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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 73, Autumn 2001

Greenland comes in from the cold

The Welsh Bridge Union has appointed its first Chief Executive, Linda Greenland. The Union's business has hitherto been handled by voluntary officers, who will now have the support of a part-time paid manager to deal with day-to-day business and membership matters, and relieve them of some administrative work. Linda has proved her efficiency and capacity for hard slog as the WBU's Treasurer, in which role she will continue.

Message from the Chief Executive: Page 2



Welsh Foursomes: photo finish

In the closing stages of Wales's premier teams tournament, held at the Seabank Hotel on September 8th and 9th, David Birt's team triumphed at the last in a tense three-way battle for first place. *Report Page 4.*

Maureen Sheridan 1941-2001

Many members will be saddened to hear of the death of Maureen Sheridan of Bridgend, a well-loved tournament player.

The Welsh Bridge Union would like to extend its sympathy to Liam and their family.

Obituaries Page 10.



Graded Masters' Pairs 19th-20th January 2002

Members, particularly those in West Wales, may be pleased to hear that the Graded Masters returns to its traditional venue of the Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli this year.

The event offers pairs the chance to play against others of their own standard in graded sections, with no fear of meeting anyone frighteningly good or (we hope) frighteningly bad.

Entries to the NTO on the forms provided in the WBU Journal by 5th January.



Letters to the Editor

From Gilly Clench, of Cardiff:

I am writing for several reasons, not least of which is that you asked me to - as few people contribute to this magazine and that is a great shame! Surely, someone can write up some competition or produce an article of some interest to the WBU members? Anyway, I am writing to say thank you to members, for allowing me the privilege of representing my country in Maastricht and Tenerife, as it has certainly been a milestone in my life. Since my first class with Patrick Jourdain some fifteen years ago, I have been obsessed with this hobby, but nothing had prepared me for the joys of International competition. I have always thoroughly enjoyed the Lady Milne and with my own previous excursions abroad I know that it has improved my game to have participated. However, to enter in a women's team and to play alongside a senior and an open team does have an uplifting Olympic feel about it. The results often belie the achievements and although I never feel I have played to the very best of my ability - mistakes always seem so easy to avoid after the event - I have certainly tried my best at the time and it does me good to do that and in such a tough field. Even this year with a disappointing final result, we managed to beat seven other countries, most of whom have a far greater pool of players to choose from and more previous experience. I hope people will remember that we are all inexperienced and that it is a learning curve, so that results will improve with time. It is a particularly hard job to be a captain and again no one has any experience of it, nor were we aware of the stamina involved in being a scorer or coach, never mind a player. We desperately need more help, as it is a major commitment and even with the generous assistance from the WBU can still be very costly (last year it cost me over £1000 to go, because of childcare and loss of wages) and we need every player of worth to get themselves involved. This evidently includes any aim to introduce young people to the game - they are our future and it is vital that we remain on the world stage - (Freudian slip there as I did enjoy singing at the medals ceremony).

From Linda Greenland, WBU Treasurer and now ...

I've just been appointed Chief Executive by Council, with a mission to turn the WBU into a professional organisation that provides a good service to members. Council has known for some time that there are many things that the WBU should be doing that we are not, and many others that we could do better. My job is to work with existing officers, find ways to fill the gaps and where appropriate change the way we do things, to make life easier for administrators and better for players at club, area and national level (all this for no noticeable extra cost). I am under no illusions that this is going to be an easy task and it won't happen overnight.

One of the things we have been notoriously bad at is communicating; I hope to change that. I will write a newsletter article such as this at least twice a year to tell you what is going on, what we've done and what we are hoping to achieve. This need not be a one-way communication; I am always happy to hear from the members. I'm now the official point of contact for the WBU, so if you want to praise, complain or preferably make constructive suggestions to Council, please write to me, not to Hon. Secretary.

As a start I would like to establish at least one electronic point of contact at each club; this might be the secretary if they are a computer buff like me, or some other member(s) of the committee. It is far easier and cheaper for me to send e-mail to 56 clubs at the push of a button than print and post 56 letters. The purpose of this contact initially is to sort out membership queries easily, to disseminate information quickly from the WBU to clubs and to sound clubs out about ideas that affect what you do - it's no use having a grand idea if it's completely unworkable in practice. I've already heard from some clubs, but if other "club-contacts" could e-mail me at deri31@ntlworld.com within the next three weeks it would help. I hope to start an electronic newsletter aimed at the wider audience of club and tournament players early next year.

International Round-up



Camrose

The WBU Selection Sub-Committee meets at Trials and telephonically to discuss selections for international events, appoint non-playing captains and arrange training programmes. They receive no reward and few thanks for their work, which involves several weekends observing trials and an enormous amount of analysis of players' performances. The present Committee consists of the following players, appointed by their Area Associations and the Executive:

North:	Peter Garner-Gray	01772 774 682	Chairman.
East:	John Salisbury	02920552340	
Mid:	Monica Garbett-Edwards	01686 688254	Secretary
West:	Steve Kennewell	01792 202524	
Exec:	Peter Hand	01244 830246	

The trial for the 2001-2002 Camrose series took place at Swansea Bridge Club on 14th-15th September, and the squad chosen was:

Tim Rees and Filip Kurbalija
Adrian Thomas and Paul Denning
Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff
Gary and Dafydd Jones
Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn

Sicilian Open, Cefalu 28th November-2nd December 2001

The four players who are sitting out the match against Northern Ireland will represent Wales in the Sicilian Open Teams Championship. The Sicilian Bridge Federation is generously meeting most of the cost of the trip; Gary and Dafydd Jones, Adam Dunn and Peter Goodman are paying only for their flights. Thanks are due to Patrick Jourdain for arranging the invitation.

