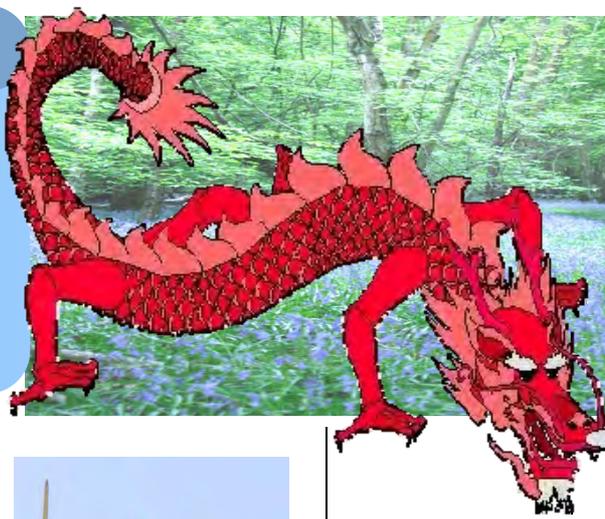


Welsh Bridge Union



Ignorance is no defence

There are 93 Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Very few people know them all. Some may be surprised to know of the existence of Law 74 -



Conduct and Etiquette – which governs behaviour at, or indeed away from, the table.

When you are playing in a congress, or even in your local club, you are probably familiar with the call “Director!” (or “DIRECTOR!”). How often has this summons been for surliness or sarcasm, or for an North-South pair who have talked across you for 80 seconds at the start of the round instead of saying hello? Not often. Yet players are entitled to have this law enforced just as diligently as the law on revokes or leads out of turn.

The problem is that many people’s enjoyment of the game is ruined by the rudeness of a minority. Some have voted with their feet and taken up knitting or ballet or bowls instead.

We need to persuade players of all standards that Law 74 is as important as Law 61 (Revokes) or Law 16 (Unauthorised Information). While it would obviously be disruptive if the director were to be called every time someone fails to say “Good evening”, the occasional call to deal with a player who has interrogated opponents to the brink of tears about the meaning of “Natural” might be salutary.

We want to encourage players to observe Law 74 *at least* as carefully as they expect the other laws to be enforced. The WBU’s new policy on *Bridge Behaviour* has been designed to do this. We expect all players to contribute to others’ enjoyment of the game. For club players, this may mean accepting that opponents are entitled to ask (politely) for the more technical laws to be enforced. For expert players, it may mean

confronting a partner who fails in politeness or bullies the opponents. If

you are aware that your partner, or one of your team-mates, is a serial offender in this regard, you might consider finding another partner, or different team-mates, as you would surely do if you knew they were consistently breaching any of the other laws of bridge.

A copy of the full policy is being sent to every club, with summary leaflets for members. The text of the leaflet is on pp. 14-16. Do read it.

The end of an era

Jill Knight is retiring, both as editor of our Newsletter and as North Wales *apparatchika*.

Jill has been a part of Welsh bridge for longer than many of us have been playing. She played Lady Milne as recently as 2009. She has been a fixture in the North Wales team for the Spickett Bowl. She was for many years organiser for the Swiss Pairs, and has been a member of the Councils of the WBU and NWBA for decades.



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She says her best bridge memory is playing in the friendly against Ireland in Beaumaris and then in Slane. It was such fun she laughed non-stop.

It was a comfort to me in my early days of competitive bridge to know that if I arrived at the hotel late, I could rely on Jill and Rona Morgan-Edwards to be burning the midnight oil and filling the air with smoke.

The late-night social part of bridge congresses seems to have vanished, and now Jill is vanishing too. She will be missed.

Jill's Quill



I have enjoyed receiving articles and reports from you, so I write this last editorial feeling a little sad.

A great big thank you to every one of you, from regular contributors to the people who have sent in a one-off, 'in case you think people might enjoy it'. They certainly did, and the contributions have all gone to making this your newsletter. Please keep it up and send Laura anything you think will inform or entertain other members.

As well as being a publishing one-woman band, Laura is better placed for picking up interesting items, and has more contacts who can supply her with news. I don't get around much these days. Not that I intend to buy a chair that goes up and down so that you can recline, sit up straight, put your feet higher than your head and be tipped off in an almost standing position (the last two not simultaneously). I might need one, but I'm resisting the temptation.

I shall also be finishing with the WBU and North Wales Committees after the AGM. Our diaries are crowded with appointments for our physical upkeep, repair and smooth running ('walking' would be an exaggeration). In between, we like to visit our London families, and would really love just to go off somewhere on a whim. Besides, I have done my time. Glad to see younger people take over. Two of these are Phil Bowers and Fiona Noyce, now Masterpoints/Membership Secretary and Treasurer. They are delightful, dynamic people. Good luck to them.

My work as newsletter editor coincided with three interesting and enjoyable years on the Management Committee. We began by identifying areas that needed attention; one of the most important was making provision for social club players who had complained that they got nothing for their Membership fee, and felt alienated. It was obvious that the majority were not interested in competitions, and entries were such that the future of national events and other competitions was a subject for concern. Some areas had already arranged special No Fear events because the attitude of some competitive players put others off. Our

first Chairman, Adrian, barely stopped to say goodbye at the end of our first Skype meeting before starting on a tour of clubs to ask what they wanted from the WBU.

He reported back frequently. People filled in questionnaires (see Issue 92). Meanwhile more No Fear competitions were organised and Adrian initiated a third competition for inexperienced players, in parallel with the inter-area teams (Perry and Spickett). The name agreed was the President's Cup, Adrian vetoing "Thomas Cup" and preferring kudos to go to the event itself.

The newsletter would be reinstated and the ideal was four publications a year. It was duly done, but the cost of postage was a problem. Laura tried taking them to events where all areas were represented and asking someone from each area to take them. This was not entirely successful and she will be seeking better ways to make sure everyone gets their newsletter and competition handbook.

We have constantly assessed our performance. We also have been dealing with several issues at the same time so were disappointed when, after a year, we were accused of doing nothing. Things do take time. For example, "Bad Behaviour" had to be discussed and researched before we could approve a policy. A think-tank discussed competitions and Jean is trialling simultaneous Area qualifiers and suggesting some open entry events. Clubs, areas and individuals from all over have helped, and it has been cheering to see so many volunteers doing their bit.

We now have a Behaviour policy (summary on centre pages), a report from Phil Bowers on the scheme for submission of Masterpoints by computer (also in this issue) showing how well it is going; autonomous selectors work (within guidelines) to pick the best team/s to represent Wales. Fiona has quickly got to grips with the financial side and the MC has had a preview of the accounts. Even I can understand them. Fiona and Phil wondered if payment of points by Direct Debit would be more convenient for clubs, but further research showed that it would be more expensive, so it is a no go.

Neville has initiated the Welsh sims, held twice a year. This was both an attempt at a sims competition that was meaningful to

everyone and a means of making money. There are so many demands on the coffers, though none, to my mind, more pressing than the recruitment of young people to bridge. We have not enough young players, even, to raise teams for the Junior events. Admittedly, bridge is out of fashion; most non-players have little idea of how it is played, and less of what an amazing game it is. Now that I am almost free, I am already sounding out people I know between the ages of 35 and 55 to see whether they and their friends would like to learn. If they know younger people they can bring them along. Meanwhile, they would bridge the gap between most of us and the hypothetical youngsters who are going to take up bridge. There's only one Stephen Loat (see 'The Karate Kid'); but we need 150 more like him.

Forgive the pun on 'bridge'. I must have caught it from El Presidente who is making the teaching of university students a priority.

We have actually made great progress in the last three years, not least because bridge in Wales is supported by an extraordinary number of volunteers, from the people putting tables out in their club to those who run congresses; from those who represent Wales to those who train and select them. Therein lies the continuity of the Union. So, thank you to all the people who give time and expertise and make good things happen in Wales.

Best wishes

Jill

Meet Fiona

*A very warm welcome to **Fiona Noyce**, our new Honorary Treasurer who has taken on the work of looking after the Union's funds with enthusiasm and efficiency.*



Shortly after moving to a village in Mid Wales from the metropolis of Slough, I was chatting to a neighbour over the garden gate. He usually passed by with gardening tools or trays of young plants, on his way to his vegetable plot. I was curious and I enquired where he was going with his notebook and pen and not wearing his gardening gear.

"I'm off to my bridge lesson, come with me, its good fun and only a £1" he says with a twinkle in his eye. So, I duly followed him to the local bowling club and my introduction to the game of bridge. They say ignorance is bliss - I agree. Little did I realise what I was letting myself in for. What a game! That was thirteen years ago and I am still learning...

I play in two local clubs, small in membership but strong in experience and occasionally venture out of my comfort zone and play in area competitions. I remember my first congress at Llandrindod Wells - inexperienced, outplayed, but fascinated.

Over the years I have played in a great variety of venues, from cold, draughty village halls to warm, comfortable hotels; and I've met players who do not have a kind word for anything and others who, for little reward, have given their time and effort to promote the game and encourage players to develop their skills. Their contribution to bridge in Wales should not be underestimated. Without them, the established network of clubs, area divisions and the links with the Welsh Bridge Union would struggle to function. Where would I go, as an enthusiastic player, with my £6, without it?

I have to admit that in the past I had paid very little attention to the events and competitions outside my club world in Mid Wales. I had never wondered who organised them and why, and had never looked at the WBU website. So here I am having completed my first year as WBU treasurer and have often asked myself why I said 'Yes' to the chief executive's original enquiry. I can put accountancy letters after my name and draw up a set of accounts, but did not really have a clue what the WBU did or how it functioned. I set to, reading the constitution and anything I could lay my hands on that would extend my understanding, only to be more confused than ever. I would like to thank the WBU committee members for their help and explanations which enabled me to clear the fog.

The role of the WBU is going to be meeting an interesting challenge over the next few years and I hope that the Union will be able to maintain and develop systems to support its members and bridge in Wales.

Replay these hands with me

by Peter Goodman

Today's hand is from the very popular Inter-City league on BBO. It builds on our recent theme of planning your play before playing to trick 1 (and re-planning at about trick 3 or 4 if the play provides further information).

