this coming week-end (November 18th-20th) North Wales will be well represented. Seven teams from this area have been entered for the major Teams of Four Event, and there are several other players going to play in the ordinary Pairs and other events. I hope to be able to record some successes in our next issue.

Second Welsh Bridge Congress. At a meeting of the Council of the Welsh Bridge Union, held immediately after the Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that the Congress at Llandudno, for which I have already taken the Imperial Hotel for the week-end May 4th-8th, should be adopted as the Second Official Welsh Bridge Union Congress, and that arrangements for the organisation should be left in the hands of the North Wales Association. These arrangements are now proceeding and the brochure will be available early in the new year. We hope that a very large contingent from South Wales will make the journey. We can promise them a very good time.

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### EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

As most of you know, the European Championships will be held in Brighton during the week June 4th - 11th, 1950 and it is estimated the cost of staging the tournament will be in the neighbourhood of £3,000. The Council of the British Bridge League are therefore requesting donations, which they feel may range from 2/6d upwards, so that the reception and facilities offered will be worthy of Great Britain. If any readers care to make a contribution I shall be very pleased to accept same for onward transmission to the B.B.L. feeling sure the Welsh Bridge Union members would like to do their bit to help European Bridge in general. Club secretaries in particular, please note.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

27th October, 1949

Dear Mr. Gould,

Your open letter in the October Bulletin calls for a reply because of the contentious nature of the suggestions contained therein. With the approval of the duly appointed Selection Committee, I propose to deal seriatim with the queries raised:-

(1) Criticism there will always be of any team selected, because, since the War, Wales has had a lean time due to the retirement of so many of our pre-war stalwarts and of the lack of progression of our younger and less experienced players. It appears to me that a number of them are too full of theory, most of which is unproved, and too argumentative when a hand has 'gone wrong' through lack of knowledge of the finger points of the game.

I hear so often the statement - "If X had been 'there' instead of 'here', my card reading would have been correct", and then, instead of taking the lesson to heart, they endeavour to prove that they were justified in their play, often-times before a word of criticism has been launched in their direction. A clear case of 'getting in' first.

(2) The suggestion that four members of winning teams in our 'National' competitions should be automatically selected for the first international match of any season, must be unsound in theory, owing to the contour of Wales which limits entries for such competitions to the Southern Area. What of the North Wales Area? Do you suggest that competitions held there should be given National status, and merit points in ratio?

The main objection to your scheme is that our best players may not be able to play in National Competitions, or may play with their friends in weak teams with no hope of winning, and not caring whether they win or lose, provided they have carried out their obligation to the W.B.U. You must not forget that every entry for our competitions means more money for the W.B.U.

I agree with early selection of teams for the purpose of practice and formulation of tactics, but these are not new suggestions, and when time permitted, have been scrupulously carried out, both prior to and after the War.

Your suggestion regarding reserve pairs, has, in the main, been observed by the selection Committee.

In pre-war days a team composed of the following - A. Stone, S. Rivlin, E. Fine, P. Latner, T.M. Williams, H. Belman, D. McAllister and myself, could be relied upon to give a very good account of themselves against any of the countries.

Have you players comparable to those today? I think the answer is NO, but on the other hand, there are a number of players who in time will be quite as good, provided they tackle in the proper way the problems of equipping themselves as Bridge players.

There are however a number of fundamental difficulties to be overcome, and it might not be out of place to state some of the difficulties experienced by the Selection Committee, viz; the reluctance of good players to travel to away games, particularly when some of the selected players are regarded by them (the good players) as not being good enough to provide a winning team; the inability of players to travel away although the majority of them consider they should be selected to play in home games; the expense involved to players in playing in these international games; the criticism players have to endure when their judgment has been faulty or they have been unlucky; the general apathy of players towards the international games, coupled with their vociferous disapproval of players selected who are willing to spend their time and money in travelling and who do their best, meagre though that may be; and the complete lack of national spirit of so many of our players. Selection to play for one's country is the highest honour the game can bestow, and although, through a variety of reasons since the War, this honour has become dimmed, it is within our power to make it shine as brightly as it shone prior to the War.

As you are aware, trials are taking place, the results of which will be known only to the Selection Committee, and an endeavour is being made to repair the damage which we have sustained. This repair can be secured, only with the co-operation and loyalty of our players.

You can be assured that the Selection Committee, which you helped to appoint, will perform its difficult tasks to the best of its ability, and with scrupulous impartiality. I suggest that no such body can do more.

I should like to give you a list of the attributes to be possessed by a player of international rank:-

A sound technical knowledge of the game; a good technique at the table; a 'flair' for the game quite distinct from 'hunches' which can be misleading; good table manners; sociability, because after all one is presumed to be a typical representative of one's country; a temperament which can absorb disaster without affecting one's play; and finally good health, because these games impose a great strain upon one's physique.

In conclusion I should like to thank all those players who have travelled to away games at great inconvenience, often-times knowing that they are going to receive a 'licking' before the game begins. At least they have a spirit which all must admire.

Yours sincerely,

E.J. CARTER.



Dear Sir,

The first international of the Welsh Bridge Union against the Scotch Bridge Union has been played, and the result rather deflated the hopes of Welsh Bridge Players.

In analysing this game let no player try and blame another, and above all do not try and suggest that any player is free from blame.

It has, in all reports of Bridge International Matches, been the custom for one or two from Cardiff to put the onus for losing upon a player or players from anywhere but at home, whereas if an analysis of the hands were made by an impartial critic, it would be surprising how much fault is upon the Cardiff players.

On no occasion has praise been given to any player outside Cardiff when a report has been made, and more often than not one person is given all praise.

If there is one general failing in Welsh Bridge it is the system of bidding which is generally adopted in East Wales. It has lost numerous matches and has caused players to play in wrong suits and contracts.