Lady Milne

The trials for the Lady Milne Women's Home Internationals will take place on 24th-25th November at Cardiff Bridge Club. Spectators are welcome. A separate trial will be held for the European Championships to be held in Salsomaggiore in June.

7th European Mixed Championships Ostend, Belgium: 16th-22nd March 2002

Entry fees to be paid in cash (Swiss Francs) at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk in the Media Centre. Pairs: 350 Swiss Francs per pair; Teams 1,000 Swiss Francs per team. Registration must be made through the Welsh Bridge Union (contact Linda Greenland) before 31st January 2002.

There is no limit to the number of pairs or teams that may compete from any one country.

RESULTS



Welsh Foursomes 2001

1 st :	David Birt, Geoff Evans, Hayden Dando, Trevor Towers.	164 VPs
2 nd :	Adrian Thomas, T Rees, Ted Martin, John Salisbury	161 VPs
3 rd :	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain, David Burn, Ceri Pierce	160 VPs

Going into the last match, the scores were 144, 155 and 153 respectively, so any one of these three teams could have won. David Birt scored a maximum 20-0 victory over Peter Goodman's team (Adam Dunn, Jon Seavers, Dafydd Jones) to pip the other teams to the post.

Ladies' Welsh Cup

The National Ladies' Teams event was held at the new venue of Rhayader Leisure Centre on 22nd-23rd September. Powys County Council's staff, led by Centre Manager, Tim Davies, were very friendly and helpful. They arranged with a local caterer to provide dinner at the Centre on the Saturday evening; everyone who took advantage of this arrangement reported that the food was plentiful and delicious.

1 st :	Laura Woodruff, Susan Ingham, Mary Moore, Marjorie Morris	202 VPs
2 nd :	Irene Thomas, Noelle Bond, Eileen Hughes, Isabel Evans	194 VPs
3 rd :	Linda Greenland, Ann Hirst, Diana Harris, Annie Favager	192 VPs

Men's teams

The Men's event was held at the same venue:

1 st :	Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, Patrick Jourdain, Tony Ratcliff.	157 VPs
2 nd :	Brian Crawford, Peter Nickson, H Roberts, F McAleavy	134 VPs
3 rd :	Paddy Murphy, B Edwards, K H Jones, B L Jones	128 VPs

International Masters' Pairs

Pairs have to apply to the Selectors to enter this event, which is Butler-scored and restricted to those who have represented Wales or their Area Association, or who are considered by the Selectors to be of equivalent standard. It was won for the second year running by Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff.

1 st	Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff	+141
2 nd	Tim Rees and Filip Kurbalija	+61
3 rd	Philip Felman and David Hamilton	+27

Louis Leron Cup (East Wales Area Teams)

Held at Gwent Academy, Newport on 28th October 2001.

1 st	Maggie Pierce, John Glubb, Gilly Clench, Tom Reddy
2 nd	Mark Roderick, Mike Best, Nigel Baker, Noelle Bond
3 rd	Phil Felman, Geoff Evans, Trevor Towers, Hayden Dando



Contributors' articles

The icing on the cake

You may, if you play at all regularly, have heard the plaintive cry "I hate pairs!" as declarer at the next table floors a contract by trying for a top. After all, safety plays and minor suit games are not going to take all the matchpoints when the rest of the room has fluked a 3NT contract with an overtrick.

It is, however, sometimes possible to play safe and get a good pairs score. Take this example of a fairly straightforward 3NT contract, where the partnership has plenty of high-card points but some careful play is needed to avoid losing the lead too many times.

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

North leads the king of clubs, which you win with the ace, delighted that you now appear to have two club stoppers when a small club lead would have given you an anxious moment. You might think of ducking a diamond to establish four tricks in that suit, but if they don't break 3-2 you will still be short of a trick, and the defence will clear the club suit before you have enough winners. Instead you should play safe by cashing the ♠K and running the 10. If this is covered, you are guaranteed nine tricks with four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and the ♣A. If it is not covered, unless North shows out on the second round, overtake with the jack. If South wins with the Queen the spades have broken and you will always make four tricks in the suit. If the jack holds, even if the spades break 5-1 you have brought home your contract: you do not play another spade, but settle for three tricks in the suit and establish three heart tricks by playing a small heart (you need to switch to a heart because your only entry to dummy is the ♦K, so it's now too risky to try to establish four spade tricks). If, on the other hand, North shows out and

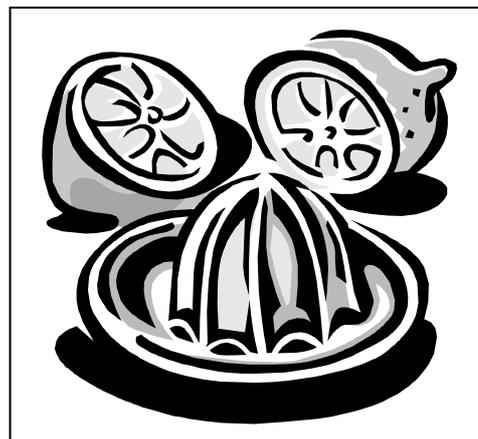
South ducks the Queen, play a small heart from hand. You still have three spades, three hearts and three top tricks in the minors.

