

WELSH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Series. 2.
Number. 3.
February 1950.

37, Llandennis Avenue,
Cardiff.

Edited by Harold Gould.

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

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Editorial

When I started our Bulletin some 18 months ago I thought all I need do was to assemble articles and post customers the finished production. Alas for my hopes! So many of you spend so much time discussing interesting points and so few will write a short article. Now the position is this - no material no Bulletin. For my part I'm very happy doing my share; but more articles - please - especially from those of you who have promised something but have not fulfilled their good intention.

With the season half over two Camrose Matches have been played and both lost by margins of over 50 International Match Points. These disappointing results should be analysed and the reasons for failure sought.

Quite a few well known players attribute our failure to Welsh bidding systems. It appears many of us use out moded, cumbersome systems, they say, and certainly the much experienced English Team employed bidding sequences which appeared crisper and more concise than ours. Many consider "Blackwood" is used far too frequently. All too often the response does not help at all because there are "voids" to be considered. This much can be said; a trial of other bidding systems should be seriously thought about and the experiment would not prove costly. Joining my place in the sheep, I await guidance (in letter form for the next issue of the Bulletin) from the "masters".

The match between North Wales and South Wales for the Frank Perry Shield resulted in a draw, so South Wales retain the Trophy for another year. In point of fact the South team had an aggregate of 2 International Match Points more than the North who had held the lead for most of the game. The selectors made only one change in the team which lost to England and to my mind lost an opportunity of making what might have proved a useful guide to future Camrose matches. Withal, North Wales are to be congratulated on an excellent performance and I am told that their arrangements at Wrexham were perfect.

The next International match will take place at Llandudno, versus the C.B.A. of Ireland, on April 29th - 30th. This is just prior to the Llandudno Congress so enthusiasts may like to take a real busman's holiday by being there. Further details will appear in our next issue.

AN IDEAL BRIDGE CONGRESS

By Major W.B. TATLOW

Very few weeks go by during the Congress Season from say September to May without some Congress or other seeking to attract Bridge "Fans" from all parts of the Country. These Congresses differ in many ways - some appeal to one lot of players and some to another. What are the ideal points at which to aim in organising a Congress? I suggest they are as follows:-

1. Locality. A holiday resort with natural beautiful surroundings, where the visitor can enjoy the hours not spent at the card table. It should also be a locality where there is a flourishing Club with members who are willing to undertake the many duties which will help the Organiser and Tournament Director and, moreover, who will form the basis of the various events, particularly the daily "Open Pairs". It should enjoy a good train service and be easily get-at-able.
2. Venue. A comfortable hotel where the majority of the visiting competitors can stay. Good Beds, First class food at a reasonable price. The card rooms should be well furnished, the ideal (never fully realised) being an arm chair for every player.
3. Time of Year. Opinions differ. My idea is between Easter and Whitsuntide. The Holiday resorts and Hotels are glad to have you and the weather can be very pleasant.
4. Duration. It is almost impossible to devise a programme to suit everybody. The principal item to decide is the duration of the Congress. There are several schools of thought:-
 - (a) The very (?) busy man, who really cannot spare the time to attend Congresses but who might be able to spare Saturday morning! His idea is that if the Congress is held somewhere where he can get to in two-three hours, that it should start on a Friday night and end on a Sunday night - he then tells himself he has not been away from business at all!!
 - (b) The man or woman who cannot get away very often but when he or she likes to make it a worthwhile trip. If they are going to travel 100/200 miles to a Congress they want something more than 5/6 sessions - at the same time persuading themselves they have only been away from business for a long week-end! Something like Thursday evening to Monday evening will just suit them. 8/9 sessions of Bridge with a bit of a jollification on the last night.
 - (c) The retired or semi-retired person with plenty of time. He or she generally likes to treat a Congress as a holiday - a holiday with a certain amount of keen competitive Bridge thrown in. The Killarney Congress is probably their ideal - spread over nine days with Bridge in the evenings only plus an odd afternoon.
5. Programme. Attractive events to suit all tastes. Aggregate Pairs events at all sessions and Match Pointed Pairs and Teams of Four etc., to attract the expert (real or fancied!)