Board 3
Dlr: South
Vul: EW

♠ J 8 7 3 2	♠ K
♥ 8 4 2	♥ K Q 10 3
♦ 10 6 3 2	♦ K 9 4
♣ 6	♣ K 10 9 7 4

♠ A Q 4
 ♥ J 6 5
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT ¹
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	3NT	All pass	

- ¹ 12-14
² Stayman
³ No 4-card major

After the lead of ♠3 we can count two spade, one heart, two diamond and two club tricks, and will need two more. They will be most likely to come from the black suits (Plan A), though we can visualise an extra red suit winner if East holds all three of the missing honours (Plan B). East may also hold ♥Q10xx or K10xx, which will allow us to exert pressure on him (Plan C).

When the ♠K appears at trick 1 we can make three spade tricks (ace, queen and 10), so we are now only one trick short. But we have to look after our entries. We play a club at trick 2 and insert the jack. If East tries to be "smart" and holds off his King, he may soon find himself end-played, so he wins and returns the ♣10, West pitching a spade. Declarer wins and plays queen and another spade on which East has some very uncomfortable discards.

♠ 10	♠ -
♥ A 9 7	♥ K Q 10
♦ J 8	♦ K 9
♣ A 5	♣ 9 7 4

♠ -
 ♥ J 6 5
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ 8

West exits with a heart which declarer ducks and East exits safely with the ♣9. This is the six-card ending:

♠ 10	♠ -
♥ A 9	♥ K 10
♦ J 8	♦ K 9
♣ 5	♣ 7 4

♠ 8
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ 10 6 3
 ♣ -

♠ -
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ -

Declarer now plays the ten of spades from dummy, needing five more tricks. East is squirming now: a) if he discards a heart we make the ♠10, two hearts and two diamonds (taking the finesse); b) if he discards a diamond we can play a small diamond to the ace and another back to the jack, leaving East to bare his ♥K or pitch a club which will allow him to be end-played to lead away from his ♥K; c) if he discards a club, declarer exits with dummy's last club (discarding a diamond) and East is again end-played to lead away from this red-suit kings. (Note that case c) a sharp East can still beat the contract by exiting with the king of diamonds: declarer can cross to the ♦J but has no entry back to his hand to enjoy the queen as long as West holds on to his three cards in the suit to prevent declarer from simply cashing the ace and making the ♦7. But this line still represents the best chance of making.)

In summary: We had a Master Plan (A) to make three spades, three clubs, two diamonds and one heart, but also had our fall-back plan (B) to make an extra red suit winner when East

has all three key cards: an extra 12.5% chance when Plan A fails.

We also need to read the opponents' discards so that we can resort to Plan C if the 6-card ending layout was:

<p>♠ - ♥ Q 8 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ A 9 ♦ J 8 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ - ♥ 10 3 ♦ K 9 ♣ 7 4</p>
	<p>♠ - ♥ J 6 ♦ A Q 7 5 ♣ -</p>	

Now if East throws the ♥10 we throw in west with the third Diamond

Hand 2

This next hand is replayed from the 2013 Camrose series and follows our usual theme: plan your play at trick one and replan at trick 3 or 4 if events provide further information.

Dlr: North

<p>♠ K J 8 2 ♥ A J 8 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ A Q 4</p>	<p>♠ A 10 9 4 ♥ Q 6 5 2 ♦ 9 ♣ J 10 9 8</p>
<p>♠ Q ♥ 10 9 7 4 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 ♣ 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 5 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ A 8 3 2 ♣ K 6 3</p>

West	North	East	South
-	1♣*	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All pass * Can be 3 cards

Lead: ♦Q

We can see three club, two diamond and two heart tricks and need three more. They will probably come from the trump suit (Plan A). Our certain losers are two trumps, if the trumps are 3-2 with one of the honours on our left; and one diamond.

We carefully win the first trick with the ♦K so that if East has a singleton (likely from West's lead) we can later play up to the ace and guarantee two diamond tricks.

Now we cross to the ♥K and play a small trump, covering the queen. East wins and returns the ♣J.

West is unlikely to play the ♠Q from Qx so now that trumps seem to be 4-1, we are looking at three spade losers and one diamond for one down unless we can develop an endplay. We have to move on to Plan B (note that this is trick 4 - the time when Plan B is often put into effect).

Win the club in dummy and play a small diamond towards the ace. If East trumps on thin air he has eliminated your diamond loser, so he has to discard (a heart or a club – it makes no difference). You now play the ♥A and ruff the jack, then cash your remaining two club winners ending in hand. This is the 4-card ending:

<p>♠ - ♥ 10 ♦ J 10 7 ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ K 8 2 ♥ - ♦ 5 ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ Q (or ♣J) ♦ - ♣ -</p>
	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ - ♦ 8 3 ♣ -</p>	

You run the seven of spades to East's ♠9 and he is end-played to give you two of the last three tricks. If he plays a trump, you have no further trump loser; if he exits a heart, you ruff in hand discarding dummy's last diamond.

The contract is made.

WBU Directing Course Part 2: Judgement Rulings

Following our successful programme of Part 1 courses, we are scheduling Part 2 courses covering judgement rulings for May and June.

We want to gauge interest so that venues and dates can be arranged according to demand. You will need to have completed Part 1 course; or have experience as a club director and be looking for a refresher.

Provisional applications (as soon as possible) to:

Neville Richards: Meadow View
Llanddewi Llandrindod Wells LD1 6SE
Tel. 01597 851149, email
welshbridgeunion@deepvault.com

Club Master Point Submission Survey



Further to the WBU plans to implement electronic registration of master points, our MP secretary, Phil Bowers, sent a questionnaire to 54 WBU-affiliated clubs. I have put a few findings in bold type because they show that the scheme is logistically viable and is well under way.

The following results are based solely on the responses received. i.e. out of **48 (88%)**:

- 13 clubs now use wireless scoring devices for most of their regular club sessions.
Of the clubs using Wireless scoring devices, 11 are using BM2. Only 2 clubs use Bridge Pads and none are using Bridge Scorer or BM Pro. Only 1 club is still scoring events by hand.
- Of the 35 clubs still using Travellers, only 8 of them score the event on the night to get a result before members leave the club.
- 21 clubs own a Laptop or Desktop PC whereas **only 1 club has no access to a PC at all**. At the other clubs, a member uses his/her PC at home for the benefit of the club.
- Only 8 clubs have access to the internet at the club premises but 96% have internet access of some kind.
- 33 clubs use Scorebridge as their scoring program. Pairs Scorer being the next most popular choice.
- 9 clubs use Duplimated boards for regular club sessions. (This figure could have been distorted by confusion between regular club sessions and Simultaneous events due to the interpretation of the question)
- 31 clubs have a website, roughly evenly split between the Dragon Server and Bridgewebs (with Dragon having the slight edge on numbers). 18 Clubs do not upload their results to a website.
- **27 clubs are now directly uploading their Master Points to the WBU database**. Of the 16 clubs that issue Masterpoints but do not upload, half are printing their own certificates and the other half still using Green Books (8 clubs). Five affiliated clubs do not issue Masterpoints.



In the comments section at the end of the form, there were a few comments included, but **there were NO comments expressing definitive objection to the imposition of clubs' mandatory participation in the Direct Upload scheme.**

Phil Bowers, WBU Master Point & Membership Secretary, Six Wells Farmhouse, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge. CF71 7PF
Tel. 01446 771318, Mobile 07793 226631
Email: wbu_mpmemsec@sixwells.net

So, Phil's survey reveals that half the clubs in Wales are now uploading their Master Points, and most of the remaining clubs have the capacity to do so. The next step is that Phil will facilitate the transition for them by answering any questions they may have and providing support. The future is bright.

British Crockford's Silver Plate



"The British Silver Plate has been won by the team led by Mike Tedd of Aberystwyth. His team-mates included John Salisbury, Tony Ratcliff, Roger Penton and Tony Disley.

In the final played in Hereford, Tedd beat the team led by Nick Stevens of Leicestershire 94-64. Last year the Plate was also won by a team from Wales.

The Silver Plate is for teams eliminated at an early stage of the Gold Cup, the British knockout championships. One hundred teams entered the 2012 Plate. The Stevens team made the final of the Gold Cup in 2007 and 2010 but had an early fall in the 2012 event.

Silver Plate runners-up: N. Stevens & D. Happer; G. Watson & D. Jones; J. Mason & P. Bowyer (Leics & Warks)."

(extract from EBU website)

Masterpoint Promotions list, October 2012 to end of February 2013

More congratulations to Mark Roderick on his well-deserved promotion to Grand Master

Local Master			Maureen	Blethyn	R	Bill	Hegarty	S
Philip	Ansell	C	David	Bolwell	C	Graham	James	C
Carol	Baron	MG	Brian	Casson	CBY	Eira	Jones	LDB
Jenny	Barton-	C	Peter	Davies	C	Margaret	Macdonald	BEN
	Greenwood		Jeannie	Dimyan	BRE	James	Mangles	MG
Leslie	Blincow	PN	Wafik	Dimyan	BRE	Cedric	Margot	GA
Sandra	Collin	MG	Peter	Dutton	C	Barry	Marsh	C
Peter	Coode	S	Clive	Emery	CN	Steve	Martin	GA
David	Crompton	BR	Bridget	Evans	AR	Howard	Mence	CBY
Bryn	Davies	NT	Kathleen	Ferguson	PC	Sadie	Morton	RY
Julie	Davies	NT	Lesley	Fletcher	M	Ann-	O'Brien	C
Mary Liz	Davies	MG	Vivian	Ginn	MG	Marie		
Val	Davies	PN	Susan	Greenwood	CBY	Margaret	Price	MG
Michael	Drake	C	Moreen	Harrison	WS	David	Scott	C
Eira	Evans	CD	Vince	Haskins	GA	Marilyn	Scott	NP
Bryn	Gough	BR	Bryn	Henley	R	James	Simpson	LP
Martin	Gregson	S	Julie	Hodgson	D	Lynda	Thomas	BEN
Elizabeth	Halligan	MG	David	Hutchinson	S	Mary	Thomas	PT
Peter	Halligan	MG	Mary	Jones	T	District Master		
Ann	Johnson	NT	Valda	Jones	S	Roger	Boyle	A
Jean	Jones	S	Dave	Lea	MG	James S	Brown	M
Valerie	King	W	Debbie	Lea	MG	Cherry	Cadwallader	MG
Donald	Lovett	R	Sue	Lyden	S	John	Cobby	P
Margaret	McCormack	P	Tony	Marlow	LET	Magda	Corser	A
Grace	Martyn	AR	Jessica	Newton	S	Barbara	Dawe	K
Joyce	Outred	CD	Ann	Owens	PR	Bob	Drinkall	C
Dave	Reed	BV	Sarah	Penny	C	Dan	Gordon	R
Jeffrey	Ridd	PT	Robert G	Pringle	CAS	Michael	Gwynne-	CBY
Rae	Roberts	PT	Christopher	Randles	M		John	
Gordon	Rothwell	R	Chris	Roberts	R	Margaret	Harrop	C
David	Stringer	NP	Martin	Sheppard	H	Nova	Husbands	MER
Selwyn	Sugarman	R	Derek	Wadeson	PR	Martin	Joseph	C
Maureen	Sweetman	S	Jill	Waterman	PN	Betty	Longley	P
Peter C.	Taylor	AR	Area Master			William J	Loughlin	LLF
John	Whiteside	AR	Mary	Barrett	R	Felicity	Maitland-	AG
Sarah	Wilcox	C	Jan	Cole	D		Jones	
Janice	Williams	RY	Pete	Cole	D	Terry	Margolis	NT
Jeff	Williams	R	Keith	Dabson	PW	Vernon	Pearn	SU
Valerie	Williams	BEN	Lou	Edwards	MG	Joy	Seculer	PN
Graham	Woosnam	MG	Glyn	Evans	LDB	Caroline	Stephenson	C
Club Master			Ian	Evans	C	Judith	Sweeting	GA
Peter	Balchin	GA	Barbara	Exton	PC	Kay	Taylor	K
Steven	Bartlett	S	Barbara	Goodwin	NP	Berwyn	Woolnough	RY
Peter	Beynon	CRI	Richard	Harding	L			

