

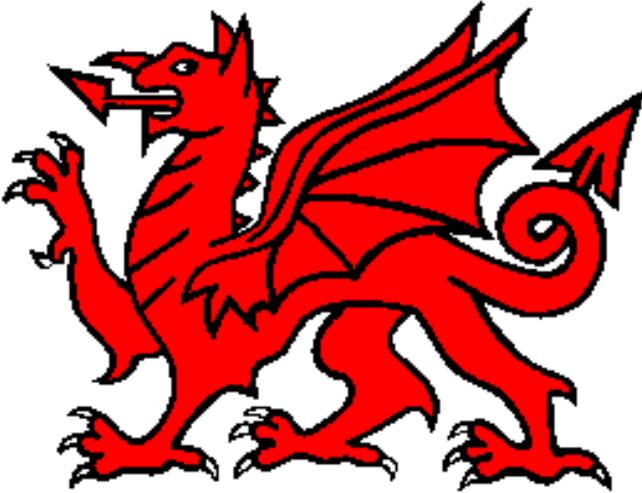
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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 77, November 2002

Jourdain scoops international gong

Our own Patrick Jourdain has been awarded the title “International Bridge Press Association Personality of the Year”. Patrick also had an unusual experience at the World Championships in Montreal earlier this year. *Details and photo page 5.*

Birthday bash for Newport



Newport, Pembrokeshire, celebrated their 10th anniversary at the end of October. Peter Goodman was the guest speaker and gave a whirlwind tour of Welsh bridge over the past 40 years.

Report page 2

John Butler

The former Welsh international player, Dr. John Butler, has died suddenly. He will be greatly missed at Cardiff Bridge Club, where he was a familiar sight at his usual South seat under the bowls club honours boards.

Obituary Page 2.



Graded Masters Pairs

To be held at the Diplomat, Llanelli on 25th-26th January 2003.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 will be made up according to Green-point holding, with ranking restrictions as in previous years (a change from last year).

Entries to the NTO by 5th January 2003: Laura Woodruff, Hall Farm, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR, email

laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk.



Obituary: Dr. John Butler

All the top players will have had their say as to whether or not John Butler was the best Welsh-born bridge player. As one of the nowhere near the top players I would like to have my say. John was said not to suffer fools gladly and that may very well be true. Nevertheless he played with me as his partner every Thursday afternoon at the Cardiff Bridge Club for nearly ten years. I cannot say he didn't grumble sometimes because he did (almost every second hand), but I enjoyed every minute of it. On one occasion he told me that I wasn't the worst partner he'd ever had. I was so thrilled with this accolade that I rushed home to tell my wife. Who was this worse partner, I wondered? He'd played with Jourdain, Kurbalija, Upton and others. Who could this mysterious person be? Another time after I'd staggered home through a thick fog to land a 4♥ contract he said "Well played, partner". This was not a phrase I'd heard him use before, not when playing with me anyway. Nine o'clock the following morning the phone rang. It was John to say that if I'd done something different at trick eight I would have made an overtrick. I asked

him if he was withdrawing the "Well played" bit and he said yes, he was.

Quite recently he told me that I was his second favourite partner. Naturally, I asked him who his favourite was. He replied "Any other bugger". I don't know whether or not God plays bridge but if she does she'd better not psych at the table when John is there or he'll be having a quiet word with her. Bridge thoughts and John were never far apart and once when I told him that a mutual friend of ours had died he let a moment or two pass and just when I thought he was going to say "When's the funeral?", he said "How many spades did you have on that last hand?".

When his international partner George Fox died, John said of him "Sleep well sweet prince". I would like to wish John the same.

Don Jenkins

(John's second favourite partner)

John Butler died at home on 8th October 2002, having played bridge at Cardiff Bridge Club as usual the night before.

Newport's Birthday Bash

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Newport, Pembrokeshire Bridge club on October 26th 2002, 28 club members took over the Gellifawr Hotel for the day.

The morning session consisted of a team tournament suitably won by the club treasurer's team; the evening session consisted of an individual event won by Mr X*. During the afternoon veteran Welsh international Peter Goodman was invited to give a short presentation on 'the tournament bridge scene around the world'. My role was simply to keep time and prod anyone that dared fall asleep after the wonderful lunch.



