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# WELSH BRIDGE UNION

**Newsletter 74, February 2002**

## Second resignation rocks Union

The Hon. Secretary, Mike Brunt, has tendered his resignation from May 2002. New commitments mean he no longer has enough time available. We are all grateful to Mike for his hard work over two seasons



Many of the functions of the Secretary have been taken over by the Chief Executive. Any member who would like to be more involved in running the Union and is willing to prepare agendas, take minutes and deal with Licence applications should contact Linda Greenland on 029 2025 5162 or [deri31@ntlworld.com](mailto:deri31@ntlworld.com).

## WBU Swiss Teams, Llangollen

Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain, Tim Rees and Filip Kurbalija triumphed in this event, 15 VPs clear of their nearest rivals. More results on page 4

## Swan Song

One of Wales's most colourful characters, Paul Allsop won the North Wales heat of the WBU Veteran Pairs at the end of November with his partner, Dewi Jones, and was second in nationally. Just over a month later he was taken ill at Aberystwyth Bridge Club and died that evening.

*Obituary p.10. Veteran Pairs results p. 4.*

## Portland Pairs

**16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March 2002**

The Portland Pairs is held simultaneously in a number of different venues across Britain and scored nationwide. It is open to MIXED PAIRS of all standards.

Generous GREEN POINTS are awarded for all three sessions and for final rankings, with up to 17.5 Greens and a top prize of £200.

We have introduced a new venue in North Wales at **Colwyn Bay Cricket Club**, Rhos-on-Sea, a popular location for bridge events.

This year's South Wales venue is again the **Peterstone Lakes Go If Club**, near Newport.

*Entry forms have been sent to all Clubs*

## Letters to the Editor



*From Lloyd Lewis, of Swansea, to the Chief Executive:*

Dear Linda

### **Graded Masters**

Thank you for a lovely weekend. I think that the preparation, the directing & scoring were excellent.

Next year I hope that more players will take part.

Yours sincerely

Lloyd

*From Graham Shaw of West Shore Bridge Club, to the Chief Executive:*

Dear Linda

### **WBU Sim Pairs**

Last week at West Shore BC had a successful & very pleasant heat of the WBU Autumn Sim Pairs with 15 tables. There was a real mix of experienced & inexperienced and I was grateful to all the players for making my job as director so hassle-free.

I would like to make two points:

1. Thanks to Rob Charlesworth for the time & effort he puts into these events. Inevitably there is a now a period of some weeks before the results are finalised and published. This compares unfavourably with the BGB Sims where one can see the first results within 24 hours and then watch ones progress up or down during the following days. This adds interest to the event. Is it possible for the WBU to use Ecats for scoring the future WBU events? If this would mean adding a few pence to the entry fee, so be it.

2. I am aware that some people feel that because the event can be played on any of 6 days, there is a risk of cheating. This is true but I take the view that people are basically honest and would not dream of trying to see the hands in advance or playing in the event more than once.

Yours sincerely

Graham Shaw, West Shore BC

*Linda has responded to some of the points Graham makes in his letter:*

*I concur that **ecats** would be a slicker method - I will investigate the cost so that Council can make a sensible decision.*

*I am not happy about the spread out nature of the competition, not only the security risk but it can disrupt players who play several times a week at various clubs and unwittingly follow the competition around. I don't think there is a solution to that, but the hand records should not be available until the official day - usually a Thursday.*

*Subsequent thoughts & information*

*The additional costs of **ecats** would be equivalent to 20p per player, so it is not unreasonable but the availability of frequencies on the **ecats** website would limit the competition to 1 night only, and that would result in a much smaller event. Rob Charlesworth and I will investigate posting the results only to the WBU website as they arrive.*

### **Refunds of competition entry fees**

Council has decided to change the Welsh Bridge Union's policy on refunds of competition entry fees. In line with the usual practice at congresses, we will refund all entry fees for direct-entry events and National finals, provided a) notice is given, and b) no irrecoverable expenses have been incurred. Where, for example, food has been ordered or an extra director appointed, expenses will be deducted from any refunded entry fee.

The change is made to take account of the recent practice of including table money in entry fees. It was felt that to retain the larger sum now required to be paid on entry was unduly punitive.

Refunds will be given for all entries withdrawn before the closing date, and in most cases up to two weeks before the event. In case of shorter notice, expenses will be deducted as a matter of course.

## International Round-up



### Camrose

We note with pleasure that, in the Camrose match held on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December, the WBU defeated the NIBU by 65-21 (Tim Rees & Filip Kurbalija; Paul Denning & Adrian Thomas; Tony Ratcliff & Patrick Jourdain, Jim Luck NPC).