County Master			Richard Hughes C	Peter McColl R	
Phil Bowers MG	Ann Macdougall BV	Adrian Micusan L			
Veronica Burrows C	Kim Morgan L	Jonathon Richards BR			
Clive Case GA	Judith Owen BV	Jonathan Seavers BR			
Justin Cooper R	Pauline Rhodes CD	Marion Shewell AR			
Ann Davis WS	One Star Master			Leighton Williams AG	
William Fleming S	Mike Cohen LDB	Paul			
Kamal Goswami LDB	Isabel Good C	Regional Master			
Miriam Handren VOG	Glan James L	Steve Burgoyne BR			
Helen Jordan BV	Vic Smith BEN	Belinda Davies K			
Rita Lawrence RY	Byron Williams S	Pat Morris NT			
Stella Miller MG	Two Star Master			George Novak CAS	
Ian Milton BRE	Gwyn Evans R	Linda Powell R			
Lynn Morris L	Gerry Morris L	National Master			
Alan Pearce GA	Four Star Master			Anne Davies S	
Anthony Stevens H	Iain Brisbane AG	Laurie Delmonte GA			
Gareth Stone SU	Anita Freeman GA	Vida Halford PC			
Elenid Thomas A	Brian Goodman GA	Premier National Master			
Master			William Parkinson GA		
Joan Andrews PN	Five Star Master			Senior Life Master	
Pat Clayton AG	Gwen Davies CD	Monica Garbett-NT			Edwards
Janet Cunnington C	Brian Hardey PN				
Christine Jones L	Gerry Long MG	Grand Master			
Glenda Roberts OH	Premier Master			Mark Roderick BV	
Frances Robinson BEN	Murat Ataç BRE				
Hazel Rudland GA	Cathy Barlow WS				
Arnold Sandrey MG	Heather Cummins CAS				
Celia Thomas BV	Helen Davies K				
Connie Wilson WS	Jeremy Dawes CAS				
Advanced Master			Catherine Evans P		
Angela Chatfield WS	Ian Grove S				
Julia Griffiths L	Alan Heath PC				
Frances Mary Harris S	June Jones H				
	Ann Maslin A				



John Hockey Top 20 (most MPs accumulated in a season)

Congratulations to Dr. Paddy Murphy (*El Presidente*)

1.	Paddy	Murphy	214.12	11.	Patrick	Jourdain	99.69
2.	Liz	Commins	180.37	12.	Susan	Ingham	98.26
3.	Tony	Ratcliff	163.50	13.	Dewi	Jones	92.43
4.	Mike	Best	122.55	14.	Michael S	Brotherton	88.09
5.	Julian	Pottage	121.37	15.	Roger	Penton	87.44
6.	Terry	Evans	120.92	16.	Adrian	Thomas	86.40
7.	Gwynn	Davis	120.21	17.	Barry Lloyd	Jones	85.73
8.	Peter	Goodman	118.97	18.	Mary	Moore	82.98
9.	Tony	Disley	110.90	19.	Dave	Barwood	77.39
10.	Filip	Kurbalija	100.90	20.	Mark	Roderick	71.87

AREA NEWS

(Make sure you get your news to Laura for the next newsletter)



EAST WALES

TEAMS OF EIGHT

Congratulations to the Gwent Team of Simon Gottschalk, Cedric Margot, Ian White, Paul Relph, Joan & Herrick Westcott, Bill Parkinson and Kath Fewster who came 1st out of seven in the Teams of Eight area heat held at Cardiff Bridge Club Sunday February 3rd.

EWBA COMPETITIONS

EWBA Teams of 8 heat (3rd February).

1 st	Gwent Bridge Academy	Q
2 nd	Cardiff A	Q
3 rd	Penarth	Q
4 th	Barrivale	1 st reserve
5 th	Cardiff B	
6 th	Chepstow	
7 th	Cardiff C	

EWBA Webber Cup qualifier (10th February)

1 st	Davis	Q
2 nd	Roderick	Q
3 rd	Kurbalija	Q
4 th	Jourdain	
5 th	Bond	
6 th	Harden	

Full results on Cardiff web site.

Perry, Spickett & President's Cup (Inter-Area Events)

The Perry Shield (Open), Spickett Bowl (Ladies) and President's Cup (below Regional Master) will take place on 8th and 9th June in Prestatyn.

Teams selected to represent East Wales:

Perry:

Filip Kurbalija (Captain), Diane Kurbalija, Gwynn Davis, Chris Rochelle, Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain.

Spickett:

Liz Atkinson, Gilly Clench, Sue Ingham, Noelle Bond.

President's Cup:

Clive Case, George Williams, Joan Westcott, Herrick Westcott, Paul Relph, Ian White

East Wales Congress (YMCA Newport 16th -17th February, Directors Ted Hill, Alan Reid.

The Swiss Teams winners were Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Simon Richards and Tony Ratcliff with a score of 187. Mike and John won for the second year running, this time with Simon and Tony who were playing together for the first time. Second were Mike Kinsey, Mike Fithyan, Owen Leigh and Richard Harris with 172, third Chris Rochelle, Liz Atkinson, Laura Woodruff, Sue Ingham, Gwynn Davies and Simon Gottschalk with 171, and fourth Alex Maddocks, Rob Lawy, Andrew Thompson and Stefan Lindfors on 158.

The Novice Pairs was won by Brian Quinlan & Bob Drinkall

MID WALES

19th MID WALES CONGRESS

Green Pointed Swiss Teams

13th -14th July 2013, Metropole Hotel

Congress Directors: Mike & Sarah Amos

First 3 sessions Swiss Teams. Then:

- the bottom 8 or 12 teams (dependent on entries) will be split into groups of 4 and play each other in a Round Robin. The teams with the highest VP score in each group after the 3 matches will win a prize.
- Everyone else will play a further 3 x 7 board matches

Entry fee £49.00 per person including a light Sunday luncheon. **Telephone: 01597 823700**

NEWS FROM DOLGELLAU

Having lost a few members over recent years we are pleased to welcome several new members: Jim who travels 20 miles from Tywyn twice a week, Sue from Aberdovey, Brian and Christina from the Local U3A bridge group in Barmouth and Adrian (Thomas) who needs no further introduction.

We would like to congratulate Adrian and Mike Tedd from Aberystwyth on their recent victory in the Welsh Open Pairs competition.

In November last year we lost our treasurer, George Mandow who, finally despairing of the Welsh climate, has joined his two daughters in New Zealand. We lost not only a very capable treasurer, but a superb cook and one of our best players. We miss not only his culinary skill but also his unfailing courtesy and kindness.

In addition to our regular bridge nights on Mondays and Thursdays we hold two bridge days a year, where we play Chicago in the morning and duplicate pairs in the afternoon. In recent years we have been pleased to welcome visitors from Aberystwyth and Rhayader to these and we sometimes have as many as eight tables.

We have also run a charity rubber knock-out competition this year, which has been great fun. Each pair is encouraged to give £10 to a local charity. The losers of the first round then all play a knock-out among themselves, so each pair is guaranteed at least two games. Pairs take it in turn to be host or guest, and the hosts provide simple refreshments. We shall certainly hold it again this year.

Playing in Dolgellau brings its own challenges for Adrian. He is frequently heard to say when a contract on another table squeaks home by the skin of its teeth, 'Well, it *shouldn't* have made'.

After several such boards had given him a less than impressive score one of our members suggested kindly that as he clearly has potential maybe Adrian might think of having lessons.

Although we are small in numbers we like to think we make up for that by our friendliness and general good humour. But playing with me does test Adrian's patience to the limit, and the occasional outburst has led us to consider introducing a system of yellow cards or maybe a 'fine pot' for a local charity.

On reflection, however, the Chairman felt that yellow cards, whilst good in theory, might be prejudicial to his general deportment and table manners.

Julie Hodgson
Secretary

JACK LOTT

Knighton Bridge Club has lost Jack Lott, who was one of our founding members when we started from nothing 6 years ago. He died recently in Knighton Hospital after a very short illness.

He was already playing over the border in the Lyonshall Club when we started the new Club in Knighton. He had only recently moved to Evenjobb from the London area, where he had lived all his life. This was a big move for him as he approached 80 but he was very happy in the area and would not have wanted to move back to London.

As a first-class bridge player all his life he considered playing in our area as "Missionary Service". In his first year he took part in the JV Davies Individual Competition in Mid Wales, which he won. Last year he also won the Individual Competition held in Lyonshall and the Herefordshire "Round the Houses" competition with his partner Kevin Collins.

He thoroughly enjoyed his Bridge and played with great humour as well as competitiveness. He could always be guaranteed to make one more trick than his opponents in a contract and was always difficult to beat. He always played with a smile on his face and a delightful "chuckle" and was keen to pass on his knowledge to the rest of us weaklings. He is already greatly missed on a Friday night at our Club by us all.