Now look at what happens to the defence if North has covered the ♠10. If he started with the ♣KQ and three or more diamonds, you can make all thirteen tricks. You may think that this is a remote possibility, but think again. You know that North started with the two club honours, and it is even money that he holds three or more diamonds. If South follows to the second spade, you know that you have five tricks in the suit. You lose nothing by playing for a favourable holding in the minors.

Cash the ♠J9 and 5, discarding three diamonds from hand. Finesse the ♥10 and continue with the 9; if these hold, North will be squeezed in the minors when you play off the ♥ ace and king. North's last five cards will be ♣Qx and three diamonds. When you play the ace of hearts, North will discard his small club; but when you cash the king, he is helpless: if he discards the ♣Q you will make the jack for you thirteenth trick; if he discards a diamond, the suit is now 2-2 and you can make all three remaining diamond tricks.

The squeeze is not important for your contract, but it's always good to look for these positions when they don't matter – if you don't practise spotting them, you may miss them when they matter very much.

Jon Seavers



Knavish tricks

David Burn

One of the most irritating positions to get wrong as declarer is the combination known as the “king-jack guess”. This deal from the World Mixed Pairs championship in Lille in 1998 is an example of what I mean:

♠ K9	
♥ QJ10	
♦ KJ83	
♣ KJ43	
♠ 532	♠ AQ6
♥ A9852	♥ K73
♦ Q6	♦ A9542
♣ Q87	♣ 106
	♠ J10874
	♥ 64
	♦ 107
	♣ A952

South	West	North	East
Cronier	Meckstroth	Rossard	Chambers
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the ♣7 to East’s ten and declarer’s ace. Cronier led a heart at trick two, which Meckstroth won with the ace. He switched to the six of diamonds, and Cronier judged to play the king from dummy. Juanita Chambers won the ace and returned a diamond to the queen. A heart to East’s king was followed by a third round of diamonds, on which declarer elected to discard a club, so Meckstroth ruffed and with two more trumps to come, the defence had +200 and a virtual top.

Cronier is one of the nicest guys in the game, and I’m sure he was the first to congratulate Meckstroth on an excellent defence, but you may be sure that he did so with murder in his heart. Nobody really minds losing a two-way finesse for a queen, since this is regarded as purely a matter of chance – though most players have their own views on how to play a trump suit such as:

♥ A1093
♥ KJ86

Some believe that if you have to tackle this suit at trick two, you should lead from whichever hand you happened to win trick one in and finesse a card from the other hand, on the basis that God put you where He did at the first trick for a reason. Another theory is that you should finesse into the hand of your less obnoxious opponent – that way, losing the trick won’t hurt so badly. Unless the opening lead has been from an “obvious” combination such as king-queen, there is a slight technical edge in favour of playing the opening leader for the queen of trumps – if he didn’t have it, he might have led a trump. In a Mixed Pairs event, of course, the correct way to play the suit is to finesse into the hand of the opponent less likely to know what to do when he wins the trick.

But losing a king-jack guess is not a matter of chance – it’s a confrontation between you and the opponent who’s given you the guess, and it is a severe blow to the amour propre of any declarer to get it wrong. Here are some thoughts on how you can preserve the shreds of your frail ego for a little while longer the next time this kind of position happens to you at the table.

In the examples which follow, I will assume that the “king-jack suit” is a side suit in a trump contract – at no trumps, the position is often less critical and inferences from the opening lead are different. Your objective as declarer is simply to make the “right” guess to avoid two losers in the suit.

It’s important to realise that while some positions may look equivalent to you as declarer, they are not in fact equivalent at all from the point of view of the defence. For example, if you have:

♥ 53
♥ KJ10

this is not at all the same as:

♥ J3
♥ K105

from East’s point of view. In the former case, with two low cards on the table, East will lead

low from either the ace or the queen with equal facility, and you have more or less a complete guess. Again, there may be an inference from the opening lead. Unless West led an “obvious” card to trick one, there is a slight edge in favour of playing him for the ace rather than the queen of hearts, since with the queen and not the ace, he might have led a heart. But in the latter case, with the jack on the table, East (who does not know that you have the ten) would be pretty unlikely to risk handing you a trick by leading from the queen, whereas he would be very likely indeed to try to persuade you to lose a trick that is rightfully yours by leading from the ace.

Similarly:

♥KJ10

♥53

and

♥K53

♥J10

look “the same” to you as declarer, but they will not look the same to West. In the former case, he will almost never lead from the queen, unless it is crystal clear that the defence needs two fast tricks. He does not know who has the ace, so why would he risk taking a two-way finesse for you that you might get wrong left to your own devices? On the other hand, he can lead low from the ace without risk. In the second position, West might lead low from either the ace or the queen – but the queen is perhaps slightly more likely, since he will not want to risk handing you two tricks in the suit by leading from the ace if you have the unsupported queen. With the queen and not the ace, on the other hand, he may hope for East to have the ace-jack.

A basic principle is that when dummy has the king-jack and West leads the suit, he is much more likely to have the ace than the queen. Of course, at the highest level the position becomes one of bluff and double-bluff, as in the hand with which I introduced this topic, but at levels below the highest, the principle works pretty well.

What if you have to lead the suit yourself? If the king-jack are in dummy:

♣KJ7

♣53

West’s reaction will give you a clue – if you lead low and he plays a card with a trace of a pause, then he has the queen and not the ace. I know that this is a sad comment on the moral fibre of my fellow human beings, and I know that the world is the poorer thereby. But your task is to make the contract - your opponent’s conscience is not your problem, which is just as well since it isn’t his either. If, of course, West plays low without a twitch, then you should go up with the king.