In the match against the Republic of Ireland on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> February at Kilkenny, Wales won by 54-36. Peter Goodman's match report on Pages 5 and 6.

### Lady Milne

The team selected for this year's Lady Milne Trophy is: Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija; Ann Hirst and Ceri Pierce; Liz Atkinson and Margaret Lane, NPC Adrian Thomas.

### 7th European Mixed Championships Ostend, Belgium: 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002

The organisers will accept late entries for this event, advertised in the last newsletter.

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).

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

### Appointment of Selector

The Western Area has appointed Chris Davies of Bridgend to be its Representative on the Selection Sub-Committee.

### European Senior Teams Championships

Entries are invited from Senior Teams (all members over 55) to represent Wales in the European Championships to be held in Salsomaggiore. The WBU will pay the entry fee for the team but the players make arrangements for travel and accommodation at their own expense.

The European Championships are to be held from 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June, with Seniors events likely to be held over the last 10 days.

Applications to: Monica Garbett-Edwards, The Rosses, Llandinam, Powys SY17 5BY.  
[rosses@bigbearpc.co.uk](mailto:rosses@bigbearpc.co.uk)

by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

**Also, scorers required for the Open Teams at Salsomaggiore, 15<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

### European Women's Bridge Festival

21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2002 at the Hotel Jolly, Palermo, Sicily. A Transnational event (women from different countries may play together). Entry forms from Laura Woodruff ☎ 01656 724066, [laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk) or Linda Greenland ☎ 029 2025 5162, [deri31@ntlworld.com](mailto:deri31@ntlworld.com).

# RESULTS



## WBU Swiss Teams, Llangollen, November 2001

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain, Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees	200 VPs
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Jeremy Baker, Dave Huggett, Heather Dhondy, Jeremy Dhondy	185 VPs
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	John Armstrong, Ted Revely, David Harris, John Williams	183 VPs

## Veteran Pairs

This event was held simultaneously at the Peterstone Lakes Golf Club and Colwyn Bay Bridge Club on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Apologies to those women players who had to choose between this and the Lady Milne trial: attempts will be made to find an alternative date for one or other next year.

North Wales		South Wales		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Allsop, Dewi Jones	59.09%	Joe Patrick, Philip Felman	63.14%
2 <sup>n</sup>	Helen Carsley, Tony Carsley	58.52%	Mike Best, David Ronson	56.52%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peggy Edwards, Wyn Robyns	57.95%	Paul Gagne, Diana Harris	56.13%

### OVERALL

1 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Patrick, Philip Felman	63.14%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Allsop, Dewi Jones	59.09%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Helen Carsley, Tony Carsley	58.52%

**Graded Masters Pairs** held at the Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January 2002.

Section	Winners	Percentage
1	Maggie Pierce, John Glubb (also winners in 2001)	57.09
2	Mike Baker, Steve Jarvis	61.43
3	Lloyd Lewis, Graham Fifield	57.59
4	Martin David, Chris Davies	60.49
5	Huw Jones, Keith Stonehouse	58.80

### Welsh Bridge Union Simultaneous Pairs November 2001

1.	Betty Lewis & Noelle Bond	Sully
2	Barry Robinson & Vera Robinson	Porthcawl
3.	Roe Bissett & Maureen Eccles	Crickhowell
4.	Margaret Peterson & John Wells	Victoria
5.	Chris Carter & Gordon Roxburgh	Gwent Bridge Academy

### Penarth Ahead

Eric & Annie Favager of Penarth BC have just been confirmed as winners of the Fifth Friday competition for 2001, a series of Europe-wide, free play-for-fun simultaneous pairs that run throughout the year on the the year's fifth Fridays. There were 5 heats in 2001; Eric and Annie won with an average score of 60.66%.



## .Camrose: Wales v. Republic of Ireland February 2nd/3rd 2002

Round three of the Camrose series (Wales sat out the second weekend) brought a re-match of the famous millennium match that settled the 2000 series in favour of Ireland.

The CBAI was represented by Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann, Gay Keaveney and Rory Timlin, Niall Toibin and Pat Walshe

Wales fielded Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees, Adam Dunn and Peter Goodman, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff (replacing Adrian Thomas and Paul Denning, who had had to withdraw because Adrian was unwell). John Salisbury was non-playing captain for the match.



### Saturday Afternoon

In the first session Wales sat out Goodman and Dunn and the CBAI sat out Timlin and Keaveney. Some aggressive bidding saw Ireland reach a 4♠ contract that required the ace of diamonds to be with the man that didn't open the bidding. With the other boards flat, Wales lost the first 10 boards by 6VPs to 17.

For the second session Timlin and Keaveney entered the fray in the open room and were followed in by Goodman and Dunn (with Adam Dunn making his full Camrose debut).