Kay Taylor
Chairman, Knighton Bridge Club

Congratulations

Well done to Stephen Loat on his gold medal win in Melbourne in shukokai karate. Stephen is a good bridge player, too, and we look forwards to seeing more gold medals.

Castle Bridge club won the MW teams of eight qualifier: K Shuttleworth, B Nicholls, P Gagne D Harris, L Mann, C Blackman, G Novak and A Screen

Aberystwyth runners-up: M Tedd, Mike Jones, D Hayes, K Bellamy, Jeff Thomas, R Boyle, Dewi Jones, D Raw- Rees

Mixed Pairs: Margaret James and Mike Jones came 8th

National Open Pairs: Adrian Thomas and Mike Tedd were the winners; Keith Shuttleworth and Brian Nicholls came 4th

NORTH WALES

WBU SWISS PAIRS

6th – 7th July 2013

Venue Cymru, Llandudno

£40 per player

“The best event in the North”

(see write-up in Newsletter 91)

Entries to Nigel Worthington:

nigeldw@googlemail.com or 01829 770511

Two of our well-known contributors to Welsh bridge are at present under medical care.

Peter Hand, who has occupied the NWBA Chair and held a number of posts in the WBU, including the Presidency, has had an operation and is undergoing follow-up treatment. It was nice to see him, pre-treatment, at the Perry and Spickett trials. **Sarah Amos**, our delightful tournament Director, was taken ill suddenly and spent two weeks in hospital. She has been undergoing tests and is making slow but steady progress. We wish them both a speedy recovery and a welcome return to bridge.

Margaret Owen, formerly Smith, has given up organising the Llandudno Swiss Pairs because her husband, John, is undergoing medical treatment. We wish John all the best and say a big thank you to Margaret for making the Swiss Pairs so enjoyable. Nigel Worthington, who became our new treasurer two years ago and our Area Tournament Organiser last year, has taken on the Swiss Pairs. All the best to Nigel in all three roles.



Paddy Murphy, Liz Commins, Simon Edwards and David Stevenson

Congratulations to Liz Commins on becoming a Grand Master and to her and David Stevenson for walking off with the

trophy in eight English events this year, teams *and* pairs. Liz has been selected to play in the Lady Milne with Diane Kurbalija. We wish this new partnership every success.

Last December, three Welsh Pairs took the three Merseyside & Cheshire qualifying places in the **Waterworth Cup**, qualifier for the Corwen Trophy: Beth and Barry Wennell; Sheila Shea and Margaret Barnes; and Joan Marray and Jill Knight. Jill and Joan had to pull out of the final because of Jill's imminent cataract operation. Good luck to Beth & Barry and Sheila and Margaret in the Corwen.

The John Wain No Fear event, organised by Mark Spalding, was, again, a great success. Congratulations to the overall winners, Sue Jackson and Morfudd Fisher. Thank you, Mark. Your work is much appreciated.

Perry, Spickett and President's Cup Teams selected are:

Perry:

Beth Wennell and Barry Wennell, Paddy Murphy and Barry Jones; Liz Commins and David Stevenson

Spickett:

Margaret Barnes and Andrea Martin, Jill Knight and Sarah Amos, Sheila Shea and Jean Hand

President's Cup:

Angela Mayner and John Arundel, Chris Randles and Lesley Fletcher, Graham Shaw and Wendy Jenkins

Congratulations to:

- Sheila Shea & Wyn Williams and Liz Commins & Paddy Murphy, 5th and 6th in the National Mixed Pairs final.
- Liz Commins for coming 2nd with Diane Kurbalija in the Lady Milne trials
- Yvonne Evans for winning the Vallance Cup Individual
- Wendy Jenkins & Graham Shaw for winning the Colwyn Bay heat of the Portland Pairs
- Christopher Pope & Andrew Prothero for highest North Wales placing in the Open Pairs National final.
- Dr. Paddy Murphy for top place in the John Hockey.

TEAMS OF EIGHT_qualifier: 1st Llandudno
2nd Shotton
3rd Wrexham
4th Caernarfon

WEST WALES

DON'T FORGET ...

The 2nd Celtic Congress, Fishguard Bay Hotel, Goodwick, 14th - 16th June 2013.

£32 per person for the whole congress
£6-£12 per session for individual events.

Friday 14th June
International Wales v Ireland
Green pointed Men's/Ladies Pairs
Green pointed Mixed Pairs
Social Pairs

Saturday 15th June
Green pointed Teams
Social Pairs

Sunday 16th June
Green Pointed Swiss Pairs

Prizes for players from social sections

RESULTS

Teams of Eight Area Qualifier

3rd February, Llandybie

Congratulations to Haverfordwest on winning the Area Qualifier in style. The team was John & Jill O'Sullivan, Anthony Stevens, Ashleigh Scrimshaw, Peter Milewski, Lee Collier, Judith Graham-Jones, Gareth Jones.

It has now been confirmed that the West will be allowed 3 teams in the National Final so Carmarthen and Swansea also qualify.

1 st	Haverfordwest	92
2 nd	Carmarthen	63
3 rd	Swansea	59

Webber Cup Qualifier

10th February, Llandybie

This was held as two separate heats:

Green Section

1 st	Anthony Stevens, Ashleigh Scrimshaw, Peter Milewski, Lee Collier	62
2 nd	Mary Moore, Diana Jones, Kevin Maddox, John Beard	51

Red Section

1 st	Colin Nash & Jennifer Wardell, Frances Williams & Mike Reed	69
2 nd	Carmel Wiseman & Beryl Warner, Wendy Thornton & Wally Heaton	66

National Open Pairs Area Qualifier

20th January, Llandybie

1 st	Peter Milewski, Eric Hartland	59.32
2 nd	Mike Close, Laura Woodruff	59.20
3 rd	Tony Ratcliff, Kevin Maddox	58.64

Congratulations to Tony and Kevin, runners-up in the National Final on 10th - 11th March.

National Mixed Pairs Area Qualifier

2nd December, Llandybie

1 st	Bob Alderdice, Eleanor Price	65.00
2 nd	Jennifer Wardell, Chris Morley	62.27
3 rd	Mike Close, Laura Woodruff	60.45

In the National Final on 23rd-24th February, the West almost scored a clean sweep, with 1st, 3rd and 4th places. Congratulations to the winners, Laura and Mike, who last won the event in 2002.

PERRY SHIELD, SPICKETT BOWL and PRESIDENT'S CUP 2013

The teams to represent the Western Area are:

Perry:

Mike Close (Capt.), Laura Woodruff, Steve Jarvis, Mike Baker, Peter Milewski, Eric Hartland.

Spickett:

Beryl Warner, Wendy Thornton, Eleanor Price, Margaret Lane, Irene Thomas (Capt.), Jenny Vaughan.

President's Cup:

The team this year has been selected from the Area's newest club, Llandybie: Glan James, Geoff Tremlett, Catherine Dudlyke, Kamal Goswami, Gwenda Davies, Marie Craddock; NPC Frances Williams

Swansea Charity Event 2012

Friday June 28th: Open/Novice Pairs
 Saturday June 29th: Pairs
 Sunday June 30th: Swiss Teams

FULL CONGRESS £20

SESSIONS Open/Novice £4, Pairs £9, Teams £9



This is from the Merseyside and Cheshire Bridge Association newsletter. It is a response to people who have asked David Stevenson why he and his partner, Liz Commins, have been so successful this year. Here, he explains why he believes he and Liz have gone from strength to strength. The general tips are universal; the concept of being difficult to play against requires experience and more than a modicum of daring and luck.

Liz Commins and I have had a very successful year and we have been asked what the secret of our success is. Plenty of practice, of course, playing on average four sessions a week, and discussing things that went wrong afterwards. We also have developed many, many agreements, so we have about a hundred pages of notes.

But it is also our aim to be difficult to play against. Suppose you pick up

♠ A 9 8 7 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 8 7
♣ 9 6 5 2

Do you bid? Our answer is “of course”. You could open 2♠, showing a weak hand with spades and a minor. If RHO opens 1♥ you bid 1NT which shows a weak 2- or 3-suiter with spades.

How about this hand:

♠ A 6 5
♥ 6 2
♦ Q J 9 8 3
♣ Q 4 3

Your RHO opens a short club (2+ clubs, common with 5-card majors). Perhaps you scrape up a 1♦ bid. We don't: if they do not open a natural bid we like to sow confusion. So we bid 1♠. No, it is not a psych: over a short club 1♠ shows 3+ spades and a five-card suit elsewhere. How should opponents play double? Penalties and miss a heart fit? Sputnik, and miss a spade fit?

Finally, think of a raise. You hold:

♠ K 6 5
♥ Q J 10 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ K 8 7

LHO opens 1♣ (natural), partner bids 1♥, RHO doubles and you bid? No doubt you bid 4♥, doesn't every-one? Of course, LHO now bids 4♠ 90% of the time, and when it comes back after two passes you have to decide whether to sacrifice, with opponents knowing about their fit. Liz and I would not bid 4♥: we would bid 5♥. Now what do they do? Sure, they may get it right, but we have them worried.

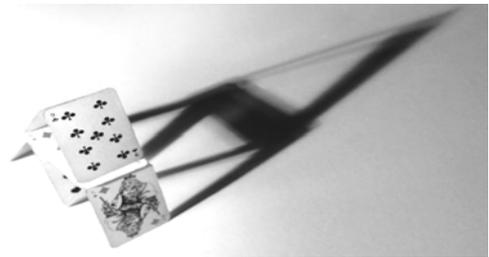


When defending a contract we play signals not just for the first card but often the second and third. A quick example: you hold 8 6 4 in hearts, which are trumps: partner leads a club; declarer wins and draws trumps. What do you play? Well, 8 then 6 then 4 says you like the club lead, and your spades are better than your diamonds; 4 then 6 then 8 says you do not like the club lead and your diamonds are better than your spades. This and other agreements make defence much easier.

When I was much younger, players in clubs used to experiment with systems. Nowadays, too many people think playing fancy methods is for good players. If you are a middle-of-the-road club player, my advice is take up a couple of odd conventions and try them out. Switch from Benjamin to the Multi. Try a weak 1NT overcall. Try five-card majors. Try pre-empts with a shorter suit than previously. Above all, try something, and you too can be difficult to play against – and that is what you want.

‘It’s only a game’

Bridge Behaviour and Misbehaviour



A recurring complaint in bridge is that enjoyment of the game can be compromised by the poor behaviour of a minority of players. The WBU has therefore adopted a policy on bridge behaviour.