6. Tournament Organisation. This must be first class without irksome restrictions or the impression that the players are being drilled. Discipline must be obtained without the players realising they are being disciplined.

without being a martinet to the player who arrives at the last second. Movements etc., must not be so complicated as to be a nuisance, the whole tournament must run smoothly all the time.

7. Prizes. Decent prizes must be given and the more the better. If funds will run to second and third prizes so much the better. The late S.J. Simon's famous Mrs. Guggenheim gets a greater kick out of some little memento she may get for reaching 2nd place in some open pairs than she does out of the rare winning week at her club!

To sum up I suggest that THE IDEAL BRIDGE CONGRESS should be held in a comfortable hotel in a pleasant holiday resort in the early season spread over 5-6 days at least with the principal events on the Saturday and Sunday of the last week end. Smooth efficient organisation with attractive prizes. Where will this ideal Tournament be found - the answer is The Welsh Bridge Union 2nd. Open Congress at LLANDUDNO APRIL 30th - May 8th 1950!!

1. Locality. The Queen of Welsh Watering Places needs no extravagant phrases to paint her beauty and charm, and in early May she is at her glorious best. The Llandudno Bridge Club has just on a 100 enthusiastic members who are always eager to welcome visitors (whether to a Congress or not.) Good roads cross the border via Shrewsbury, Wrexham and Chester and there is a first rate rail service - London 5 hours, Manchester $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours Liverpool $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours - almost any part of Lancashire is less than 3 hours. The Midlands in $3\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours.

2. Venue. The Congress will be held at the Imperial and Ormescliffe Hotels. Good wine needs no bush and no one who has attended a Congress or stayed at the Imperial needs to be told that it is first class. Bedrooms and Public rooms are spacious and comfortable whilst the catering and service are absolutely superb. The Hotel is blessed indeed with a farseeing and extremely capable Manager in Eric Cox. His motto is "The Customer is the most important thing in my hotel". He fires his staff with his own enthusiasm and they are on their toes all the time to anticipate your slightest whim. He is the Tournament Director's dream of perfection. He deliberately restricts the number of his resident visitors to the number he can feed and serve with his usual high standard after he has heard what rooms the Tournament Director wants as card rooms. Then he turns to him - the Director - and says "This is the hotel - and there is my staff - it is yours for the duration of your Congress, open alike to all your members whether resident with me or not - do just as you like, give my staff just what orders you like, and if you want the moon as I suppose you will, I and they will do our best".

Most of the Competitors will have an armchair! All will be comfortable. The Ormescliffe is a large private hotel recently derequisitioned after ten years service as Government Offices. It does not pretend to be as luxurious as the Imperial but it is very good and the rooms are very comfortable. All the bedrooms are fitted with internal spring mattresses, the cuisine is excellent and its terms are very much lower. It has one advantage over the Imperial - its Public Rooms are much better adapted for the organisation of some of the events! Many of the competitors will have armchairs - all will be comfortable!

A free bus service will run between the two Hotels before and after every session and I think that every visitor who stays at either of these hotels will be more than satisfied.

For the competitor who prefers to stay at a hotel away from the Congress itself, there are literally scores of hotels licensed

and unlicensed within easy distance to suit every taste and every pocket. Particulars will gladly be forwarded by the Organiser on request. They may also use the free bus service where convenient.