On the first board, after two passes, Gay Keaveney found his own way of saying

“Welcome to the Camrose” and opened 3D with:

♠ 10873, ♥ K, ♦ 1097654, ♣ Q4

catching Adam with your routine 22 count:

♠ AJ, ♥ A42, ♦ AJ2, ♣ AKJ87. Too strong to bid 3NT, Adam doubled and re-bid 3NT over Peter's 3♥ reply.

Peter followed with 4♦ in case Adam had four spades, (maybe 4NT would be better by Peter). Adam then bid 4♠ as a cue in case Peter held five hearts and an 8-10 count, and corrected his partner's 6♠ reply to 6NT.

Timlin	Goodman	Keaveney	Dunn
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT

#### Adam Dunn

♠ A J  
♥ A 4 2  
♦ A J 2  
♣ A K J 8 7

#### Peter Goodman

♠ K Q 6 5  
♥ Q 9 7 5  
♦ K 3  
♣ 10 6 5

In the other room after three passes the CBAI were able to find their good slam with considerable ease.

When the dust had settled Wales had gained a 14-6 result and a well-earned rest for the new boy. The 3rd stanza saw a fortunate Welsh Grand slam net 15 IMPs for a 36-12 win and a healthy 19-11 first session win.

### Saturday Evening

With the CBAI simply rotating their pairs Wales continued relentlessly with Kurbalija/Rees rolling on. Goodman and Dunn were marched on to vu-graph to face Pat Walshe (romantically described as ‘a legend in his own lifetime’). The set produced many swings but finally ended in a 21-28 loss for Wales.

With Rees and Kurbalija taking a well-earned rest Hanlon and McGann were sent in to sort out the “new boys” (Dunn and Goodman) on vu-graph; Jourdain and Ratcliff were to face Timlin and Keaveney. Things started well for Wales with two part-score misdefences by Hanlon and McGann, who had swept all before them in the infamous 2000 match. Then three pieces of brilliancy saw them regain their credibility and pile on 27 IMPs for a 34-7 win. Maybe the CBAI captain was having a nap, but weren't Goodman

Dunn very happy to be joining them in the bar rather than watching them “driving on” in the vu-graph! There are moments that turn matches...

Wales now regrouped and gained a healthy 15 IMPs to win the final stanza 34-19 thanks to a rather dubious small slam.

### Sunday

The Sunday session started at 10.30 and found Hanlon/McGann playing against Jourdain and Ratcliff, and Walshe and Toibin playing against Kurbalija and Rees (not for the first time). A leisurely first session saw Wales gaining a 35-25 win.

For Session 2, John Salisbury brought Goodman/Dunn in to face Timlin/Keaveney, and Kurbalija/Rees followed Walshe and Toibin into the Open room while Hanlon and McGann ‘rested’ again. Two key hands saw the CBAI play in 6♣ down 1 when 6♥ might

well have made. Rees and Kurbalija stopped in game. Then Goodman/Dunn bid to 6NT via 1NT-6NT and made, it while Walsh and Toibin tried the scientific route and ended up in 3♦ + 4. 38 imps went east for the CBAI, Wales winning 50-12.

The final stanza promised a lot but ended up flat - 19-19.

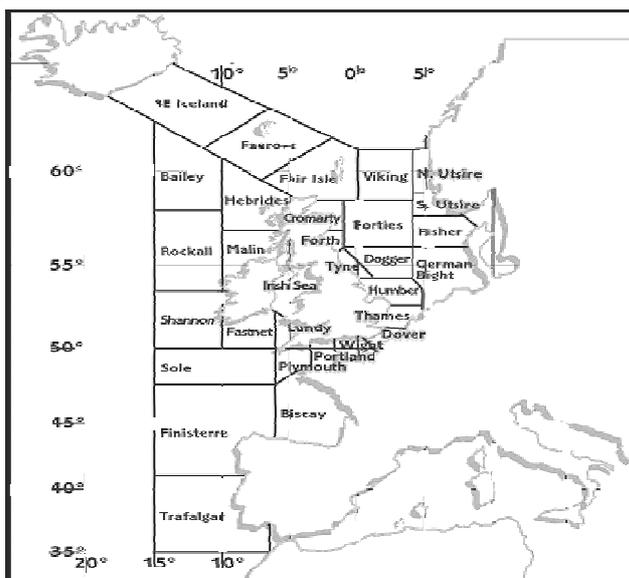
The final session had been a reversal of the 2000 match with Wales winning 23-7.