Have you noticed, by the way, how nobody ever ducks any more? They “duck smoothly”, whatever that means, instead – how does one “duck roughly”, do you suppose? By the same token, nobody ever finds out that the trumps aren’t breaking – they “get the bad news”, a phrase that I can never read without the image of a player laying down the ace of hearts and being handed a telegram saying “East has trump trick stop”. My favourite, though, goes like this: “Rodwell won the king of diamonds, noting the fall of the ten, and...” So that’s how he won all those Bermuda Bowls – in the other room, Chemla didn’t notice the fall of the ten, and misplayed the hand.

I digress. In the position where dummy has the king-jack, most declarers have a tendency to play the king more often than the jack. This is almost certainly due to the psychological desire not to be fooled by West’s duck, but the fact is that the king will work more often than the jack on balance – if West does not have the ace, he will sometimes have led the suit. It is true that if West has the ace, he will occasionally play it when you lead towards dummy for fear that you have a singleton – but the average player these days knows that ducking is almost always the right play. When West does go up with the ace, then, it is very likely that he also has the queen, and you can finesse the jack next time with fair confidence should you need the extra trick.

When you have the king in dummy and the jack in your own hand:

♦K53

♦J10

standard operating procedure is to lead the jack and, when West pauses before playing low, go up with the king (just as you would if you had AJ10). Of course, nobody would actually cover the jack with the queen these days – why should declarer be about to take a Chinese finesse? – but the prudent defender will take care to protect his partner’s honour holdings by pretending to have them himself. If the jack is in the other hand, on the other hand (you too can be a bridge journalist):

♦J3

♦K105

then East will certainly cover it some of the time when he has the queen, so if he plays low, the king is still your best bet. None of the above plays will work all the time. But they will work more often than not, and if you simply adopt the principles involved as a habit, they will at least save you the trouble of thinking. Moreover, next time you get a king-jack guess wrong, you need no longer suffer the mental torment that is the inevitable concomitant. Just blame me instead.

A couple of king-jack stories, for those who have found this article lacking in the frivolity and persiflage that my reader has come to expect. Brian Senior’s excellent book “Clever Bridge Tricks” gave rise to a thought – take the West cards and defend 3NT:

♠J102

♥AQ62

♦K

♣KJ762

♠Q7

♥109

♦Q109842

♣Q83

South	West	North	East
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You lead the ♦10, dummy plays the king and East a discouraging five (your method is that the ten asks for an unblock, so you may place South with ♦AJ3). The ♣2 is led from dummy to South’s ten. Plan your defence.

While you are considering that, how would you play this suit combination for five tricks at no trumps?

♣J109843

♣A

When Brian Callaghan had this problem in the Cino del Duca tournament in Paris many years ago, he found an ingenious solution. Cashing the ace, he crossed to the dummy and called for “le roi de trefle” (the printed word is wholly incapable of doing justice to Brian’s French accent, but if you imagine a laryngitic bullfrog with a mouth full of blotting paper, you will have some idea). Of course, I didn’t have le roi de trefle, but Brian didn’t know this, so after some discussion I played le valet instead. Highly amused by all this, East slammed a card triumphantly on the table and said: “Ca, c’est le roi!” West, a little less disposed to hilarity, contributed his own card with a reproachful: “Et ca, c’est la dame.”

Back to the defensive problem. Brian had actually described the deal from the point of view of declarer, since the full hand in his version was:

♠J102

♥AQ62

♦K

♣KJ762

♠Q7

♥109

♦Q109842

♣A83

♠K965

♥J874

♦765

♣Q5

♠A843

♥K53

♦AJ3

♣1094

The idea was to develop clubs without letting East into the lead with the queen. No mortal East will go up with the queen when a low card is led from dummy, so if the finesse is right, you probably do not need to take it. Brian continues:

“One attractive possibility is that East will fail to play the queen and West will hold up the ace. Then, of course, knowing that the queen is held by East, you may bring it down on the next round and lose only one trick in the suit. In this case, you will probably end up with eleven tricks and East-West will need to do a little explaining to their team-mates at half time.”

So, next time you play against Brian (or any other tricky declarer) and hold the West hand as I gave it to you – remember to duck the ten of clubs, won't you? That way, it will be South who needs to explain how he went down with the ♣Q onside. You can even duck it smoothly, if you like. I shan't be there to see.



False Economy

I was struck by the similarity of the hands below which have been analysed by Dean Hardie (WBU Newsletter 55) and Eric Kokish (Bridge Calendar 1966) respectively

♠ K x x	
♥ x x x	
♦ A K x x	
♣ K x x	
♠ Q x x	♠ x x x
♥ A x x	♥ Q J 10 x x
♦ x x	♦ x x x
♣ Q J 10 x x	♣ x x
♠ A J x x	
♥ K x	
♦ Q J x x	
♣ A x x	

3NT by S, ♣Q lead

and

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

3NT by S, ♥K lead

In each case declarer has enough points to make him feel that the contract should be made and it is, if the lead is from a 5 card suit and South end-plays West in his own suit. But only if he cashes just enough diamonds to ensure that West cannot exit in that suit. If he cashes all four diamonds, he subjects himself to a suicide squeeze. The handling of the diamonds suggests the “principle of parsimony” or “Occam’s Razor”, and I wondered if the theorists could make a general educational point out of the examples. Gossip has it that one of Wales’s best is somewhat parsimonious in other matters and may be is the right person to answer this question.