The audience were intrigued by Peter's views and demonstration of bridge as a spectator sport, tips on topics such as active ethics, 'handling your partners' and bidding systems. An insight into the world of bridge professionalism gave a new dimension to this 'mind sport' of ours. The open forum contained a selection of technical hands from events featuring some of the top players in action and a certain film celebrity.

Thank you Newport, your hospitality and enthusiasm was very refreshing.

Val French

* [If Mr X cares to reveal his identity, it will be published in the next newsletter. Ed]

RESULTS



Aberystwyth Congress

30th August –1st September 2002

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Mixed Pairs | Lyn Lamb and Dai Hayes |
| Championship Pairs | Trish Tracy and Keith Bellamy |
| Consolation Pairs | George Novak and Bob Pringle |
| Championship Teams | Brian Nicholls, Mike Cornes, Annette Lucas, Keith Shuttleworth |

Welsh Foursomes

Seabank Hotel, 7th-8th September 2002

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|
| 1 st | Catherine Draper, Gilly Clench, Ian Draper, Gerald Tredinnick | 157 VPs |
| 2 nd | Laura Woodruff, David Burn, Mike Close, Richard Trew | 149 VPs |
| 3 rd = | Mike Best, Mark Roderick, Paul Gagne, Diana Harris | 143 VPs |
| 3 rd = | Liam Sheridan, Andrew Scott, Mike Elliott, S Turner | 143 VPs |

Welsh Invitation Pairs

Cardiff Bridge Club, 21st-22nd September 2002

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----|
| 1 st : | Tony Forrester, David Mossop (England) | 479 |
| 2 nd | Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon (Ireland) | 456 |
| 3 rd : | Gay Keaveney, Rory Timlin (Ireland) | 442 |
| 4 th | Peter Goodman, Adam Dunn (Wales) | 424 |

Ladies' Welsh Cup

Rhayader Leisure Centre, 28th-29th September 2002

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|
| 1 st : | Carmel Wiseman, Binnie Job, Lee Collier, Beryl Warner | 194 VPs |
| 2 nd | Annie Favager, Diana Harris, Diana Jones, Joan Jenkins | 185 VPs |
| 3 rd : | Mary Moore, Marjorie Morris, Laura Woodruff, Susan Ingham | 181 VPs |

Men's Teams

Rhayader Leisure Centre, 28th-29th September 2002

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------|
| 1 st : | Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain | 189 VPs |
| 2 nd | David Hamilton, Mike Hirst, Tony Casey, Jim Luck | 169 VPs |
| 3 rd : | John Leather, David Stevenson, Bob Mitchell, Tony Pearson | 161 VPs |

International Round-up

Selection for international competitions: 2004



Seniors

In 2004, the Welsh Bridge Union is willing to pay the entry fee for a Seniors team to play in the Olympiad (probably in Istanbul in late August-early September) or the European Championships in Malmo during the second half of June.

Any players interested in playing in these events must enter as teams of four to six players. The selectors will organise a trial, which will be either knock-out or a round-robin event, all play all, depending on entry numbers. The winners will have their entry fee paid for the event of their choice. A successful team of four may choose an additional pair if they wish to enter as a team of six. All players must be over the age of 55 at the start of the relevant event. Information about Malmo can be found via the WBU website, and a link to the Istanbul information will be posted there as soon as it is available. Entries to be submitted to Linda Greenland by 31st March 2003.

Women

There are two events in 2004 - the Olympiad in Istanbul and the European Championships in Malmo. The Welsh Bridge Union has sufficient funds available for only one of these events and the Selectors are keen that a Welsh Ladies team does play in one of them.

Players who are considering entering the Women's trials for 2004 are asked for their views as to whether the WBU should:

- Allocate the whole of the funds available to one of the events (please note that the funds are in any case not likely to cover players' total expenses but will cover the entry fee and a contribution to travel and hotel costs); entry (including entry fee) to the other event to be at players' own expense.
- Allocate part of the funds to each event, covering the entry fee only, and requiring players to meet their own expenses in full.

Please reply to Linda Greenland no later than 31st January 2003.

Open Trials

In 2002 the Selectors encouraged as many pairs as possible to enter the Open International Trials. The pre-trial was held as an all-play-all event in Mid Wales, with six pairs exempted on grounds of their existing standing at international level. The top two pairs from the pre-trial were automatically entitled to play in the two final trial weekends, and all pairs playing in the final trials were guaranteed to represent Wales in one of a number of events selected from the Camrose Series and invitation events.