3. The date is April 30th. to May 8th. 1950, exactly midway between Easter and Whitsun.

4. The Duration is 10 days! but wait a minute!! From Sunday April 30th. to Wednesday May 3rd. the events will be confined to "Friendly" (?) sort of competitions in the evenings only. There will always be open pairs but as well events open to Husband and Wife only, Novices Pairs, Draw for partners! (We did say friendly did we not?), and the like. On Thursday evening May 4th, the Congress proper opens with the "Pairs Championship" and from then on it will be Non-stop with sessions every afternoon and evening up to the Monday night. There will be Open and Invitation Teams of Four, Match pointed events etc., and always, of course, at every session, an Open Pairs with aggregate scoring. The programme will be so arranged that the very busy man (poor fellow!) who can only spare Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday, (or even Saturday and Sunday) can play in one of the principal Teams of Four events! Have we pleased everybody? (I doubt it but hope so!)

5. Programme. Send for a brochure and see for yourself! Open Pairs always. Pairs events open to "Husband and Wives", "Novices Only", "Ladies Only" etc., Match Pointed Pairs. Championship Pairs. Open Teams of Four. Invitation Teams of Four. Ladies Teams of Four.

6. Tournament Organisation. I shall be both Congress Organising Secretary and Tournament Director! but to counter my well known irascibility with wooden headed people who (a) refuse to listen to instructions and (b) do their best to make my life hell, I have engaged some extremely sweet-tempered, long-suffering but albeit very capable assistants. I personally, guarantee that the Organisation shall be first class with a minimum of restrictions and such restrictions as there are will be in the interests of the majority. Entries for all events will be taken as late as possible and for the Open Pairs events in particular will be taken up to ten minutes of advertised time of starting, but Teams of Four and certain others may have to be closed in advance so that the organisation may be perfect to enable events to start at advertised times and to proceed without a hitch. All Teams of Four will be match pointed; International Match points being used in most cases.

7. Prizes. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, prizes will be given for all Teams of Four events and Pairs Championships and Match Pointed Pairs. 8 prizes will be given for all Open Pairs and all aggregate pairs i.e. 1st and 2nd prizes for the best N.S. and E.W. couples. We aim to spend at least £250 on prizes (providing entries warrant it) and they will be as good or better than the prizes we gave in May 1948 (need I say more).

8. The brochure will be ready soon. Drop me a card now and I will put you on the mailing list; Major W.B. Tatlow, 22, Trinity Square, Llandudno. Write to the Manager of the Imperial or Ormescliffe Hotels now and book your room. The average price will be Imperial 35/- to 45/- per day - Ormescliffe 21/- to 30/- per day inclusive. Visitors at either hotel who may be playing in an event at the other hotel may have afternoon tea there without charge!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

International Matches in all types of sport are always played with one intention, to win. The method of winning must, however, be controlled by the rules and the code of sportsmanship.

Before and during the match, everything except courtesy should be sacrificed to the possibility of beating the opposing team. Once the match is over, sociability becomes the only necessity, the losing team privately saying they will win next year. The best example is undoubtedly the English Team, which has only one aim when it undertakes a match, that being to win.

How does this team pick its players? Is it a collection of so called experts, or a four which has been built up and retains its position because no other team can beat them? My information is that the latter is the case, although there are some experts among them. This does not mean that a first class player cannot be added; he can, providing he is adaptable to the other players in the team.

Is it not possible for Wales to adopt some such method as this? There are undoubtedly some players in Wales who consider they are the only experts in the country. If they are so confident why do they not band themselves together and fail or win together? Other teams could then challenge them, and should they lose, they would have to win back the position which they think they ought to hold.

This method would at least assure Wales it was being represented by a team that could not be beaten by any other team that considers itself good. At present, we find too many Welsh Teams being made up of players, who when banded together, are beaten by teams in which there are players who are not considered good enough.

This is absurd, as a winning team is always better than the expert team, who cannot win. Common sense don't you think?

Until this or a similar method is adopted, Welsh Bridge is doomed to remain in its present state, a team of theorists and experts who will lose all matches, but will return patting themselves on the back, because in their own opinion, they only dropped 5 match points. Whereas other critics wonder why they are still in the team.