This is a summary of the policy, the full text of which may be found at www.wbu.org.uk/publications/bridgebehaviour.htm. A copy has also been sent to your club.

The policy considers what should be expected of players and what could be done to improve behaviour at the table.

It distinguishes between two aspects of behaviour at the bridge table:

- a) Compliance with the Laws governing the game itself, including the mechanics of play, correction of mistakes and deterring, or redress in the event of, unauthorised information;
- b) Conduct and etiquette (Law 74).



The importance which a player attaches to these two aspects will depend partly on temperament and partly on the level at which he or she is playing. While it is not universally true, it tends to be that the higher the level of the competition, the more concerned a player is with a) and the less with b). Players in clubs with a very social ethos tend to be concerned more with pleasantness and enjoyment, and less with stringent enforcement of the (other) rules.

There is, however, no intrinsic conflict between the two aspects of behaviour. Experienced players can explain politely to their opponents why they are calling the Director; tournament novices can accept that a

mistake which would have gone unpunished in their local clubs must be rectified (by the Director) at a national final, where more than a pleasant evening out or a few local points is at stake.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge apply to all levels of competition, from club to international, and no distinction is made between different levels of competition. The rules (other than Law 74) are, however, less rigidly enforced at social and club level than in high-level tournaments in which most of the participants will be expert players.

The policy acknowledges the differences in practice between club and tournament bridge without in any way suggesting that the Laws do not apply to club bridge.

SUMMARY

1. Policy

We will promote a playing environment which, by improving attitudes and behaviour at bridge, promotes enjoyment of the game by players of all standards.

2. Implementation

We will translate our intentions into actions throughout clubs and tournaments, by asking players to observe the spirit, as well as the letter, of Law 74 which concerns conduct and etiquette; and club organisers and tournament directors to act firmly to curb bad behaviour.

3. Operation

New players: before they officially join the club, new players should be given some instruction on what is expected of them and of their opponents when they sit down at the table, in terms not just of bidding and play, but of the behaviour expected of them. Clubs might consider asking new players to sign up to a code of behaviour before accepting them into the club.

Club members: most club players are there to enjoy the game, and should feel confident that their enjoyment will not be spoiled by “experts” who invoke rules devised for tournament play, or who belittle them for their lack of expertise. The Club Director plays a key role in ensuring this enjoyment.

Expert players: some expert players tend to regard the social aspect of the game as secondary to the competitive aspect. The higher the level of the tournament, the greater the bias towards competitive rigour and away from social convention. Deviations from the rules are expected to be punished. It is therefore important:

- i) that players in tournaments be asked to observe the same standards of conduct and etiquette that would be expected at club level, and do not allow their expectation of higher bridge standards to curtail their observance of social customs such as politeness and tolerance;
- ii) that players seeking to move from club to competition be prepared for the more stringent enforcement of the Laws, *especially those relating to unauthorised information*, before their first event. This can be achieved only by advice and/or mentoring at club level.



Since the most common causes of ill feeling at the bridge table are breaches of Laws 74 (Conduct and Etiquette) and 16 (Unauthorised Information), these are summarised below.

Conduct and Etiquette (Law 74)

In summary:

- *maintain a courteous attitude at all times;*
- *avoid remarks that might interfere with another player's enjoyment of the game;*
- *don't make gratuitous comments;*
- *be courteous in calling the Director;*
- *avoid staring at your opponent, or looking at another player's hand;*
- *stay at the table until the round is called unless you have a good reason not to.*

In top-level tournaments, and especially in international tournaments (where there is a screen across the table to prevent you from seeing your partner), no one much cares whether you are friendly, as long as you're not positively rude. Players' concentration is such that they may not even notice if you get up and leave the table for a few minutes. That is no excuse for tournament players to replicate this chillier atmosphere in congresses and other competitions. Most bridge players want to have a nice, social time as well as playing the best bridge they can, and their enjoyment of an event can be affected by the behaviour of others.

The Welsh Bridge Union expects players of all standards:

- a) to observe the usual social courtesies, whatever the context;
- b) to say “Hello” at the beginning of the round and “Thank you” at the end of the round;
- c) to refrain from criticism, either direct or implied, of an opponent's bidding or play;
- d) to refrain from bullying behaviour such as interrogating an opponent about his system or displaying impatience or amusement at mistakes or making a claim which the opponent at the table may not understand.
- e) to refrain from shouting at or acerbically criticising their own partners, since this may upset less experienced opponents.

Unauthorised information (Law 16)

Authorised information: Players are authorised to base their calls and plays on information from legal calls and or plays, and from mannerisms of opponents. In other words, you may make any inference you choose from bids made or not made, and from cards played or not played, and also from anything your opponents give away by their demeanour.

Unauthorised information: extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as by means of a remark, a question, a reply to a question, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speech, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, mannerism or the like (and exposed cards and irregular bids such as insufficient bids or calls out of rotation).

The Welsh Bridge Union expects players of all standards:

- a) to accept that unauthorised information, however inadvertent, may give their own side an unfair advantage and damage opponents.
- b) to accept an opponent's decision to call the Director, without argument, without taking offence and without assuming that he or she is being accused of cheating;
- c) to refrain from trying to apply the Laws at the table without reference to the Director*;
- d) against an less experienced opponent, to explain the reason why that opponent's action is being referred to the Director for a ruling;
- e) to be polite and refrain from criticism, either of the opponents or of the Director; and
- f) to accept the Director's ruling without argument.

* *Many regular tournament players know the law on unauthorised information reasonably well, but surprisingly few know all of it. No player should attempt to instruct another, at the table, in the correct application of the law: he or she should always refer the matter to the Director.*

If you have any questions about the new policy, please contact Mike Tedd (mdt@aber.ac.uk or 01970 611518).

A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

AT THE CLUB TO OPPONENTS

Me (to the husband) Who are you playing with on Tuesday. Is it Mary?

Mary (The wife) No, Ann.

Husband (to the wife) No, that's the one I was with last night.

Mary (to the world and his wife) Oh really? Well, I hope she found something worth finding. I haven't.



OVERHEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

The opponents had failed to bid two consecutive slams.

Opponent A: So we're quits, then.

Opponent B: No. I just didn't think of bidding mine, whereas yours was malice aforethought.



Buddy, can you spare an hour?

Our President is looking for volunteers who can spare an hour once a week to teach bridge in schools. We hope to write to schools during the next month offering lessons in lunch breaks or after school, but we can't do it without you.

You don't need to be a teacher (though teachers, current or retired, are welcome). All you need is the confidence to talk to a small group of teenagers. If you don't like the idea of wrestling with 14-year-olds alone, team up with a friend. We can provide you with lesson outlines, cards and equipment.

And it's not a long-term commitment. You can do one term (11-12 weeks), or even share a term with someone else. The WBU will act as an agency to match bridge players with schools, provided we have enough volunteers.

If you can help, please contact Paddy on 01248 382375 or at chs027@bangor.ac.uk by the end of May. It's for the future of our game.

COMPETITION ROUND-UP



RESULTS

Portland Pairs

Colwyn Bay heat, 24th March

1 st	Wendy Jenkins, Graham Shaw	57.79
2 nd	Sheila Shea, Wyn Williams	56.82
3 rd	Jean Hand, Peter Hand	55.01

National Open Pairs Final

Llandrindod Wells, 10th – 11th March

Mike Amos directed, coping magnificently when two pairs didn't arrive.

1 st	Adrian Thomas, Mike Tedd	62.43
2 nd	Tony Ratcliff, Kevin Maddox	59.12
3 rd	Cedric Margot, Gordon Roxburgh	55.66

National Mixed Pairs Final

Llandrindod Wells, 23rd – 24th February

1 st	Laura Woodruff, Mike Close	61.44
2 nd	Noelle Bond, Mark Roderick	59.64
3 rd	Mary Moore, Tony Disley	55.37

WBU St David's Day Sims Results

Monday 25th February

1 st	Colin Thomas, Lavinia Thomas	PT
2 nd	Peter Richards, Peter Richardson	PW
3 rd	Elwyn Roberts, Gwen Hurst	W

Tuesday 26th February

1 st	Mary Moore, Wendy Williams	PC
2 nd	Jill Knight, David Jones	Y
3 rd	Sheila Shea, Margaret Barnes	Y

Wednesday 27th February

1 st	Keith Shuttleworth, Brian Nichols	CAS
2 nd	Ann Hughes, Su Summerhayes	OH
3 rd	Sheila Shea, Paddy Murphy	LFF

Thursday 28th February

1 st	Tony Ratcliff, Julian Pottage	MG
2 nd	Les Mann, Geoff Fielding	NT
3 rd	Beth Wennell, Barry Wennell	WS

Friday 1st March

1 st	Pat Waters, Jean Paxton	TW*
2 nd	Colin Nash, Jennifer Wardell	LDB
3 rd	Colette Davies, Mike Cohen	LDB
4 th	Roger Boyle, Jeff Thomas	A

**Tunbridge Wells, Kent*

IN PROGRESS

Welsh and Cambria Cups

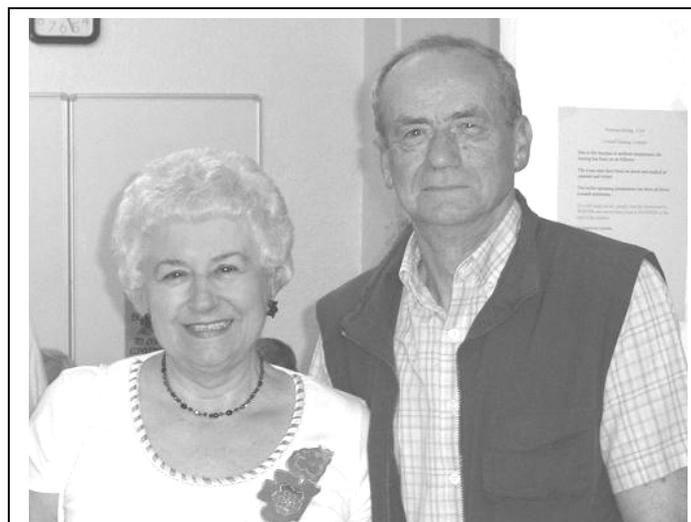
Both events have reached the semi-final stage:

Welsh Cup

In the semi-final **Pitts** will play **Kurbalija** and **Tedd** will play **Murphy**

Cambria Cup

In the semi-final **Penton** will play **Hand** and **Murphy** will play **Best**



Colin and Lavinia Thomas, winners of the Monday St. David's Day Simultaneous Pairs

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES

Welsh Seniors Congress & 1-day GP Open Pairs

Newport

25th – 27th May 2013

Celtic Congress with Wales-Ireland matches

Fishguard

14th – 16th June 2013

WBU Swiss Pairs

Llandudno

6th – 7th July 2013

Mid Wales Congress

Llandrindod Wells

13th – 14th July 2013

WBU Llangollen Congress

30th November – 1st December 2013

Colin Smith

Colin Smith, who has died aged 85, was one half of Wales's leading international pair for two decades. The partnership with the late Dr John Butler ran from 1963 to 1982 with over forty appearances for Wales in the Home Internationals for the Camrose Trophy. Smith also had a dozen matches as non-playing captain.