This method was welcomed by all the players, and the Selectors would like to adopt the same method for next year's pre-trial. Any pair interested in representing Wales in 2003-2004 will need to submit an entry to Linda Greenland by 31st July 2003; they may, however, wish to contact the Selectors, via Linda, in the meantime if they would like advice and help on improving their partnership game.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO ALL

1st European Open Championships, Menton, 14th-28th June 2003: Mixed Teams, Mixed Pairs, Open, Women's and Senior Teams, Open, Women's and Senior Pairs, Side Games.

Open to all registered members in good standing with their Federation, from any WBF member country. *Contact Linda Greenland for details.*



Another promotion hopeful?



(Clockwise from right): Rosemary Farr-Jones, mother of Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australian rugby captain; Sharon Osberg, member of the US Women's team that has won the world title, and a senior Executive in a leading American bank; Patrick Jourdain; and Bill Gates, the world's wealthiest man. Reputed to be the only time Patrick has acknowledged himself to be the poorest player at the table. [Ed.]

Photograph: Ron Tacchi

The International Bridge Press Association 2002 Awards: Personality of the Year Citation by the Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal

“On occasion a stalking-horse is needed to conceal one's intentions. This time Fred Gitelman filled the role. [*The IBPA had kept their nomination well hidden from Patrick, the retiring Editor of the IBPA Journal. “Fred Gitelman is the nomination”, he had been told.*] Each sport has its irreplaceable personalities. This year's nomination fulfils that role for bridge. He has identified his job for IBPA with his own personality over a period of twenty years.

Although the IBPA Executive might seem a worthy bunch, we know who the members judge the key figure to be. IBPA stands or falls by its Bulletin and the Bulletin stands or falls by the Editor. Patrick Jourdain is a man of great principles and convictions. When he thinks something is wrong he says so. When he is enthusiastic about something he lets us know. He has worked tirelessly for IBPA, and to foster bridge around the world, but particularly in Britain and in Wales.

As a player this year he achieved a unique record in the Camrose, the Home Internationals of Britain that has been running for sixty seasons. This was not, as you might

expect, that he has lost more matches for Wales than other player! It is that he became the only player to have beaten all five countries in the event in individual matches. In 1977 he played for Scotland beating Wales, then returning to Wales, he recorded wins for that country against the other four, completing the list this season with a win against the Republic of Ireland. He is known as a singer, modest skills at tennis and golf, a collector of shampoo bottles, and, in his younger days, a man of great appetite. It is said that when at a quiz the question was “how many food-groups are there?” one of Patrick's teammates gave the answer “five”. When told the correct answer was “Seven”, he said, “Not now. Patrick has eaten two of them!”

I commend to you a true friend of bridge and of your Executive: Patrick Jourdain.

Barry Rigal

Previous recipients of the Award include:
1976: Rixi Markus (GB); 1981: Deng Xiaoping (China); 1984 Easley Blackwood (USA); 1996: Geir Helgemo (Norway); 1998: Paul Chemla (France). [*What price 2003: Bill Gates? Ed.*]

Ask Mikey : More on Weak 2s by Mike Close

After our little chat in the Club, my up-and-coming beginner went off to try Weak 2s (see "Ask Mikey", Newsletter 74). It wasn't long before one of his opponents, another aspiring newcomer, asked to talk to me, and the conversation went something like this:

Q: My opponents are now playing Weak 2 bids, showing a 6-card suit and 5-9 points. How can I counter this? I don't want to learn anything complicated though!

A: *In general, treat the bid as a 1-level opening and bid accordingly. Double for takeout or to show a very good hand; bid 2NT to show 15-18 balanced with a stopper in the suit bid. If you are going to overcall, you need a reasonable hand and a good suit because you have to bid clubs or diamonds at the 3 level. You should have about an opening bid or better. And don't overcall with a poor hand, wait for partner to show some strength.*

Q: If I bid 2NT over the 2H or 2S bid, what happens then?

A: *You play the same system as if you opened 2NT - if you are playing 3♣ Baron (4 card suits upwards), or 5-card Puppet Stayman, then play that. Why? Because it is easy to remember. If you open 2NT or Acol 2♣ followed by 2NT, or as here a strong overcall of 2NT, then you and your partner only have to learn one set of bids and responses. Don't forget to agree this with partner though.*

Q: They've opened 2♥, and I hold a poor hand with ♠KQJ10xxx and— should I bid 3♠?