Come Selectors, let's have a practical team not a theoretic one, based upon what one person considers the players who make the least mistakes, but lose the matches.

All teams make mistakes, the team that wins is the one that makes the least.

(Signed) D. H. Jones,

Swansea.

Dear Sir,

In view of the bad record of Wales in International Bridge, I consider that the finals of all "Cups" - Cambria, Welsh Ladies, Webber, etc. should be staged at one and the same time, and that the Selection Committee should be present to watch the play. This would give some insight to the capabilities of the Teams.

The selection of teams under the present system, seems to be just a "hit and miss" affair, unfortunately mostly "miss".

The same procedure should be carried out by North Wales. Then if possible, finals between the winning North and South Wales teams, one year in South Wales, and the following year in North Wales.

(Signed) Mary C. Coulter.
Newport.

I WAS THERE.....by Elizabeth Susan.

Daddie was laid low with the palsy and went to bed at half past six last night. To cheer him up I sat at his bedside for an hour or so eating his grapes and sweets, whilst he dutifully sipped hot rum and lemon, and sucked the occasional aspirin. "This is a bitter pill", he told me, "but not as bitter as the one the Captain took at Uncle Trevors' a few weeks ago". "Tell me more", I lisped, carefully selecting a chocolate Turkish Delight and wondering if the tears in his eyes were those of concern for the Captain or the inroads into his two ounces of ration. Daddie sat up slowly and carefully swallowing, began:-

It was the last game of the evening, and Uncle Trevor was doing badly. The Captain and Uncle Terry were his opponents, vulnerable and 60 and he and Uncle Stanley were game. Uncle Terry opened the bidding with 1 No Trump. Uncle T's cigar wobbled slightly as he looked at his hand:- S. J.10 xxxxx H.xx D. - c. A.xxx If his cigar wobbled his voice did not; and with all the confidence in world he announced his decision "Two Spades!" After all, he thought with great intuition, the worst that can happen is 5 down but we may get it back next hand.

Now you all know Uncle the Captain, so you know what he was doing in the meantime. With his eyes glued firmly on his own hand of 17 points, reading S. K.Q. H. K.Q.10.xx D. A.10.xx C.K.x his mental eye was calculating Uncle Stanley's holding and its probable maximum 2/3 point value. A little more arithmetic and the decision was made "Double". Not with much confident intonation, because that might easily have frightened the enemy, but rather as tho' this was a borderline case, a hope for one or two down and a good result on balance.

"No Bid" three times, the King of Spades led, and down went the dummy with its two points. Here are the hands in full:-

		S. xx		
		H. xx		
		D. xxxxx		
		C. Q.10.xx		
		(Uncle Stanley		
S. K.Q.			S:A.9.	
H. K.Q.10.xx			H. A.J.xx	
D. A.10.xx	(Captain)	(Uncle Terry)	D. K.Q.J.x.	
C. K.x.			C. J. 9.8.	
		(Uncle Trevor)		
		S. J.10.xxxxx		
		H. xx		
		D. -----		
		C. A.xxx		

Uncle Trevor looked with dismay at the aggregate value of 7 points, and hastily started to prepare his alibi. Which was the best line of attack, he wondered? To blame partner for not going 3 Clubs, or to play the hand out quickly and not say a word? The former was 'nt going to pay much dividend with Uncle Stanley, so speed was indicated. "K. Spades Q. Spades taken by Ace" and the K. Diamonds returned. Great Scott this isn't too bad now - five trump tricks and an Ace. So out with the Ace Clubs, and a small Club to follow dropping the King from West. Look again, dear reader, no lead - no play - to defeat the contract in spite of the 33 points.

"When are you two coming round again?" beamed Uncle Trevor, putting down 170 below the line and adding the score up wrongly.

"It just shows" concluded daddie, "that you never can tell. And its always possible that the chocolate liquour you are toying with is really full of Cod Liver Oil" I wonder if it was?