Bryn Gravenor

Editor’s note: For those (like me) grappling with the bewildering catalogue of bridge slang terms, here are a few definitions which you may find useful in reading the above article! Thanks to Dave Burn for enlightenment.

Suicide squeeze: Cashing winners and squeezing your own hand or dummy so that you have to unguard one or more of the remaining suits and cannot safely exit from the hand you’re playing from.

Occam’s Razor: the view that the simplest explanation of a natural phenomenon is most likely to be the correct one.

The “principle of parsimony” is a more formal name than “Occam’s Razor” for the principle quoted above. “Keep it simple, stupid” is a version with which bridge players might perhaps be more familiar.

NEWS FROM SOUTH WALES

Maureen Sheridan

It is with deepest regret that we mourn the death of our dear friend Maureen Sheridan. Maureen will be sadly missed by her large number of friends, both in and out of the bridge world. Maureen was a shining example to us all in the way she bore her illness. She was looked after by a wonderful husband, Liam, who still expected her not to forget the system. As a partnership they won many of the WBU major events, as well as Cardiff League and Western Area competitions. Maureen had a lovely relationship with her three children and six grand-children: they responded to her sense of humour. Maureen and Liam were able to share their ruby wedding and Maureen's sixtieth birthday.

Pat Haworth and Anne Hyatt

Maureen Sheridan, one of the loveliest women in bridge, sadly died on September 17th after a battle with cancer over a seven year period. Throughout the illness, Maureen displayed her usual positive attitude, rarely complained - except out of frustration at not being able to get around, and fought valiantly and with a courage that would put most to shame. She and her husband, Liam, were a prominent part of the bridge circuit and were renowned as one of Wales' strongest mixed partnerships. They were one of life's lucky couples in that they were blessed with a full and rewarding life of happiness, which included their three children, Dawn, Peter and Gary and subsequently the arrival of seven grandchildren to date. They led life to the full and were equally at home on bridge holidays, on the racetrack, walking, at Jazz Festivals and at the theatre, or simply being hospitable socialising and entertaining friends or as loving parents and grandparents.

Maureen was born on 13th March 1941 in Barnett and she and Liam met at Barnett Jazz club. They moved to Wales in 1962 as a result of Liam's job with the Coal board and when they arrived in Porthcawl found themselves neighbours to Anne and Fred



Hyatt, who introduced them to the game of bridge. Liam began to learn at Brynteg with Max Powell, but a year later, Maureen was persuaded to go to the classes on condition that she could go to the night club until the early hours after the bridge was well forgotten! They made up part of a group of about twenty players from the area and from Bristol, who were seen on many bridge holidays. This unique set have their own rules about etiquette and table manners, with the equivalent of a swear box for those that fall foul and they would pool their winnings to enable them to have yet another celebration at some later date. Maureen would often come out on top, because of her placid and delightful nature and her ability to suffer Liam's ravings at some minor error with a charm and humour that would stop even his Irish temper. She will be remembered with great love by their numerous friends and because of her marvellous example will leave behind a strong and united family, whose future lives can only be enriched by the memory of her kind and loving nature.

Gilly Clench

Liam has asked us to publish the following letter:

We are writing to thank all those who sent flowers, donations, letters or cards expressing their sorrow at Maureen's death.

We have been overwhelmed at the kind thoughts and words that have reached us. You will appreciate that the loss to us is very hard to bear, but we are sure that in time to come the kind words will ease the pain, while reminding us that Maureen was a "lovely lady", and so many of you took the time and trouble to tell us so.

Thank you once again from a very appreciative family.

Liam, Dawn, Peter and Gary Sheridan

Ken's travel disasters: Episode 2

The European Bridge League TD course is held roughly every 4 years. It recently took place in Italy; Anne Jones and I represented Wales.

Our chauffeur set out for Heathrow at 3am; 12 hours later we arrived at the hotel, after a nervous interlude when the coach driver did a 3-point turn in a confined space with a sheer precipice on one side. We were due to start work at 4pm, but one coach was missing.



We started the 90-minute opening exam at 6pm. It was tough, being based on what the EBL thinks directing is all about, everywhere around the world people interpret the Laws slightly differently. In the lectures following the test many of the answers are questioned, and different answers are found to be equally valid. The test is re-marked.

We escape to the restaurant - the food is good, many small courses and a cornucopia of wine on the tables. Staying at the hotel with us are the contestants for Miss Italia 2001, along with minders and chaperones. The Italians have bagged the best viewing table, honoured guests are sometimes invited to dine with them and admire the view.

On Saturday the course settles into its regular format; we are divided into groups of eight for an intensive day of lectures interspersed with marked simulations. By Sunday we know the ropes and there is a battle to be first for the simulations. A typical simulation might run: -

First student comes in - lead out of turn; Second student - lead out of turn by the partner of the person who had won the last trick by revoking; Third student - lead out of turn as before but they had an exposed card and their partner also had one; Fourth student - it gets too complicated to remember, but trying to avoid being last is everyone's aim.

Fearghal O'Boyle has prepared an appeal to be heard as a simulation. The principal character "Hannibal" is aptly named. The Chairman of Appeals, Grattan Endicott, took it seriously, but it was greatly enjoyed by the rest of us.

After 5 gruelling days which included 15 lectures and 27 exercises, the Course finished with another 2-hour exam. We pass, drinks all round.