A: *No! Don't pre-empt over a pre-empt. Jumps should show extra strength and the 3♠ bid would be stronger than a 2♠ overcall. If you have a poor hand with lots of spades, pass for now – partner can still bid or double.*

Q: Double is for takeout. What happens if I want to double for penalties?

A: *The same as if they had opened 1♥ or 1♠ and you have a penalty double - you have to pass and wait for partner to double for takeout, then you can pass for penalties.*

Q: So I have to pass. That's hard!

A: *Yes, at first it is, and you must not ask questions and pass or otherwise give a clue to partner that you have a penalty double of the Weak 2 bid. This is what the 'Stop' Card is for – the opponent bids 'Stop' 2♥ and you get 'thinking' time (officially 10 seconds), so that you can pass in tempo without giving unauthorised information to your partner. But note that you should also wait for 10 seconds before passing when you don't have anything to think about, something that most players forget to do.*



Q: OK, it goes 2♥–Pass–Pass, and I'm holding only 10 points. I would normally pass – is this right?

A: *It depends. I would suggest that the fewer hearts you hold, the less you need in terms of High Card Points to double (for takeout, of course), because the fewer hearts you have, the more hearts partner has, and thus the more likely he has a penalty double. If you have 3 or 4 hearts, it is much less likely that partner has a good hand, because with short hearts he would have doubled for takeout.*

Q: But I want to double for penalties, and partners never seem to double for takeout in these situations. Is there another method?

A: *There are other methods. One of these is called Hackett, after a well-known English bridge player. Using this convention you bid 3♣ as a weak takeout, and 3♦ as a strong takeout, and double is for penalties.*

Q: That sounds better - but you don't like it?

A: *No I don't. And I have played against Mr Hackett several times, and guess what? He doesn't play 'his' convention!*

Q: Why don't you (and Mr Hackett) like it?

A: *Because you are using for takeout two sensible suit bids that are better kept as normal, natural bids. After all, you don't play 2♣ and 2♦ as weak and strong takeout over an opponent's opening 1♥ or 1♠ opening do you? Everyone plays takeout doubles here, so why not do the same over 2♥ and 2♠?*

Q: Any other gadgets over a Weak 2♥ or 2♠?

A: *With some of my partners I play that a bid of 4♣ or 4♦ shows that suit plus the other major, at least 5-5 and strong. I have heard this being called 'Leaping Michaels'.*

Bidding 3 of their Weak 2 suit could be used to show a strong 2-suiter, or asking for a stopper for 3NT (and thus suggesting a long, running minor). This sort of stuff should be discussed with partner before you try it.

Q: I saw a pair of good players who also played 2♦ as a Weak 2 bid. What does it mean and what defence should I use?

A: *This has become popular recently – opening 2♦ shows a 6-card suit and 5-9 points, the same as 2♥ and 2♠. You should play a similar defence, except that bidding 3♦ should show 5-5 in the majors and strong.*

Q: They were also using 2NT as a weak bid, showing at least 5-5 in the minors.

A: *Wow, they must be rotten card-holders, because they don't have many bids for strong hands! A suggested defence to this would be that double shows a balanced 16+, 3♥ and 3♠ are natural, and use their suits for takeout – either 3♣ shows hearts and spades with longer hearts and 3♦ shows ♥ + ♠ with longer spades, or alternatively 3♣ and 3♦ show both majors, but 3♦ is stronger. Note*

also with these bids that you can pass first, and then bid later to show a weaker hand with a single suit, so immediate overcalls of 3♥ and 3♠ should be up to strength

Q: What are Lucas 2s ?

A: *A complicated way of getting a bad result (☺). Well, actually this is another way of playing Weak 2s: 2♥ shows 5 hearts and 4 of another suit, weak, and 2♠ shows 5 spades and another suit. Often played in combination with the 'Multi 2♦' (see below). Some better players play it as 5-5 in the suits, which makes more sense, but for others it's just an excuse to bid with a poor hand. Occasionally they will pre-empt you effectively and get a good result, but most of the time you win the auction, and then you can play the hand at least one trick better than usual, because they have told you the distribution. Undisciplined Lucas 2s often go for 300 against part scores and 800 against games. Avoid.*

Q: Defence to Lucas 2s ?

A: *Same as for Weak 2s, and remember the distribution when you play the hand*

Q: What is this fiendish 'Multi 2♦' ?