His international bridge career began in 1962 in the British Junior team partnering David Hamilton when the age limit for juniors was 35 and Britain beat Germany. Later that year Smith had his first Camrose partnering the late Barry Clowes.

Smith was educated at Downing College, Cambridge where he studied Engineering. After national service he had a job at Monsanto, followed by RTB at the steelworks in Newport, before becoming a lecturer at the Cardiff Institute of Technology.

His main interest outside bridge was cricket. He had three children and one grandchild.

This obituary was sent to me by Patrick Jourdain who played with Colin against Northern Ireland, in Porthcawl in 1966, and in subsequent matches. David Hamilton played in 1964. There are other people who have great memories of Colin. For a man to have played so consistently for so long, he must have had a lot about him. Why not send an email (to laura@lauradora.eu) sharing a memory of him with us?

Teams at Pwllheli

by Catherine Spalding

Mountains, narrow, twisting, undulating roads and comparatively sparse populations characterise rural North Wales. Added to that narrow peninsulas stuck out into the Irish sea and you'll realise that affiliated bridge clubs are small and well spread about. Players often travel thirty miles or more for a game of club bridge! *At least it gives good training for travelling to the other three areas of Welsh bridge. One sixty mile trip there and back to a 'local' club enables those who dare, to cope with more than three times that to other areas.*

One Saturday in late summer 2012, inspired by Adrian Thomas, Pwllheli bridge club, headed by their Chair, Eleanor Evans, organised a teams bridge competition. It was unfortunate, to say the least, that none of the larger clubs from the environs of Llandudno and Wrexham were able to field a single team between them. Nevertheless the teams from around the peninsula, Pwllheli, Criccieth and Penrhyndeudraeth rallied round, produced excellent food, a good venue and two and a half teams. Caernarfon, Ynys Môn and Benllech produced another two and a half teams and "foreigners" from Dolgellau in the Mid, were the 6th team.

El Presidente* himself directed the event and that afternoon and early evening produced a very happy occasion- and the food was fantastic- Eleanor proved that a Chairwoman could deal with players, food and mountains of washing up and still smile at the end of it.

**for those who don't read the newsletter, this is the pen name of NWBA Member, Paddy Murphy, this year's WBU President. Come to think of it, if you don't read the newsletter ...*

The results? They did not seem too important- except presumably- to the winners! The rest of us enjoyed ourselves

1 Penrhyn: P Richards, M. Peace, D. Jones, I Davies

2 Pwllheli Warriors: Geraint Williams, Anne Edwards, Mollie Evans, Sian Ellis

3 Ynys Môn: Cath Spalding, Mark Spalding, Dylan Rees, Vic Smith

4 = Dolgellau: Jupp Korsten, David Clay, Peter Cole, Eric Johnson

4= Pwllheli 2: Yvonne Brookes, Eirwin Griffith; and (Benllech) Sally Parkes, Rita Potter

6 The Caernarfon Kisses: David Spalding, Wendy Walker, Pat Mullally, Gareth Humphreys

Thanks to those who took this initiative. Lovely to see names from the past when Sir Gawain and I travelled regularly that way for bridge. Big Hi to you your end, hosts. I know those who went had a really wonderful time. JK

The Karate Kid

During one of our highly enjoyable and instructive BBO practices organised by Julian Pottage, I came across an opponent who was different from the usual. He was very chatty and asked and commented throughout the session. Here seemed someone determined to make the most of his opportunities. He was keenly competitive and showed a joyful disregard for keeping his delight to himself. His appeared to be the ebullience of youth and I was intrigued. So I made enquiries - asked Julian who he was - and I learnt that his name was Stephen Loat and he was a GB junior under-16 Karate practitioner. (you can *play* bridge but I don't think *playing* Karate seems right) He was also a Karate champion and I was sent pictures of him wearing his gold medal.



Trawling through websites (as you do when you are doing newsletters) I discovered more about the competition on the Mid Wales site. Last October half-term he travelled to Melbourne with the GB junior team to compete in the Kawata Cup in shukokai karate. Stephen won the gold medal in the under-sixteen individual kata, playing a significant part in the GB's team winning overall in an international competition.

He is now sixteen and is, according to those who know him, a good bridge player and an asset to local bridge clubs in Mid Wales. I am quite sure he is. His personality came over to me loud and clear. He can 'chat' away (great keyboard skills), analyse his weaknesses and strengths and is determined to crack our game of bridge. He is at the same time modest in his quest for greatness, and very pleasant company. He plays at the club with his father, Andrew, who deserves a gold medal himself for bucking the trend and taking time out to bring him into bridge. (We did have a very likely lad in North Wales, but further education has interfered; we hope he will be back.)

So, can Stephen be the resurgent future champion of the best game in the world? He certainly has the right attitude. All we need are some more like him. We need a few more like Andrew, too. Even grandparents who, let's face it, have more time on their hands.

I beat this drum in one of my earlier newsletter and I am ending my brief journalist career with it. Time and money MUST be spent on young people, like Stephen. He can't win a gold medal in bridge on his own. Good luck, Stephen.

Michael Byrne Seminar

Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, 27th March

Having had such a strong commendation from attenders of last year's seminar organised by the NWBA, I was determined to make it to this year's tutorials on "Opening Leads" and "Competitive Bidding", despite having to drive through a mini-blizzard to get there. I was not disappointed.

Michael delivered a well-prepared series of topics (supported by handouts) with

opportunities for questions from the floor. We appreciated his dry sense of humour and slightly anarchic comments on the rules of thumb that we all cut our bridge teeth upon.

After dollops of theory, the participants of all abilities were haphazardly grouped into tables of four and ideas were tested by playing eight sets of duplicate hands. It was instructive to listen to the subsequent discussions on the bidding and play of the hands, and a comfort that I was not the only player present to grasp the wrong end of the stick on several occasions.

In the first seminar, we covered standard leads, leads from straight and internal sequences, choice of suit, trump leads and passive versus active leads; always of course depending upon whether the contract is in a suit or in no-trumps. A phrase that sticks in my mind is "Listen to the opposition's bids – and what they don't bid"

After a refreshment break, the second seminar (not so well attended) dealt with passes, doubles and overcalls in the direct seat. Then we progressed to raising partner's overcalls. An established theory of education is that "learning should result in a change of behaviour". If I take only two things away from the evening session these are that: (a) no-trump overcalls of opposition suits only require stops in the suits they have bid; and (b) Ghestem bids (not recommended by Michael himself) should have high points in both suits shown.

To get more "juice" out of the seminar, I will need my (somewhat ageing) brain to read and reflect upon the points detailed in the handouts, as more material was covered than I could retain at the time. This is where I humbly suggest there could be an improvement, as the handouts could be more easily assimilated with better layout and use of both emphasis and white space (even if this means sacrificing more forest).

Thank you, Michael, for an interesting and challenging evening.

David Spalding
Caernarfon, Ynys Môn and Llanfairfechan
Bridge Clubs

Around the Ash Bucket

Just over a year ago I mentioned Richard III, in the context of disposing of children. Since then, the nepotical (now there's a word I never thought I'd use) king has been unearthed from a car park in Leicester, birthplace - the city, not the car park - of my old dad; and the younger of my wards has prodigally returned, having discovered that the grass is not always greener on the other side. I am therefore, perforce, back in the house in Cornelly, where the rain has been pouring all winter through holes in the roof (now being fixed by yet another of my distant relations, who happens to be a roofer).

The school next door is on holiday as I write, and Cornelia the goat is availing herself of the much greener grass on the other side of the fence, where she is not allowed during term-time. Though in fact timid, she looks fearsome in the extreme with her huge horns. The scaffolders, who are mysteriously not related to me in any way, were nervous of poor Cornelia, but I explained that she was the opposite of aggressive and would run away when they approached. Although this was true of face-to-face encounters, the First Scaffolder was not reassured when she sidled up behind him and made little butting movements with her head.



My old dad, he of Leicester, once told me of a cousin of his mother's known as Annie Ulverscroft, who lived in part of the ruined priory at Ulverscroft, near Loughborough. Bending over one day to gather some coal from the coal shed, she was firmly butted from behind by the billygoat, and landed headfirst in the heap of coal. Dusting herself off, Annie was not in the least resentful. "It weren't the goat's fault", she said.

hanna

Ask Mikey: What Does It Mean? *by Mike Close*



I am occasionally asked to arbitrate in the pub (the conversation usually starts, “Look what my partner did to me here...”).

On this occasion, my seeker-after-knowledge and the other bloke were a first-time partnership, and had agreed to play “Standard Acol”. First to speak, his partner opened 1NT (12-14), and the next hand bid 2♥. My man now bid 3♦. His partner (a recent addition to our club who had played rubber bridge in the past) scratched his head, and eventually bid 3NT. This went four off.

My man asked me, “Surely 3♦ is to play?” I said I thought it was forcing. But later, thinking about it, I wasn’t so sure.

Most tournament players are familiar with a convention called Lebensohl (see below), which handles this situation. But what about club players? I started to have a look around. (Rubber bridge players will probably say that bidding a new suit is forcing or at least invitational, as their primary interest is to get the 100+ points below the line.)

In Strong No Trump land, Alan Truscott in his book *Bidding Dictionary* makes it clear that a non-jump to a minor is to play. This makes sense: if partner has 15-17, and one of the opponents has enough to bid, you are much more likely to hold a six-count than an 11-count, so just on frequency it should be to play. But the book also suggests that the sequence 1NT-2♠-3♥ is forcing (so as not to miss the right game, presumably), which was news to me.