At first light we assemble outside the hotel to catch the bus to the two Milan airports. There is a 15-minute delay, as people have to be dragged out of bed. First stop Linate Airport; just after leaving the airport the bus breaks down. 20 minutes later the driver has managed to get us going again, only to face another breakdown about a mile from Malpensa. You can see the planes taking off; people wave their flights goodbye. Just as well Anne and I are on a late flight - good forward planning.

The course was hard work, but I would definitely recommend it for any experienced TD who wants to direct at congresses or national events. Anyone interested in attending the next course in about four years time should contact me, Ken Richardson on 029 2025 5162 or ken.deris1@ntlworld.com.

Director's 'C' Course

There will be a 'C' course on 26th -27th January 2002 at Gwent Academy. This is just a one-day course but as participants are assessed we have to restrict participants to a manageable number. 6 to 8 is the most we can have on each day. Anyone interested apply to Ken.

A trip across the border

Our trip to Loughborough, September 2001 *Lauralee Reed*

The teach-in weekend was jam packed with bridge, bridge, and bridge! The weekend was superbly designed to teach bridge but to socialise & have fun as well.

We learnt about take out doubles, making game & slam contracts, how to communicate with our partner and a few excellent tips. Gareth Evans was in the 'eager beavers' section teaching us. We met the leading Welsh Junior international pairs who were more English than they were Welsh; we also met many more bridge buddies.

I found the lessons very beneficial and have been putting them into practice. I would like to thank the WBU for letting us have the opportunity to learn in Loughborough. Kate, Rhys, Mike & I would love to return next year. All our thanks and best wishes. The Welsh contingent.

Loughborough 2001 *Michael Brown*

Over the weekend Friday 31st August to Sunday 2nd September, myself and three other 15 year olds accompanied by Miss A Davies, had the privilege of attending the EBU Junior 'teach-in' at Loughborough University. We as a group have to offer our thanks to the WBU who partly funded the weekend. I know that it has been a great benefit to my friends and myself.

Arriving at Loughborough in mid afternoon, we were warmly welcomed into the University Campus and were impressed by the hospitality of the tutors and organisers of the English Bridge Union and campus staff.

Being mere humble beginners of only six months experience, our group was placed in the 'eager beaver' category, at intermediate

Thanks to Graham John and West Wales Bridge Association for the work they have put into Junior bridge; also to Gareth Evans for time and effort.

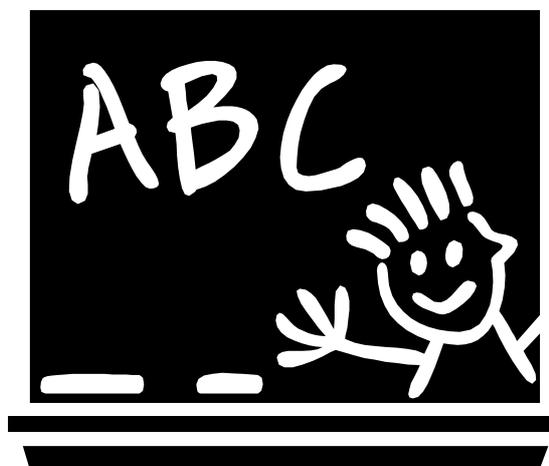
Ffynone House School

level. My first thoughts were those of amazement. Every person in this group was younger than us and secondly they played remarkably well for their ages and in some cases they knew the theory better than we did. It appeared that all the players older than ourselves were, conversely either complete novices or had years of experience.

During the classes we learnt and revised many important aspects of bridge such as the Stayman convention, overcalls and take out doubles. This, when coupled with the vast supply of excellent food and refreshments on offer and concise but measured bridge tuition, endured a most productive weekend all round.

One of the highlights of the trip was the main tournament. Suffice it to say, our performance was not up to its normally high standard! Nevertheless, we still found it a revelation to witness a tournament take place. I also found it quite a novelty using computer dealt hands! I am quite, quite certain that if I had an opportunity to take part again, I would be far better prepared!

However, it was a rare opportunity for us, the Welsh contingent to challenge our counterparts from across the Severn Bridge and we remain undeterred by our results. A very good time was had by all!



Thistle Hotel Bridge Breaks

CARDIFF - EXETER - GRASMERE

Once again we've teamed up with Thistle Hotels to offer superb breaks in Exeter and Cardiff plus a magnificent week at the Thistle Prince of Wales at Grasmere in the heart of England's outstandingly beautiful Lake District.

Hotel bedrooms have TV as well as tea/coffee facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available without supplement. All our UK breaks are hosted by the resident First For Bridge team of Martin and Judy Holcombe with the bridge directed by either Graham Hedley or Andrew Kambites.

- ◆ Programme to suit all abilities
- ◆ Partners available ◆ Master points awarded
- ◆ Instructive seminars ◆ Bridge licensed by EBU/WBU



Cardiff Thistle

Located in the heart of Cardiff, this Victorian hotel has been beautifully restored to offer luxury with sophistication and provides high standards of service and facilities. Choice of 3 bars, brasserie and 2 lounges. Car parking available.

WEEKEND - 23rd-26th* August 2002

Bridge Director **Andrew Kambites**. Cost per person half board - **£139.00** for two nights and **£189.00*** for three.

NEW YEAR 2002/3. Mon 30 December - Thu 2 January

We will be hosting a three-night break at the Cardiff Thistle with **Graham Hedley** as Director. **£295.00** per person.