A: *This is a convention which emerged in the 1970s, and it is lucky still to be permitted in ordinary competitive events, as it is a bit of an exotic creature. As the opening is ambiguous, it should only be permitted in higher level competitions, but it survives today because of its popularity in the UK.*

Basically the opening bid shows one of: a) a weak two bid in ♥; b) a weak two bid in ♠; c) one of a variety of strong hands - strong, single-suited in ♣ or ♦, or Strong, balanced (for example 22-23, or 20-21), or Strong, 4-4-4-1 distribution, at least 17+ High card points.

A common combination might be: a) a Weak 2 in a major, or a Strong 2 in a minor, or a balanced 20-21. On hearing a 2♦ bid, responder bids 2♥ as a relay, and opener now clarifies, by passing with a Weak 2♥ hand, bidding 2♠ with a Weak 2♠, bidding 2NT to show strong and balanced, 3♣ for 8

playing tricks in ♣, and 3 ♦ with 8 playing tricks in ♦. Responder has other bids as well, including a 2NT enquiry to show 15+ and ask about the strength of the assumed Weak 2 ♥/♠.

Q: This sounds complicated – do you play it?

A: No, I try to avoid it. First you need to agree with partner what the combinations are and what the normal sequences mean. Second you need to have a lot of agreements about what bids mean after opponents intervene. As you need some time to familiarise yourself and partner with these, I don't play the Multi in any casual partnerships.

Q: When it comes up its pretty difficult to know what's going on. I usually pass and wait for them to tell us what they have got before bidding. Is this right?

A: Oh no, on the contrary. The Multi's big advantage is its ambiguity at the outset. I know this suggests that you should go quiet and avoid bidding in case they have a strong hand and you get doubled, but in reality they

will have a Weak 2 bid far more often than a strong hand. The Multi's ambiguity is its biggest disadvantage as well, as responder generally cannot pre-empt in a major until he finds out which major the 2 ♦ opener is holding – only when responder has both majors can he pre-empt straight away, and even then, he is frightened to in case he catches partner with one of the strong options. And bidding or doubling straight away causes confusion for the Multi player and his partner, because often they haven't discussed what to do when you intervene. There are many defences against it, but I recommend you find one that tells your partner what you have got, before they find out what they have! You could simply agree the same defence as for Weak 2s, this will get you through most situations.

Q: Well thanks Mikey for the help. Can I approach you with other questions later?

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

WBU Bidding Competition

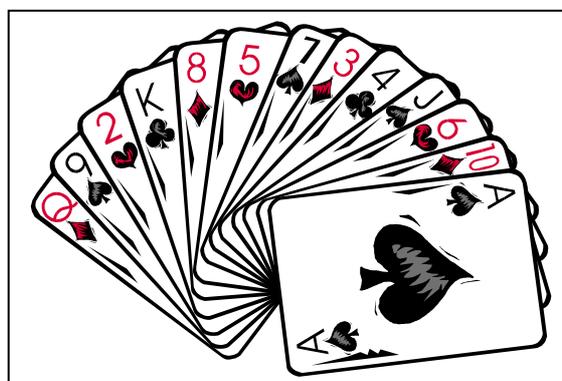
With the help of the International squads we are introducing a new feature to the magazine and hope as many members as possible will take part. Every magazine there will be 8 hands and the auction so far – your task is to work out what to bid next. Send your answers to Linda Greenland, by post or e-mail (deri31@ntlworld.com).

In the next magazine our panel of experts will give their answers, and tell us why they think that way. Based upon their views, the editor (Peter Goodman has agreed to edit the first set) will award marks for each possible bid – a perfect score is 80 per set.

There is a prize of £100 for the best score over a year, which will be shared if there is more than one winner. There will also be a prize of £25 for the best score on each set, and the winner's name will be drawn out of a hat if there is a tie. The leading scores will be published in the next magazine, and a

complete list will be available on the WBU website after the closing date.

We are on the lookout for hands for the next challenge – if you have a problem hand, please send it in with your entry. Happy Bidding.