Country	Matches	Victory Points
Scotland	3	125
Wales	2	119
England	2	112
CBAI	2	89
N. Ireland	3	86

### Statistics

Pair:	Dunn Goodman	Jourdain Ratcliff	Kurbalija Rees	Hanlon McGann	Walshe Tobin	Keaveney Timlin
<b>Boards</b>	40	60	80	60	60	60
<b>Imps:</b>	+12	+11	+77	+11	-53	-68

## WALES 54, CBAI 36:



If you're wondering what the UK shipping zones are doing on this page, or why Mount Etna and the Favagers' cat appear on page 9, stop wondering and send me some copy. Interesting hands, club events, funny bridge stories are all welcomed, especially from the smaller clubs that feature less often.

3 Rees Row, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9TR  
[laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk)

# Porthcawl Congress 2001 Round-up

## Dewi Sant Teams

John Durden, Shirley Mills, Jack Lavis, Janet Gedge



## Little Dragon Consolation Pairs

Alex Maddocks, Steve Daniel

## Seagull Cup – Mixed Pivot Teams

Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Gary Martin, Jeremy Dhondy

## Mixed Pairs

Mary Moore, Glyn Williams

## Championship Teams

Mike Fletcher, Mike Walsh, Graham Horscroft, Andrew Thompson



## Men's Pairs

Bernard Goldenfield, Mike Hirst

## Ladies' Pairs

Daphne Patrick, Marit Langston



## Tusker Rock Consolation Teams

Jon Williams, Dave Baker, Adam Dunn, Peter Goodman

## Sker Consolation Teams

Robert Upton, John Salisbury, Adrian Thomas, B J O'Brien

## Red Dragon Championship Pairs

Alan Wilson, Tim Pike



**DIRECTOR RULES OK** (Director Carl King gives a ruling)



## Ask Mikey

I had a chat with one of our Club members the other day (an up-and-coming beginner), and the conversation went something like this:

Q: I am playing standard Acol, with a weak No Trump. What is all this fascination with weak bids, such as in Benjamised (or Benji) Acol?

A: *Weak 2 bids in the majors could be described as 'mini pre-empts', showing less than opening points, (sometimes much less!) and a 6 card suit. Weak jump overcalls are similar - for example, opponents open 1D, you bid 2S. The 'Multi' convention also contains weak two bids in the majors.*

Q: Why do so many players play Weak 2s or the Multi?

A: *Like all pre-empts, it cuts out several levels of bidding for the opponents, and perhaps suggests a cheap sacrifice against the opponents game or slam. General Bridge Playing philosophy goes like this - when we have the points, we bid slowly, investigating the best possible contract, but when our opponents have most of the points, we bid obstructively if we can, disrupting their careful investigations.*

Q: So what does a Weak 2H or 2S show?

A: *Like all conventions, you should discuss this with your partner. I play a fairly conservative Weak 2 which shows a 6 card suit, at least Q10xxxx and 5-9 points when I am first or second to bid. In third, I may well be weaker (because partner has already passed) and in fourth I have a 6 card suit and 10-14 points. Other players I know are less rigid but I won't open a weak 2 on Jxxxxx. But it is a matter of personal style.*

Q: OK, I think I'd like to try Weak 2s. Anything else I should know?

A: *How to respond when partner opens a Weak 2. Firstly there is the 2NT Enquiry, where you ask partner how strong he is and how good is his suit. He responds 3C/D/H/S/NT accordingly. The other problem*



*comes when you have a good hand. Suppose you pick up:*

1) S: - H: AKxxxxx D: - C: AKQJxx

or 2) S: - H: AKQxxx D: x C: AKQxxx

*and partner opens a Weak 2S - what do you bid.*

Q: I never pick up hands like that!

A: *Trust me - I've seen both of them at the table! [Note 1]*

Q: Do I use the 2NT enquiry?

A: *No! It won't tell you anything useful! Just agree with partner that if you change the suit, then it is forcing and he MUST keep bidding. So you bid 3H on both the hands. Partner must raise with Ax, Kx, Qx, or xxx, and if he doesn't you bid your other suit.*

Q: OK, I will make up some Weak 2S hands and see how the bidding goes. So another question - my partner opens a Weak 2S and I have a 3-2-3-4 hand with 3 spades and a 1 count - should I be worried partner is going to get doubled and go for a number?

A: *On the contrary, you should be worried that the opponents have a slam on.*

Q: So I can pass safely?

A: *No you should raise partner to 3S, continuing the good work partner has started, and making life very difficult for the opponents. You should be safe because you have 9 trumps, so you are bidding to the 'Law of Total Tricks' or 'Total Trumps' in top level*

*bridge parlance. You have a 'fit' of nine cards in a suit, so your opponents also have a fit. Make it hard for your opponents. The only time you might hold back is when you are vulnerable, and they are not, and the penalty you incur is bigger than the gain they have from their game.*

Q: "The Law of Total Tricks"?