Exeter Thistle

WEEKEND - 8th-10th November 2002

Easily reached from the M5 and close to Central Station, the shopping centre and the cathedral, the Thistle has a warm, friendly atmosphere and helpful staff. The restaurant offers fine traditional cuisine. Limited free parking.

Bridge Director **Andrew Kambites**. Cost per person half board - **£139.00** for two nights.

Grasmere Thistle

WEEK - 7th-14th March 2003

Situated just 10 minutes walk from the village of Grasmere, the hotel stands in beautifully kept gardens opposite Dove Cottage on the shore of the lake. It has country house style and atmosphere and is the ideal location for exploring the surrounding countryside. Ample free parking. Bridge Director **Graham Hedley**. Cost per person half board **£349.00** for seven nights.

Improve with Andrew Kambites

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 12th-19th April 2002

Enjoy bridge but want to know more? This holiday provides a perfect opportunity to improve all aspects of your game under the expert guidance and tuition of one of bridge's more flamboyant yet respected teachers, **Andrew Kambites**, who is just one of three fully qualified EBUTA teachers on hand to guide and assist.

- ◆ New series of instructive seminars
- ◆ Friendly competitions
- ◆ Varied programme ◆ Partners available
- ◆ Master points awarded
- ◆ Bridge licensed by the EBU and SBU

Our three holidays with Andrew Kambites in Menorca have been hugely successful and we are sure the fourth will be the same so please book early to reserve your place.

The inclusive cost of this holiday is just **£439.00*** which includes **full board**, all bridge fees, transfers and airport duties. A unique holiday at a unique location.

*(Subject to Single Supplement)

The Magic of Menorca



HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA

11th-25th October 2002

Back to S'Algar for our 31st October holiday where the usual team of hosts Martin & Judy Holcombe plus Graham & Berry Hedley will guarantee great bridge in a superb setting.

- ◆ Trophies and cash prizes ◆ Bridge licensed by EBU/SBU
- ◆ Master points awarded ◆ Two stunning prize draws

Choice of self-contained hotel bedrooms or apartments comprising two twin bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom and large balcony or terrace.

This is always a highly popular holiday and is already booking up fast so make sure you reserve your place soon! Choice of departure airport with **full board**, all-inclusive prices from only **£755.00** each. (Subject to Single Supplement)

Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS Jan-Feb 2003

Our 2002 holiday at the Algarve's magnificent Hotel Atlantis is a sell-out so we're delighted to be back there in 2003 (exact dates to be confirmed) with the usual team of hosts Martin & Judy Holcombe plus Graham & Berry Hedley.

Full details, brochures and booking forms for all the above holidays from: Martin Holcombe

FIRST FOR BRIDGE

4 The Lyes, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5HF

Tel: 01934 876500, Fax: 835819, Mobile: 07771 901579



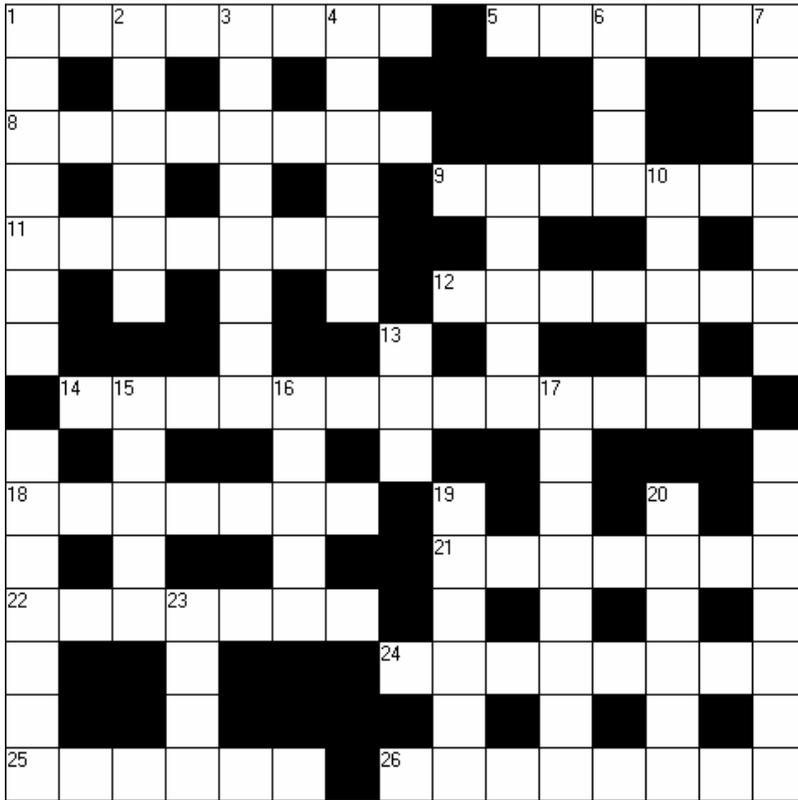
E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com

- info@ukbridgeholidays.com

Web Sites - <http://www.bridge-holidays.com>

<http://www.ukbridgeholidays.com>

Menorca and Cyprus holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd. ATOL No: 1772
Algarve holiday operated by Sage Holidays Ltd. ATOL No: 0308