WBU Bidding Challenge – Set 1 – Closing Date for entries 31st January

Hand 1 E/W VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| ♠A65 | | | | | |
| ♥96 | - | - | 2♠ (i) | 3♣ | (i) Weak 5-9 HCP |
| ♦62 | 3♠ | Dbl (ii) | Pass | ? | (ii)♥ + ♦ with some values |
| ♣AK9754 | | | | | |

Hand 2 E/W VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| ♠6 | | | | | (i) Multi |
| ♥AJ5 | 2♦ (i) | pass | 2♥ (ii) | pass | (ii) pass or correct |
| ♦AJ3 | 2♠ | 3♥ (iii) | 3♠ | ? | (iii) not good enough to bid 2♥ |
| ♣1096543 | | | | | on the previous round |

Hand 3 None - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| ♠K63 | | | | | (i) 3♥ - non forcing |
| ♥K10764 | - | 1♠ | 2♦ | 2♥ | ii) Cue bid |
| ♦- | pass | 3♥ (i) | pass | 4♣ (ii) | (iii) Cue bid, no Diamond |
| ♣KQJ43 | Pass | 4♠ (iii) | pass | ? | control |

Hand 4 N/S VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| ♠Q3 | | | | | |
| ♥AQJ53 | - | - | - | 1♥ | (i) weak |
| ♦KQ1075 | 3♣ (i) | 3♠ | pass | ? | |
| ♣K | | | | | |

Hand 5 N/S VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| ♠5 | | | | | |
| ♥AJT842 | - | - | 3♦ (i) | ? | (i) weak |
| ♦8 | | | | | |
| ♣AQJ52 | | | | | |

Hand 6 N/S VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|-------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠A6 | | | | | |
| ♥Q954 | - | pass | 2♥ (i) | Pass | (i) weak 5-9 HCP |
| ♦K73 | pass | Dbl (ii) | Pass | ? | (ii) take out – 2NT now from South |
| ♣J853 | | | | | is Lebensohl |

Hand 7 E/W VUL - Scoring: Teams

| | West | North | East | South | |
|--------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| ♠742 | | | | | |
| ♥KQ42 | - | - | 1♦ | Pass | (i) ♥ + ♣ at least 5 – 5 , can be very |
| ♦8 | 1♠ | 2NT (i) | 4♠ | 5♥ | weak |
| ♣J8742 | 6♦ | Pass | Pass | ? | |

Hand 8 E/W VUL - Scoring: Pairs

| | West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| ♠A1094 | | | | |
| ♥A108742 | - | - | - | 1♥ |
| ♦5 | pass | 1♠ | pass | ? |
| ♣K10 | | | | |

Around the ash bucket

Social workers, university lecturers and flower children will know that each Wednesday, the Guardian carries a column called *Front ... to back*, containing funny or weird snippets from local newspapers. The weekly journal for housing professionals, the imaginatively named "Inside Housing", has a similar item titled *Around the Water Cooler*. Given the number of players huddled wretchedly at every scoring break around those cylindrical dustbin-cum-ashtray objects that are to be found in hotel foyers, it occurred to your editor that an appropriate heading for a gossip and humour column in a bridge magazine might be *Around the Ash Bucket*.

If you can't bear to write an article or send a letter to the WBU Newsletter, perhaps you could pen half a dozen lines to contribute an overheard remark or a morsel of bridge gossip. Whenever I have enough to make up half a page, I'll put them in. Anonymity guaranteed, provided the information is a) more or less legit and b) not libellous (or at least if it is, that the victim can't afford to sue).

I had intended to distribute this issue of the Newsletter at the Porthcawl Congress, but my recent house move ruined that plan by burying various essential bits of equipment and paperwork in one of 37 identical packing cases. I still haven't found the tin-opener, so the other full-time occupants of the house are living on a diet of expensive ring-pull cat food. It would probably be cheaper to buy a new tin-opener. The house is old and interesting, but the previous owners had some eccentric tastes. Poor Jill Knight, who came to stay for the Lady Milne trial the weekend after we moved, slept in a bedroom that looked as if someone had been sticking pigs in it (scarlet rag-rolling on a cream background); and the kitchen units appear to have been made for a giant. In fact, they were made for a giant, since my predecessor was 6'8" tall. Other peculiarities include a television aerial connection in every room, one bathroom with a disconnected waste pipe and another with an overflowing immersion heater, and NO MAINS GAS.

Of course, I knew about the gaslessness before I moved in but poor townie that I am, I dread the moment when I realise on Christmas Eve that the remaining teaspoonful of oil will not last till morning, never mind till 2nd January. Last night (it's the 6th November today) I feared that one of next door's fireworks would score a direct hit on the 1800 litres in the oil tank and destroy the house and its contents, including all the entries for the Veteran Pairs.