A: *As expounded in the fairly turgid bridge book "To Bid or Not to Bid" by Larry Cohen.*

Q: But I don't have any points, I can't bid!

A: *Points, Schmoints! (As Marty Bergen has written - now there is a good bridge book to read!). You have a fit, they have a fit, make it difficult for them to find it, and work out the correct level (game or slam) they should play at.*

Q: Maybe I should wait a round of bidding, and then sacrifice if they bid game?

A: *No, they will have a much better idea than of whether to double you, or bid on. Make it difficult for them by pre-empting as high as you dare as soon as possible. You would have raised partner if he had opened 3S wouldn't you?*

Q: Er...No!

A: *Well you should - for exactly the same reason.*

Q: I only pre-empt at the 3 level when I have two of the top three honours, then partner knows when to bid 3NT.

A: *Well, perhaps you are not pre-empting enough then. QJ109xxx in diamonds finds me reaching for the bidding box!*

Q: But your partner can't bid 3NT then?

A: *Yes she can! She just goes off more often than you...*

Q: OK, these Weak 2s sound really cool. But surely there must be a downside?

A: *Yes. In the bidding, you have to open 2C (Standard Benjaminised Acol) or 2D (in Reverse Benji Acol) to show all Strong 2 hands, and partner will not know which suit you have until the next round of bidding. This might be awkward if one of your opponents bids.*

*Secondly, if you open a weak 2 and they play the hand, the declarer will know a lot more about your hand than if you had kept quiet. A good declarer will take advantage of this extra information. Note that this is true of all weak bids, including the ubiquitous Lucas 2H/2S (5 card suit and another of at least 4 cards, weak).*

Q: Well thanks Mikey, I'll give this a go. Can I approach you with other questions later?

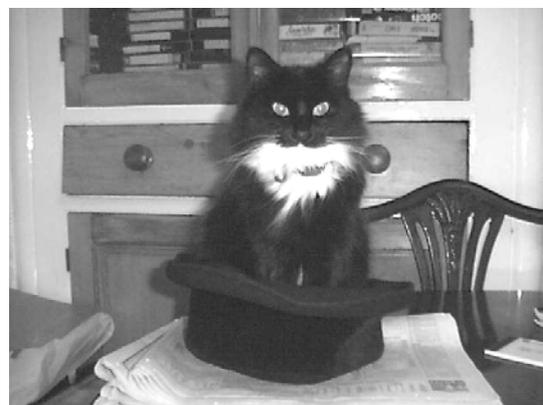
A: *Sure! See me next time, or email me at [mg.close@ntlworld.com](mailto:mg.close@ntlworld.com), and I will try to help.*

[Note 1]: If any of the participants in the recent match recognise the hand, you will know that the hand was actually spades and clubs, (with a Weak 2H), not hearts and clubs, but I claim poetic licence (and I want to see how the Multi players bid this one...).

**Mike Close**



**Mount Etna erupting in July 2001**



**Annie and Eric Favager's cat, Fluffy, wearing the NTO's hat.**

## NEWS FROM MID WALES



### Paul Allsop: a view from a friend

What do you say when your friend and bridge partner dies? It's bad enough to lose a friend but to lose a bridge partner too! Paul and I had played Bridge together for 20 years. We were regular partners for the last 15 years. Paul reached the heady heights of Senior Life Master but I can tell you that his play equalled that of any Grand Master and I think that the players on Page 1 of the Master Points Journal will agree with me.

Paul had two passions. First and foremost was his family and the other was cards. Not only Bridge, which we travelled all over the playing from Llandudno to Porthcawl, but he would play Whist three times a week and support local charities. He would often say to me "I won £6 last night as Top Lady and won the knockout for £4." What he didn't tell you though was that it cost him £20 in petrol to get there and back. The MWBA will really miss the class and personality of Paul, as will all his bridge pals throughout Wales. May I say I was privileged to play Bridge with him and proud to call him a friend.

### C.B.Rushton

**Margaret and family would like to thank all of the people from the bridge world who wrote to them.**

### McKinley Cup, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

- 1st: Dai Hayes, John Evans, Cliff Ruston and Paul Allsop  
2nd: Monica Garbett-Edwards, Alan Screen, Glenda & Phil Dorling  
3rd Sue Raybold, Norma Wells, Martin Page and Andrew Young.



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## Master Point of Better View

**Noelle Bond**

I don't know whether to start with apologies or thanks. Perhaps I'd better start with apologies: for the last few months of last year my backlog was much longer than usual and several people phoned me to ask if their points were lost. The problems were caused by my inability to work as long as usual after two cataract operations, one in July, one in October. Thank goodness they were not just before the April deluge, I probably wouldn't have finished until Christmas. For the same reasons, I also have to apologise for not producing a promotion list in time for the last newsletter.