Generally it is the wish of all members that some method be found of improving the Welsh Team, and to arrive at this end the best motto is "Correct your own mistakes before finding fault with others."

WEST WALES CRITIC  
(Swansea)

(Editor's Note: In the match v Scotland the only Cardiff player in the team was Mr. E.J. Carter. As a keen student of the game, he would, I feel sure, welcome any tips as to where he is going wrong in his bidding.)

Dear Sir,

At the last annual meeting of the Central Bridge Club of Newport, it was unanimously decided to adopt the "Basic Convention" as the official system of bidding for its members.

An outline of the "Basic" has been printed and distributed to all players, and this is also available to any player who cares to apply for it.

Club Secretaries may have a supply free of charge.

In both cases application should be made to the Publisher, W.D. John, M.A. B.Sc., 33, Fairbairn Terrace, Newport, Mon.

Yours faithfully,

W.D. John.

SCOTLAND versus WALES

by E.J.Carter

It is not my intention to give a report on the recent Match against Scotland, when we were defeated by a better team by 4,400 points and 48 match points.

Incidentally it may not be generally known that Camrose Trophy Matches will, from this time forward, be decided by International Match Points, awarded on the result of each board, on the following scale:-

<u>Difference on Board</u>	<u>I.M.P.</u>	<u>Difference on Board</u>	<u>I.M.P.</u>
0 - 10	0	1000 - 1240	8
20 - 60	1	1250 - 1490	9
70 - 130	2	1500 - 1990	10
140 - 210	3	2000 - 2490	11
220 - 340	4	2500 - 2990	12
350 - 490	5	3000 - 3490	13
500 - 740	6	3500 - 3990	14
750 - 990	7	4000 - and over	15

I wish to point a moral from Board No. 85, given hereunder:-

Dealer South:

Love All:

		N		
		S.A. 10 $\overline{x}$ x x		
		H. 8 x x		
		D x x x		
		C Q x		
	W			E
S J	$\overline{9}$ 8 x			S x $\overline{x}$
H x				H A K J 10
D K J	10 x x			D A Q x x
C x x x				C A x x
		S		
		S K $\overline{Q}$		
		H Q 9 x x x		
		D x		
		C K J 10 $\overline{x}$ x		

In room 1 Wales were N.S. and the bidding was as follows:-

S		W		N		E
1 $\overline{C}$		$\overline{-}$		1 $\overline{S}$		Dble.
2 H		$\overline{-}$		$\overline{-}$		$\overline{-}$

South made 8 tricks for a score of 110, less 100 honours to East.

In room 2 Wales were E.W. and bid 3 no trumps, a very fine contract. The declarer was West and North led his fourth highest spade taken by the King of Spades, followed by the Queen of Spades by South and then the Jack of Clubs. The declarer for some unknown reason after scoring 5 Diamond tricks took the Heart finesse and was one down.

The moral of this hand is that West played automatically and wrongly. The lead of the Jack of Clubs at trick 3 solved the Spade distribution as 5 in the North hand and 2 in the South hand whilst the discard by South to the second Diamond lead showed that originally he had 10 Hearts and Clubs.

West's correct play was to refuse the club at trick 3 even although overtaken by North because if North had then played the Ace of Spades the Jack in West's hand would have given him 9 tricks. The second Club lead should have been taken with the Ace, 5 Diamond tricks taken and both North and South discards carefully observed. The position at the 9th trick would have been:-

	N		
	S A		
	H x x x		
	D -		
	C -		
W			E
S J			S -
H x			H A K J
D -			D -
C x			C x
	S		
	S -		
	H Q x x		
	D -		
	C K		

West would have then have exited with a Club and South would have been compelled to lead into the Heart tenace and 3 No trumps would have been Made.

In international or even good club bridge the play is quite normal provided the declarer possesses the ability to count up to 13, and this count should proceed automatically from the first card led so that the distribution of the opposing hands becomes obvious without the necessity of sitting back in one's chair and seeking inspiration from the ceiling.

N.B. Why do so many players, either as declarer or defender, look toward the ceiling when they are in trouble?

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Problem for the Rule Makers

The other night one of our better known players opened 2 No-trumps and partner with S. JXXXXX called 3 spades. Opener now bids 4 N.T. and not thinking, perhaps, partner calls 5 spades. Opponents query "Are you playing Blackwood?"

There are 3 aces in the "Big" hand - what should be answer? Answers to Pontypridd, please.

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Cardiff Section

Mrs. Ungar versus Miss McEachran  
 Mrs. Hando " Mrs. Cope

Swansea Section

Mrs. Cullis versus Mrs. Addenbrooke  
 Mrs. McNair " Mrs. Mills

WELSH CUP

Cardiff Section

S. Hoffman versus Mrs. Hando  
 W.A. Rees " J. Close  
 V. Searle " Bye  
 T.G. Bonnyman " Bye  
 E.J. Carter " S. Abrahams

Swansea Section

G. Bowring versus Emlyn Lewis  
 J.L. Murray " Bye  
 M. Hayes " Mrs. McDonald

CAMBRIA CUP

Cardiff Section

Mrs. Hando versus J. Cope  
 J. Boalch " S. Hoffman  
 T.G. Bonnyman " W.A. Rees  
 H. Gould " Bye  
 E.J. Carter " Bye

Swansea Section

Emlyn Lewis versus Bye  
 Mrs. Cullis " H.D. Jones  
 G. Bowring " J.L. Murray

The above draw was made on Wednesday 16th November, 1949, by Mr. Emlyn Lewis, President of the Welsh Bridge Union. Team Captains are requested to contact each other as soon as possible so that the second round may be drawn for at the earliest possible date.