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WALES V ENGLAND. (Camrose Trophy)

By Sam Abrahams.

This ever popular event, played at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff, on the 10th. and 11th. December 1949, brought with it a large gathering of bridge fans - critics - silent "kibitzers", all eager to watch the English world-beating side in action, for these visitors held records formidable enough in themselves to shake the best of opponents, and it goes to the credit of the home side that although the match ended in a win for the visitors by 5740, at no stage did our players falter. On the contrary, up to board 79 the English led by 7070, and our boys fought back grimly to narrow the issue down considerably.

So, as with the finding of the corpse, now follows the inevitable inquest. If this match is to tell us anything it will undoubtedly refer to the vast superiority of the English bidding over our own. Board 32 stands head and shoulders above all others as an example of the resilience in their bidding. The large slam cannot be arrived at if Blackwood is used, as one hand is three-suited. After the English South bid his 3 Spades, the remainder of the auction is "cue bidding" and the visitors arrived at 7 Diamonds in truly classic fashion. Here are the hands and bidding:-

S. A.K.8.6.
H. K.Q.9.6.
D. Q.10.6.
C. K.J.
(North)

S. Q.10.9.2.
H. A.8.4.3. (West)
D. 9.7.
C. 7.6.4.

S. 7.4.
(East) H. J.10.7.5.2.
D. J.5.
C. 9.8.5.3.

(South)
S. J.5.3.
H. -
D. A.K.8.4.3.2.
C. A.Q.10.2.

Bidding Room 1			
South	West	North	East
1.D.	-	2.S.	-
3.C.	-	3.H.	-
3.S.	-	4.N.T.	-
5.H.	-	6.D.	-

Bidding Room 2			
South	West	North	East
1.D.	-	2.S.	-
3.S.	-	4.D.	-
5.C.	-	5.N.T.	-
7.D.	-	-	-

Repeatedly the English players took advantage of their own non-vulnerability by throwing a spanner in the works with weak opening bids or a 'psyche'. Board 29 provides us with an example of this. In Room 2 I do feel that E - W, with 26 points at their disposal could have arrived at something more exciting than 3 Clubs. Nine tricks 'on top' without a finesse. Here are the hands.

S. Q.J.5.		S. K.7.6.3.
H. K.J.10.2.		H. A.
D. J.10.2.		D. 6.5.3.
C. J.10.5.		C. A.Q.9.4.3.
(North)		
S. A.10.9.		
H. 9.8.7.5.4.		
D. A.Q.8.	(West)	(East)
C. K.8.		
(South)		
S. 8.4.2.		
H. Q.6.3.		
D. K.9.7.4.		
C. 7.6.2.		

We scored another victory on board 43, by reaching and making a small slam, the visitors again only getting to game. The hands were as follows:-

S. A.Q.6.2.		S. 10.
H. A.K.J.8.5.		H. Q.3.2.
D. 4.		D. K.9.5.3.2.
C. A.Q.5.		C. K.J.6.4.
(North)		
S. K.7.5.		
H. 10.9.4.		
D. Q.J.7.6.	(West)	(East)
C. 9.8.7.		
(South)		
S. J.9.8.4.3.		
H. 7.6.		
D. A.10.8.		
C. 10.3.2.		

At no time did the English adopt set methods of bidding, especially when opening and it is probable that many of us are feeling that these unorthodox or 'away from the Book' tactics, at least in tournament bridge, pay handsome dividends. Board 47 lends itself to this contention. Some of us may feel that in Room 1 South could have made a light opening, after which game in Hearts would more than likely have been reached, as can be seen from the following hands:-

S. 10.8.3.		S. 9.6.5.
H. K.Q.J.4.		H. 10.8.5.
D. K.5.2.		D. A.10.8.3.
C. J.9.5.		C. 7.4.3.
(North)		
S. Q.7.		
H. A.9.		
D. 9.6.4.	(West)	(East)
C. A.K.Q.10.6.2.		
(South)		
S. A.K.J.4.2.		
H. 7.6.3.2.		
D. Q.J.7.		
C. 8.		