Moving rapidly on to the nice part: whilst I was waiting for one eye or the other to stabilise, (or idling, call it what you will) it was a great pleasure to receive so many good wishes among the points. Thank you everyone. Of course I also had to suffer jokes like this: Noelle (allegedly): "Will I be able to play bridge properly after my eye operation?" Ophthalmic surgeon "Oh yes." Noelle: "That's good, I couldn't do so before". I'm waiting for that cheeky person to lose some points and then plead with me to credit them.



## Master Point of View (contd.)

The surgeon surprised me by offering me one eye with clear near vision and one with clear far vision. "The brain soon gets used to it," he told me.

It seemed strange, and somewhat frightening, but in the end I decided to have the mix and match set. (For the second eye he told me I could give him my decision when I got into the theatre. It all seemed very spur of the moment.) Having suffered from bat vision since a child, it seems very strange to manage most of the time without wearing glasses. Although I find I still put my hand up to where they used to be.

So many things I had never seen clearly before: almost the first things I noticed were my husband Mike's grey hair and wrinkles, and then, sadly, my own. Of course I have to remember to close the right eye. (Or, sometimes, the left.) Prior to these operations, when we watched television Mike would have to read out any words on the screen for me. Now that is quite unnecessary but he did it for so long that I often hear him begin to mutter something then suddenly stop.

Like most people, I suppose, I worried before the first operation but afterwards wondered why I had. Mike said the worst part was when he had to pay far too much for a very poor hospital meal. Then it seemed that everyone I met at the bridge table had had a cataract operation, were going to have one, or knew some one who had. I decided they were just trying to get into the catar-act.

I'm sorry to say (this is not another apology) that there have been some problems with the post recently, and points and MP registration cards have disappeared without trace. "Consignia" into oblivion, you might say. Don't forget, always contact me if you are worried.

One member, who was keen to get a promotion recently, phoned me to ask how many points he needed and then sent me a tidy counted batch. Unfortunately in some mysterious way one slip had been already entered into the system, so he had to scabble around to earn that few more (you see I do check; even better now that I can see). I sometimes find that a batch of points contains a slip or two belonging to another person. I can understand how husband and wives mix up theirs, and with only initial and common surnames there is often scope for confusion, but I am surprised to see sometimes that Jane Smith (say) has sent in points quite clearly marked for (say) Jack Jones.

I thought I'd share a few fragments from some letters I've received: "On yet another wet day and to keep out of the wife's way I have resorted to sorting out our master points" (I wonder what he had done). After a house move: "I am now living within walking distance of the club, not sure if increased beer consumption is helping my play." After a magnificent promotion: "Looked in the mirror expecting to have changed... (to) Rixi Marcus but alas it's still me." And the optimistic (or resigned): "I should make grand master on my 154th birthday."

Oh! And after the Porthcawl Congress, in the box I take to events I found a small white tablet among the envelopes of points. My family were telling me "It's Ecstasy." If they're right I'm wondering how they know and who gave it to me. (Don't bother to claim it, I've thrown it away.)

The latest promotion list is a composite of the one which should have appeared in the last newsletter and the most recent. The original lists are put in alphabetical order by one of Mike's programs, but I have had to merge these two myself so to find your name you may need to look carefully. (Easy for me to say with my new eyes.)

Sincerely  
**Noelle**

PS For the computerised with any queries, my email address is [noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk](mailto:noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk) and I usually check my mail every day.

**LIST OF PROMOTIONS FOR EACH RANK 12<sup>th</sup> August 2001 to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2002  
(only ranks with promotions are listed)**