Cryptic Crossword

Across

1. Bemused maid puts on her supposed best friend (8)
5. It's no good asking - a brief hint covers first turn (4,2)
8. Low needs zing without energy mixture to make brave (8)
9. Snake and queen take back, for example, sprinkler (7)
11. Turkish male has essence of roses on his head ... (7)
12. ... or this, as quiet poem about his mum. (7)
14. If I in strong French with positive charge make stronghold (13)
18. Put butter on bad back with Eastern Scots servant (7)
21. Have fewer birthdays: 20 or 60 - who can tell?.(7)
22. Low spirits put little girl on edges (7)
24. Help about h-hurried wandering (8)
25. Get into your best robes and coruscate! (6)
26. Derby legend, and posh one, in women's honour – a fine Northern blend (8)

Down

1. Four-legged friend finds material in hedgerows. (7)
2. Bubbles do this: a time-space traveller returns. (6)
3. Gold mark takes three of these for game enhancement (8)
4. One in another game, watch them fall (6)
6. Charge about area of land (4)
7. Put head in fire without resistance, or throw your opponent in to avoid it (7).
10. Write lines within or back neat assembly (5)
13. B did this; 4 will make a nibble. (3)
15. Debt of love on the side. (5)
16. And burnt the topless towers of __ (Marlowe). (5)
17. Lawrence takes parts of 21 back and 26, faster than the mail. (8)
19. Hark! Chinese vessel abandons Carroll's monster: talk fast. (6)
20. Puzzling clue about burden, but you'll find the answer on page 3. (6)
23. Scripture class has no place for divorce. (4)

**Master Point of View/
Promotions List**

Noelle Bond has been hors-de-combat recently so Master Point of View and the Promotions list will appear in the next issue.

Disappointed readers may console themselves with the thought that her recent eye operations will enable her to spot their arithmetic errors more easily.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Camrose matches

1st & 2nd December 2001 in Northern Ireland

Wales will be represented by Adrian Thomas & Paul Denning; Filip Kurbalija & Tim Rees; Patrick Jourdain & Tony Ratcliff, NPC Jim Luck. Very cheap flights are available from Liverpool to Belfast for those who would like to support the team in person.

2nd & 3rd February 2002 in the Republic of Ireland

Wales will be represented by Adrian Thomas & Paul Denning, Peter Goodman & Adam Dunn, Filip Kurbalia & Tim Rees. Cheap flights from Cardiff, Bristol, Liverpool and Luton for those who would like to participate and drink a lot of Guinness.

23rd & 24th February, Holt Lodge, Wrexham, v. England for the Alan Pierce Trophy

9th & 10th March at the Newport Hilton, v. Scotland (also EBU v. CBAI at same venue)

All supporters and helpers welcome; vu-graph room with commentary from experts.

BGB Simultaneous Pairs

8th and 9th January in participating clubs. Hundreds of Local points for pairs finishing well nationally.

Clubs wishing to participate should contact Anna Gudge, The Old Railway Station, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9HN, ☎01787 881920 or at anna@ecats.co.uk. Further details on the ecats website at <http://www.ecatsbridge.com>

Graded Masters' Pairs

19th & 20th January 2002, at the Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli.

Entry fees: £40 per pair.

Entries to the NTO, 3 Rees Row, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9TR, ☎. 01656 724066 by 5th January, though if there is room entries will continue to be accepted until 12th.

Please remember to include your Masterpoint holdings: it's a lot quicker for you to look up two than for the NTO to look up dozens of you in the Journal.

East Wales Congress

15th, 16th & 17th February, County Hall, Cwmbran. £140 per team; discounted rate of £132 per team for entries received before 8th February.

Entries to: Annie Favager, 3 Albert Crescent, Penarth CF64 1DA
☎ 029 2070 8004.



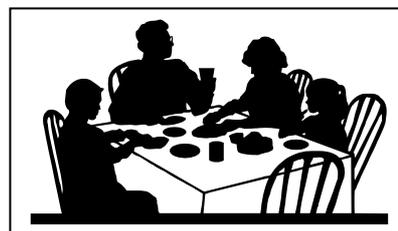
Information page *(Please mark changes and corrections in your copy of the Journal)*

Item	Journal page	Details
Change of date	60	EWBA National Men's/Ladies' Pairs Final should read January 27 th , NOT February 3 rd .
Sales of bridge tables	-	Readers interested in buying the bridge tables advertised in the previous Newsletter are advised that Margaret Davies's email address has changed to: mags.davies@ntlworld.com
New website		East Wales Bridge Association's website is at http://www.ewba.co.uk
Change of secretary	5	The new secretary of Sully Bridge Club is Roger Cradick, 'De Novo', St Andrews Road, Dinas Powis CF64 4HB, ☎ 029 2051 4799.
Change of Secretary	5	The Secretary of the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club is now Pat Swain, contact address unchanged.
Change of Secretary	10	The new secretary of Port Talbot Bridge Club is Jean Hughes, 58 Darwin Road, Port Talbot, SA12 6BS ☎ 01639 766581, email: cullybubbles@hotmail.com
New email address	2	Monica Garbett-Edwards has a new email address: rosses@bigbearpc.co.uk

WBU Council meeting 30th September 2001 *Notes of significant items from the recent meeting*

Item	Details
Chief Executive appointed	Linda Greenland was appointed Chief Executive, confirming the recommendation of the interview panel which met on 23 rd September. More on Page 2
Membership records	The Treasurer was asked to report to the next meeting on subscription collection & membership record keeping, and the merits and demerits of membership cards
International Masters' Pairs	The format of this event is to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Bridge tables for sale



Margaret Davies still has 15 tables available. They are 31inch square, baize-covered, hardwood surround with click legs. Only used for past congresses, so as new. £25 each if bought in one go.

Please contact Margaret on 01834-842031 or mags.davies@ntlworld.com