That oft set trap the lure of honours caught the Welsh pair napping on board 64. In Room 2. North's final bid should have been 3.N.T. After all, South had bid the two red suits - more than the strength of his hand justified - in spite of which North still seems to feel a game contract in spade is preferable. Here are the hands:-

	S. A.K.Q.J.8.		
	H. ♣.6.2.		
	D. K.Q.9.4.		
	C. 9.		
	(North)		
S. 3.2.		S. 9.6.5.4.	
H. K.10.8.5.		H. A.4.	
D. A.8.5.	(West)	(East) D. J.7.3.	
C. Q.4.3.2.		C. J.10.8.7.	
	(South)		
	S. 10.7.		
	H. J.9.7.3.		
	D. 10.6.2.		
	C. A.k.6.5.		

As mentioned earlier out boys commenced a 'come-back' about 20 boards or so from the finish. We scored a marked success on board 80, making an overtrick in a 4 Spade re-doubled contract, costing the enemy 780 points. Here are the hands:-

	S. 3.2.		
	H. 5.3.		
	D. 10.9.6.4.2.		
	C. 10.8.6.3.		
	(North)		
S. 6.7.		S. A.J.10.9.8.6.5.4.	
H. A.Q.J.10.9.6.		H. 8.	
D. A.8.5.	(West)	(East) D. 3.	
C. K.J.		C. 9.4.2.	
	(South)		
	S. K.		
	H. K.7.4.2.		
	D. K.Q.J.7.		
	C. A.Q.7.5.		

It would take far more than the space allotted here to give all the hands of note and interest. Suffice it to say the predominant feeling throughout was one of good fellowship and high spirits, and I feel quite certain a good time was had by all.

WELSH CUP (1st. Round)

S. Hoffran beat Mrs. Hando by 4,000
 W. Rees lost to J. Close by 3180
 J. Carter beat S. Abrahams by 2670
 G. Bowring beat Emlyn Lewis by 1620
 M. Hayes beat Mrs. McDonald by 830

Draw (2nd. Round)

G. Bowring versus J.L. Murray
 M. Hayes " S. Hoffman
 J. Carter " J. Close
 V. Searle " T. Bonnyman

WELSH CUP (Ladies)

Mrs. Ungar lost to Miss McEachran by 3990
 Mrs. Hando beat Mrs. Cope by 1690
 Mrs. Cullis beat Mrs. Addenbrooke by 310
 Mrs. McNair lost to Mrs. Mills by 1880

Draw (2nd. Round)

Mrs. Cullis, versus Mrs. Hando
 Mrs. Mills Versus Miss McEachran

CAMBRIA CUP (1st. Round)

Mrs. Hando beat J. Cope by 710
 J. Boalch lost to S. Hoffman by 2570
 T. Bonnyman beat W.T. Rees by 4350
 Mrs. Cullis beat D.H. Jones by 310
 G. Bowring lost to J.L. Murray by 1300

Draw (2nd. Round)

Emlyn Lewis versus Mrs. Cullis
 H. Gould " Mrs. Hando
 S. Hoffman " E.J. Carter
 T.G. Bonnyman " J.L. Murray

WEBBER CUP

Cope 3	versus	Edwards Nil
Bonnyman 2	"	Mrs. Mills 1
Edwards 2	"	Bonnyman 1
Cope 3	"	Mills Nil
Carter 3	"	Close Nil
Hoffman 3	"	Rees Nil
Abrahams 2	"	Close 1
Carter 3	"	Rees Nil
Morris 3	"	Cullis Nil
Jones 3	"	Lewis Nil
Mrs. McNair 3	"	Murray Nil
Jones 3	"	Mrs. McNair Nil
E. Lewis 2	"	Mrs. Cullis 1
Murray 2	"	Morris 1