<b>Club Master</b>		Betty Hinton Jones	A	Gerry Long	MG
Terry Brunnock	GA	Margaret McCumiskey	D	Lena Morgan	S
Yvonne Brunnock	GA	Michael McCumiskey	D	Gaynor Shenton	MB
Christine Cleaver	R	Ted Merrette	PN		
June Duffy	GA	Joan Morgan	R	<b>4 Star Master</b>	
Carol Fisher	CN	Shirley Muntz	NP	Mary Benton	S
Margaret Harris	GA	Norma Stedman	WS	Keith Davison	S
Maurice Harris	GA			H John Evans	MG
Val Hetheridge	PN	<b>Advanced Master</b>		Muriel Maslin	R
Peter Holt	A	Churchill Al Temimi	MON	Peter Smart	MG
Mary Jones	SU	Peter Bennett	AM		
Michael Rowland	CN	Olive Davies	PR		
David Sharples	LD	Roland Dewsberry	MG	<b>5 Star Master</b>	
Norman Skinner	BRE	Neville Fonseka	S	Ray Curry	S
John Sparkes	SU	Archie Grainger	MON	Christine Holdron	S
Jack Whitford	S	Reg Mealings	CBY	Graham Shaw	WS
Susan Williams	C	Mike Miles	AG		
		Michael O'Leary	MG	<b>Regional Master</b>	
<b>Local Master</b>		Viv Price	R	Colette Davies	L
Diana Brooke-Taylor	PW	Marcia Rogers	MB	Roy Holloway	GA
Alan Cleaver	R	Gloria Walters	H	Nigel Key	MG
Brenda Emmett	PC			Betty Reynoldson	CN
Eddie Jones	PC	<b>1 Star Master</b>		Peter Richards	CR
Mari Jones	PC	Mary Caulfield-Giles	CBY	Nans Wheldon	CN
Peter Milewski	H	Joan Davies	S		
Avryl Mort	P	Monica Dewsberry	MG	<b>Premier Regional Master</b>	
Tyronne Neydorff	CBY	Gwyn Evans	R	Shelton Cross	PR
Tony Pinder	PV	Allan Lewis	MG	Haydn Roberts	DM
Sally Pridding	MB	Justine Petters	LD	Jill Williams	R
Margo Robinson	M	Dave Thomas	BV	Keith Williams	GA
Terry F Smith	C	Viv Williams	C		
Roger Tod	CRI			<b>National Master</b>	
Janet Valentine	WS	<b>2 Star Master</b>		Glenda Dorling	NT
Jean Winterburn	W	Jock Barlow	RH		
		Gordon Berrey	OH	<b>Premier National Master</b>	
<b>County Master</b>		Morag Clare	LD	Mike Climer	C
Cathy Barlow	PR	Chris Draper	NP	Norman Large	CBY
Anne Brambley	GA	Terry Evans	MG	Ray Smith	C
Helen Caldicott	CRI	Marie George	C	Krista Stephenson	W
		M D Gorst	LD		
<b>Master</b>		Rick Law	S	<b>Senior Life Master</b>	
Joan Bird	VOG	Anne Raw Rees	A	Joe Patrick	C
Audrie Burgess	LD	John Ryan	S	Bill Turner	BR
Julia Davies	MB	<b>3 Star Master</b>			
Margaret Doig	LD	Ann Dolan	AM		
Alan Heath	PC	Graham Fifield	S	<b>Grand Master</b>	
Wendy Jenkins	WS	Graham Jones	MG	Viv Hamilton	R

# 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.

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



# 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.

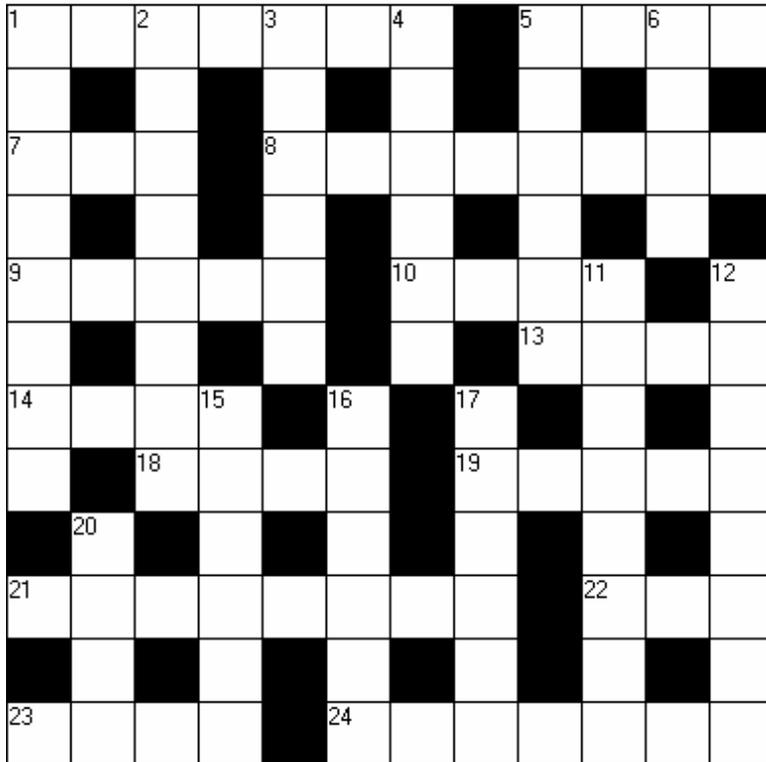
E-mail - [info@bridge-holidays.com](mailto:info@bridge-holidays.com)

- [info@ukbridgeholidays.com](mailto: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