The EBU have a resource on their website, a system file for “Standard English Acol”

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/publications/ConventionCards-SystemsInformation/>

StandardEnglishSystemFiles.pdf

In Section B3, *Intervention*, it says the sequence is non-forcing. Only jump bids are forcing, plus the cue bid, which is Staymanic. Not only that, doubles are supposed to be for takeout, but I am sure nearly all club (and rubber) players play double as penalty.

Confused? Me too. So I did a little poll in the club, giving them the above sequence. The tournament players all said forcing. The club

players? A few of the regular pairs players, including my man, said “To play”. They figure that there are a lot of plus (or small minus) scores available if you have a six card suit and 5-9 points.

But most said “It depends”. This had me worried – were they about to say it depends on how quickly partner bid it? I hoped not, as this would be very naughty indeed! But no, they all said, “it depends what is in my hand”, that is to say “invitational” to 3NT with fitting cards in the minor plus a stopper.

Unfortunately the Standard English document does not mention invitational, so I have no idea which is right, or if there is a “right”.

What it does mean is that the cue bid has to carry many of the strong hands (you can still bid 4♣ or 4♦ as forcing, but club players are reluctant to go past 3NT), and this can be very awkward. This is why tournament players usually play Lebensohl.

So you might want to ask your regular partners what this sequence means.

- i) If the answer is “To play” (as my man meant it):
 - a) You might then ask how you show a strong hand.
 - b) You have to guess on invitational hands, bidding game when you fancy it.
 - c) The cue bid has to ask for a stopper initially, making the sequence 1NT - (2♥) - 3♥ - (Pass) - 3♠ - 4♦ non-forcing; and hence:
 - d) if you want to make a serious slam-try you must remember to bid 1NT-2♥-4♦).
- ii) If it is invitational, you cannot bid 3♣ or 3♦ to play, and the cue-bid is just a general force to game.
- iii) If it is forcing, what do you do with a 6-count and ♦ Q 10 9 6 4 3 2?

Player: 'Director!'

Director: Hope it's not too complicated – I'm in the middle of playing a hand.'

East: 'Well, I've made the opening lead out of turn but declarer, South, has placed one of her cards on the table.'

Director: 'Straightforward – instead of the usual five options, the Laws state that when a card is exposed following an opening lead out of turn, that hand automatically becomes dummy – so if South now lays out her hand as dummy, North will play the hand.'

South: 'But.....'

Director: 'No time to discuss, don't even need the book, experienced Directors know this ruling off by heart.'

At the tea break, South, a 95-year old lady, politely approached the Director and asked him if he wouldn't mind just checking the Law book to ensure that he had given her the correct ruling. As a belated courtesy and just to settle her mind, he then read out Law 54A.

Law 54A: *After a faced opening lead out of turn, declarer may spread his hand; he becomes dummy. If declarer begins to spread his hand, and in doing so **exposes one or more cards**, he must spread his entire hand. Dummy becomes declarer.*

Director: 'I think that clarifies the situation for you – here let me buy you a cup of tea.'

South: 'But as I tried to explain at the table, I wasn't starting to spread my hand. I absent-mindedly **played** the ♣9 to the opening lead. Despite my age, I've kept up with the Law changes, and would suggest that you look at Law 54B and the more relevant Law 53A.'

The Director, somewhat taken aback then turned to the two relevant Laws:

Law 54B: *'When a defender faces the opening lead out of turn, declarer **may accept the irregular lead** as provided in Law 53, and dummy is spread in accordance with Law 41 – the second card to the trick is played from declarer's hand.*

Law 53A: *'Any lead out of turn may be treated as a correct lead. It becomes a correct lead if declarer or either defender, as the case may be, accepts it by making a statement to that effect, or if a **play is made from the hand next in rotation**'*

So do we have a conflict between two Laws? No: it's just that the Director hadn't correctly identified the problem.

If in fact the lady had started to **spread** her hand, the Director has given the correct ruling under Law 54B: the original declarer now becomes dummy. This is certainly the more usual situation. The case here, however, was the more unusual one: declarer had not started to spread her hand, she had merely **played a card** (there is no dummy yet, since no cards have been exposed). This could be reasonably verified since the ♣9 was in the middle of a 5-card suit: you don't spread your hand starting with the middle card in a suit. She had in fact *played* the card, and in doing so had accepted



the lead out of turn. The intended dummy (North) should then be faced, South is declarer, her ♣9 remains played, and the play continues as normal.

This incident occurred in the Porthcawl Club (Sat 11th August. Hand 19). When I discussed it with several other local directors there was no agreement. Most maintained that South should become dummy, as if she had started to spread her hand. The details were submitted to the great man himself – DS – who accepts that it is an ambiguous situation. He then consulted other senior directors, and it was agreed that the Laws do intend to differentiate between spreading and playing but it is not clearly stated. In this case, the lady had in fact played the card, hence accepted the lead out of turn, and remains declarer.

In practice it was of little consequence who played the hand: North/South were in a hopeless 4♣X, going 3 off whichever hand was declarer – but that's not the point.

I would suggest that in the forthcoming rewrite of the Laws, this situation be addressed by way of a footnote to Law 54 (unless of course the 'Play' Laws are fundamentally re-written, in which case the clarification can be then embedded in the re-write).

The State of the Nation('s Bridge) *by El Presidente*



(These puns are getting harder to come up with.)

Well I played more bridge over the summer than I thought I would. I think, perhaps, being President isn't such a chore after all, having visited the Llandudno Swiss Paris and the Aberystwyth Congress and thoroughly enjoyed both. I can also say I've played more rubber bridge in the last two months than I have in the last thirty years, and it is such an easy game: no systems, just weak or strong NT and, if you are lucky, Stayman (of course it's even easier when you pick up back-to-back 24- and 25- counts). It was a pleasure to find not one, but two rubber bridge clubs in existence in my local area and I was welcomed into the fold and fed tea and biscuits and told many bridge stories. I was astonished to hear the tale of the lady who runs the Monday night duplicate each week in her house and gets 4 tables; when some clubs cannot even get 3 tables on a club night. We must be doing something wrong.

Anyway, back to some hands of note....

The Llandudno Swiss pairs was, as ever, a great event, nearly 100 pairs this year and easy access to a decent chip shop. What more can you ask for? The winners were Sue Richmond and Neil Thomas who won with a very narrow margin indeed. Only 5 VPs separated the top five pairs. I asked the winners for a hand which they thought was interesting and was given a well bid slam from the final round

Dlr: West ♠ A J 8 7
Vul: EW ♥ 5
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ A Q 10 7 6

♠ Q 9 4 3 2	♠ K 10 6 5
♥ K Q 10 2	♥ J 8 7 4
♦ 6	♦ Q 7 4
♣ K 9 2	♣ 5 3

♠ None
 ♥ A 9 6 3
 ♦ J 10 9 8 3 2
 ♣ J 8 4

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All pass	

With West opening a light 1♠ it now becomes a much harder task to get to the cold diamond slam, and North overcalled 2♣ which was raised to 3♣ by South and North made an excellent bid of 3♦ which seems to have worked well, as South bid 5♦. North was obviously worried as to the quality of the diamond support as he reverted to 6♣. This isn't the best contract as a heart lead removes dummy entry for the long diamonds and North will go off. In fact three pairs reached 6♣ and avoided a heart lead for 97% of the match points, whilst only one pair reached 6♦ and went one down.

Over to the rubber bridge table for me and this interesting deal.

♠ A 4 3
 ♥ K 10 7 5 3 2
 ♦ None
 ♣ A 8 6 5

♠ Q J 8 7	♠ 9
♥ Q 9 6 4	♥ A J 8
♦ K 4 3	♦ A 10 8 6 2
♣ 4 2	♣ Q J 9 3

♠ K 10 6 5 2
 ♥ None
 ♦ Q J 9 7 5
 ♣ K 10 7

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

South did well to bid 2♠ over 2♥ then fell from grace in the play and went off in 4♠.

The best line is a dummy reversal where the South hand takes four heart ruffs. On a diamond lead this is easy as there are four entries (three diamond ruffs and the ♣A). If, however, West finds the demon lead of a small trump, South must rise with the ♠A and ruff a heart or he is an entry short to get back to cash the established K♥ as his 10th trick.

More rubber bridge excitement with 40 in and at game up (what's this strange language you speak?) you (South) pick up:

♠ A Q x x x, ♥ K x, ♦ x, ♣ A K Q J 10

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass (i)
3♦	3♥	4♦	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Partner opens 1♥ and you think "OK, how do we bid this?" and start with 1♠. Partner replies 2♥ and you think "Perhaps I should ask for aces". "Partner do we play Blackwood?" you say and on hearing the answer "No" you settle for an easy life and pass (40 in remember!). No one has ever heard of Mike Lawrence in Penmaenmawr but they were not letting it lie in 2♥ and swiftly bid a super aggressive 3♦, an even more aggressive 4♦, and an "I trust you pard" double over the catch up bid of 6♥.

North's hand was a very suitable

♠ K x, ♥ A Q J x x x x, ♦ Q x, ♣ x x x.

Finally a problem: how do you play this hand in 3NT at pairs?

♠ J 2
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ K 6 5 4
 ♣ A 7 6 5
 □
 ♠ K Q 9 4
 ♥ 9 8 7
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ K 3 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
3♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥A then K, East discarding the ♠3 (suit preference) and the ♣4; then switches to the ♣10. Answer below.

I hope to be speaking to all the secretaries of the union's bridge clubs over the coming months to try to get a feel for what the clubs in the WBU want from the union, the organising committees and even the President. If you feel you have any burning desires to get involved in organising bridge,

helping run a club, teaching, or recruitment of new bridge players please contact the secretary of your nearest club or myself and I will try to help. In addition if you would like to contribute to the newsletter on any level, please try writing a bridge article. It can be an interesting story, humour, interesting hands, basic systems, bridge problems, improving your bridge or the history of the game etc. Please do, and contact the editor with your articles.

Answer to problem: Finesse the ♦J then cash the ♥Q and triple squeeze East for ten tricks. Full hand:

	♠ J 2	
	♥ Q J 5	
	♦ K 6 5 4	
	♣ A 7 6 5	
♠ 8 5		♠ A 10 7 6 3
♥ A K 10 6 4 3 2		♥ None
♦ 7 3		♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ 10 8		♣ Q J 9 4
	♠ K Q 9 4	
	♥ 9 8 7	
	♦ A J 8	
	♣ K 3 2	

First rule of bridge ... you must be able to count to thirteen

We four players, with well over 100 years of experience among us, dealt the first hand of the evening duplicate, bid and played it out without a claim and return it to the board. But my partner, reflecting, and unable to sum the tricks to 13, retrieved his hand to discover only twelve cards.

How come the trick-taking had not been affected by his having only twelve cards? We had not been alerted by one hand's having too many cards.

We retrieved the rest of the cards to see where the missing card was. We had 12 each.

From Mike Best

CALENDAR



MAY	
17 th - 19 th	Senior Camrose (Cardiff)
25 th - 27 th	WBU Seniors Congress & Open Swiss Pairs (Newport)
JUNE	
8 th - 9 th	Perry, Spickett, President's Cup (Prestatyn)
14 th - 16 th	Celtic Congress & Wales-Ireland
23 rd	Teams of Eight Final (Llanidloes)
JULY	
6 th - 7 th	WBU Swiss Pairs (Llandudno)
13 th - 14 th	Mid Wales Congress (L. Wells)
20 th - 21 st	Pre-trial (Mid Wales)
27 th - 28 th	Aberystwyth Congress
AUGUST	
3 rd - 4 th	GP Pairs & Teams (Newport)
31 st - 1 st	Welsh Foursomes (Newport)
SEPTEMBER	
2 nd - 6 th	Autumn Simultaneous (Clubs)
7 th - 8 th	Invitation Pairs (St Mellons)
21 st - 22 nd	International Training Weekend

The great and the good ...

David Bird commentating on this year's Camrose, Part 1

DB: Did X play that card deliberately?

Reply: (Yes)

DB: Well Oops! then.

... and the improving

Members of Dolgellau were excited in seeing their names appear in latest Masterpoint promotions list of November 2012 newsletter. Some of the ladies of the club were interested in knowing how they could become mistresses rather than masters. The men didn't know but volunteered to be part of the assessment team!

Fancy having a title of 2 Star Mistress or Grand Mistress? Sounds more exciting than being a Master.

TRIAL RESULTS

Lady Milne Trial 2013

Held on 26th - 27th January at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells (directed by Tony Haworth).

Rank	Names	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	Total
1	Aida Aris & Linda Greenland	23	18	17	16	14	24	16	128
2	Liz Commins & Diane Kurbalija	24	20	16	19	21	6	19	125
3	Margaret Lane & Val Kennewell	15	11	20	14	22	20	11	113
4	Sue Ingham & Laura Woodruff	7	19	19	11	24	3	15	98
5	Sarah Amos & Jean Hand	22	12	10	15	9	14	15	97
6	Jennifer Wardell & Chris Norman	8	10	13	17	8	25	14	95
7	Irene Thomas & Jenny Vaughan	1	23	11	15	16	10	16	92
8	Jo Copping & Chris Forbes	15	7	14	13	6	16	14	85

Seniors' Trial 2013

Held in Llandrindod Wells on 16th - 17th March (directed by Tony Haworth).

Rank	Names	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	Total
1	C Rochelle & L Atkinson	16	24	23	25	22	17	10	12	18	167
2	M Best & D Birt	19	25	18	21	5	8	17	18	18	149
3	P Felman & G Evans	14	20	10	25	6	22	16	18	14	145
4	P Jourdain & G Jones	14	10	20	18	25	10	20	8	18	143
5	S Shea & W Williams	10	18	17	9	14	13	14	22	20	137
6	P Hand & J Hand	18	6	13	13	24	17	13	14	12	130
7	T Disley & R Penton	16	4	20	17	8	18	22	14	10	129
8	B Wennell & B Wennell	20	14	7	5	18	20	8	16	12	120
9	G Davis & M Hirst	11	16	10	1	16	13	18	16	16	117

CAMROSE 2013

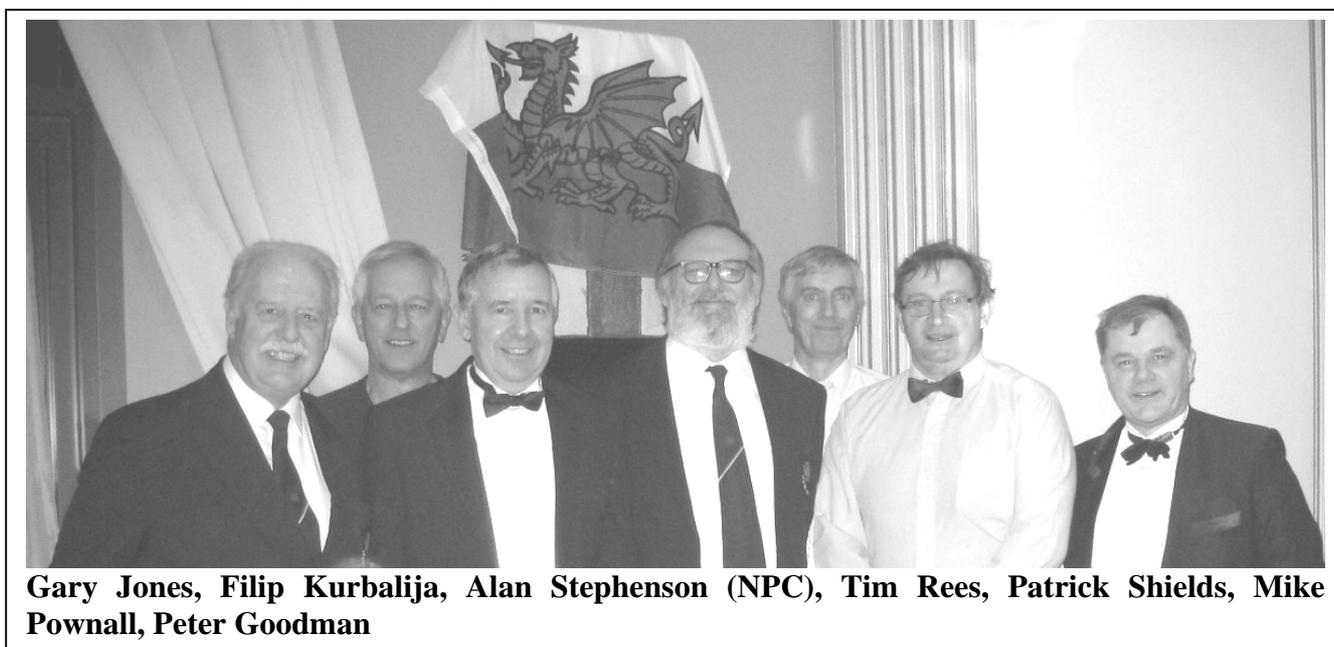
Lucky 13 for some, but not for Wales this year.

The first weekend was in Belfast in January. The second weekend, in Dublin, saw the same line-up for Wales – the two “new” pairs of Filip Kurbalija with Patrick Shields, and Tim Rees with Gary Jones, completed with Peter Goodman and Mike Pownall and Alan Stephenson back as captain. The first weekend saw Wales just 2 VPs above average, not their best performance it must be said but closer to the leaders than they were at this time last year.

The second leg, in Dublin saw no change in Wales’ 4th position, so this year was not Wales’s finest by any means. They had two

new pairings this year but we cannot put the results down to lack of familiarity. There was a little of that but there had been lots of practice games (thanks to Julian and others) – we just hadn’t played to our best at any time. The main failure (to me) was that we didn’t collect any big scores against the weaker teams; beating the stronger teams consistently is difficult, but big scores outside that would give us some headroom. Next year!

(A very brief extract from Patrick Shields detailed and most interesting account of both weekends. If you haven’t got a computer it is worth buying one for Patrick’s selection of hands and commentary.)



Gary Jones, Filip Kurbalija, Alan Stephenson (NPC), Tim Rees, Patrick Shields, Mike Pownall, Peter Goodman

(F.O'B)

Camrose 2013 - Weekend 2 (1st - 3rd March 2013)

Hosted by CBAI in City North Hotel Meath

Leaderboard		W1	Rank	W2	Rank	Total	
1st		England	92.0	1	90.0	1	182.0
2nd		Ireland	85.5	3	85.0	2	170.5
3rd		Northern Ireland	87.0	2	74.0	3	161.0
4th		Wales	77.0	38	69.0	4	146.0
5th		Scotland	60.0	5	59.0	6	119.0
6th		CBAI	36.0	6	67.0	5	103.0

INFORMATION PAGE

Contact Neville: Neville Richards, Chief Executive, Welsh Bridge Union
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Gail Jones narrowly won the prize for the best lady's Easter hat at Gwent Bridge Academy

ATTENTION WOMEN MEMBERS

We are hoping to revive the Ladies' Welsh Cup, Wales's oldest competition.

The provisional date is 28th – 29th September, in Mid Wales.



So that we can gauge interest before confirming a venue, we would like to hear from teams, pairs or even individuals who want to help bring back this most enjoyable of competitions. Laura has offered to act as a "dating agency" for women who want to play but haven't got a female partner or teammates.

The format is multiple teams (of 4, 5 or 6 players), and the more teams we get the more interesting the competition becomes. The whole event is played in a friendly and cooperative spirit, and there's usually no acrimony. It's a great introduction both to tournament bridge and to teams.

You don't need to commit yourself at this stage, but please email Laura if you think you might be interested: laura@lauradora.eu.

Club and Area Secretaries

Please make sure you inform your Area Secretary of any changes of Officer, venue and/or changes in club meetings and times, as soon as possible after your AGM. Remember to inform of any changes during the year, also. Similarly, will Area Secretaries do the same and inform Phil Bowers as soon as possible, to avoid errors. Email: wbu_mpmemsec@sixwells.net

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Feedback seems to indicate that many readers enjoy anecdotes and human interest stories more than lengthy accounts of bridge hands. Please continue to send interesting hands (especially funny stories about hands), but we particularly welcome stories about your bridge holidays, club events and comical incidents. If you can send a photograph with your article, it helps to make the newsletter more interesting and readable. Letters about articles in previous newsletters, about WBU policy and any aspect of bridge organisation are also welcome.

We try to publish articles in their entirety, but reserve the right to edit them in the interests of clarity and accuracy, or to make them fit on the page.

All contributions should be sent to Laura Woodruff at laura@lauradora.eu (or by post to Hall Farm, Hall Drive, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR). If you wish to speak to me my telephone number is 01656 741748, but not before 11 a.m. please.