**Down**

1. Two- or more- day competition (8)
2. Triscalar graphic representation (8)
3. What bridge rivalry should never descend to (6)
4. Different game named after city in Texas (6)
5. Able-bodied individual (6)
6. Void (4)
11. Though normally advantageous, can sometimes be a trial (4, 4)
12. Class of angels (8)
15. Do they dig for diamonds? Sounds like it (6)
- 16 & 23ac Lead type (6)
17. Talk about us, a breakfast item (6)
20. Dealer in another game (4)

**Across**

1. Give up remaining tricks (7)
5. Sound of mind (4)
7. Group of 15 down (3)
8. Another type of 22 across or 24 across (8)
9. Correct way to sit under (5)
10. Genuine (4)
13. Biblical 5 down (4)
14. Tricky report (4)
18. Invent a herb (4)
19. Proclaim (5)
21. Acceptable sacrifice NV vs V (5, 3)
22. Shy offer for sporting equipment initially (3)
23. See 16 down
24. More confident form of 22 across (24)

I have become aware that bridge players often meet in the Asda (Junction 32 M4) car park and travel onwards in one car. Asda have sussed this out and as a deliberate effort to thwart bridge playing in Wales have introduced a 3 hour parking limit. It may be of interest that I live near Junction 32 and would happily park (free) up to three cars (on a first come -first served basis) by arrangement.  
 Telephone in advance 029-20651407  
**Anne Jones**

**Autumn Crossword solution**

*Apologies for missing numbers and clues, which were caused by human or computer error. The missing clues were as follows:*

- Bottom left vertical: Coddled (for example) lot found in ivory towers (7)
- Bottom right vertical: Add up space traveller and Arabist and what do you get? French windbag! (7)
- Down clue to right of 9 across: Opening as rising cat falls in (5)

Autumn Crossword Solution



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Camrose matches

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

Team: Adrian Thomas and Paul Denning; Filip Kurbalija and Tim Rees; Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn, NPC John Salisbury

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

Team to be selected at England match.

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

### BGB Simultaneous Pairs

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk). Further details on the ecats website at <http://www.ecatsbridge.com>

### Llandudno Congress

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April 2002

St. Georges Hotel, Llandudno. 01492 877544 (quote Bridge Congress) - hotel price £45 dinner, bed and breakfast)

Friday 2pm Mens/Ladies Pairs

Friday 8pm Pre Congress Pairs.

Saturday 1pm and 7.30 pm

Swiss Teams

Sunday 11am and 3.30pm

Swiss Teams (7pm finish)

Full Congress £140 per team which includes Friday's programme if anyone arrives early.

**Entries to Jean Hand, 15 Chester Close, Shotton, Deeside CH5 1AU ☎01244 830246**

### Webber Cup

11th-12<sup>th</sup> May 2002. The WBU teams championship, this year to be held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells. Clubs must hold their qualifying heats by 31<sup>st</sup> March and notify the NTO of the results (by email if possible) by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

At least one team from each club heat guaranteed a place, other places allocated by size of entry.



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

Item	Journal page	Details
Change of email address	4	Gwent Academy: new e mail address <a href="mailto:GwentBridge@btinternet.com">GwentBridge@btinternet.com</a> (same as the old one without the dot).
Change of club details	10	Port Talbot Bridge Club is now meeting at Tai Bach Community Centre on Mondays at 6.30pm

**WBU Council meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2001** *Notes of significant items from the recent meeting*

Item	Details
New Junior subscription rate	It was agreed that the WBU subscription for those under the age of 19 years, whether at school or not, should be reduced to £1
Payment of subscriptions	To reduce delays in registration, and to ensure accurate central record-keeping, clubs are to be asked to pay members' subscriptions direct to the Welsh Bridge Union from April 2002. The Area affiliation fees will be paid by the WBU to the Area Associations.
International Masters Pairs	Council agreed to discontinue this event, in light of the fall in the numbers of pairs entering. It was agreed to retain the date in the Calendar for the time being, with a view to introducing a new invitation pairs event. Patrick Jourdain agreed to take responsibility for taking this forward.
Welsh Cup Final	In future years teams will be asked to play the Final at the Seniors' Congress.
National Men's Pairs/National Ladies' Pairs	It was agreed to discontinue these events in their present format and hold them instead as a direct-entry weekend event, to be held somewhere in the Wrexham area to balance the relocation of the Graded Masters to South Wales. Details will be published in next year's Journal.
Refunds	Council agreed that the policy on refunds should be changed. Details on p. 2.

# WANTED

## Digital camera



If anyone is upgrading their digital camera and would like to donate the old one to the WBU, or sell it for a small fee, please contact Linda Greenland on 029 2025 5162 or [deri31@ntlworld.com](mailto:deri31@ntlworld.com).