We've spent a certain amount of time crawling up roofs to divert rainwater from defective guttering, and last weekend David Burn, visiting for respite from the hurly-burly of life in Shepherds Bush, found himself put to throwing chair legs over a barn roof. This is not a local sport, like Wellington-boot throwing or Oggie-eating, but a hopelessly unscientific method of getting anchor ropes for a tarpaulin from one side of the building to the other. A harpoon gun would have worked better (we are in fact within sight of the sea - just, from the top of the leaking barn roof, but there are no sharks in the Bristol Channel as far as I know).



With luck, by the time I come to cut and paste and scour the Web for missing competition results for the next Newsletter, the packing cases will be unpacked, the gas installed and the décor more *boudoir* than *abattoir*. In the meantime, do write, or make, some copy.

Lamer

New for 2003 - Magical Madeira

ATLANTIC BAY HOTEL near FUNCHAL

17th November -1st December 2003

Martin and Judy Holcombe have been involved with running bridge holidays for many years and have selected the Atlantic Bay Hotel for their first venture in Madeira.

Spectacularly situated on one of the island's only beachfront sites, Praia Formosa, this four star hotel offers mainly sea view twin bedrooms with balconies. These are generously sized and equipped with a small kitchenette - ideal for preparing light snacks. Comfortable lounges, spacious dining room and good leisure facilities complement the accommodation. Located close to Funchal, the Atlantic Bay Hotel is the perfect setting for our unique blend of bridge and relaxation.

Bridge is played in the comfort of an air-conditioned room and is under the friendly

direction of **Graham Hedley** ably assisted, as always, by his wife Berry. They have devised an enjoyable programme of bridge which will appeal to players of all standards. The bridge programme includes open pairs, ladies/mens pairs, championship pairs, swiss teams and championship teams.

Occasional seminars on specific subjects will be held. Master points will be awarded at all sessions and there are prizes for the winners of all events.

The cost of this holiday is **£789.00** which includes half board, bridge fees, insurance*, entertainment, transfers and airport duties. Single supplement £99. Prices based on Gatwick departures. Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Exeter, Luton, Bournemouth, Cardiff, and Glasgow flights available at a supplement.

*Deduct £20 if not required.



Cardiff Thistle

NEW YEAR 2002/3. Mon 30th December to Thu 2nd January

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. Why not come and join us for a relaxing blend of bridge and festivity over the new year? We will be hosting a four day break at the Cardiff Thistle with **Graham Hedley** as Director. **£295.00** per person, half board.

Grasmere Thistle

ONE WEEK - 7th-14th March 2003

Situated just 10 minutes walk to the village of Grasmere, the hotel stands in beautiful 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. Director **Graham Hedley**. Cost per person half board **£349.00** for seven nights.

Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS 30th January-13th February 2003

This holiday is already sold out but why not ring to see if we've had any cancellations? We'll be back there in 2004, dates to be confirmed, so call us now and make sure your name is on the list.

Improve with Andrew Kambites

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - April 2003

If you enjoy bridge but want to know more, this week 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 has devised a programme to appeal to beginners and improvers alike.

2002 was fully booked, so be sure to make your reservation now. Gatwick and Manchester departures, **full board**, all-inclusive prices from only **£459.00**. (Subject to Single Supplement)

Back to Menorca

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 10th-24th October 2003

The Hotel S'Algar is so popular with bridge players that we're going back there for the thirty-second time in October 2003.

S'Algar in October offers you a choice of accommodation - apartments or hotel rooms, a choice of 13 departure airports and a huge choice of leisure activities from bowls to scuba diving. The usual team of hosts Martin & Judy Holcombe plus Graham & Berry Hedley will welcome you and guarantee great bridge in a superb setting. **Full board**, all-inclusive prices from only **£789.00** each. (Subject to Single Supplement)

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



Keep up to date with all the latest First for Bridge news by logging on to www.bridge-holidays.com. E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com

Menorca holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd. ATOL No: 1772, Algarve holiday by Saga Holidays Ltd. ATOL No: 0308 and Madeira holiday by Atlantic Travel ATOL No: 2704.



Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

Most queries I have received lately have been asking what master points should be issued in certain obscure circumstances. (“What catch question shall we try Noelle with next?” I sometimes think, as I delve in the books and scratch my head). Very few have been “Have you had my points?”, so I’m hoping that the Master

Points section of the WBU website is being found useful. I hope that sometime we can add a Master Points “FAQ” (frequently asked questions) section as well to answer general queries members often have.

When Heath Golding, now in England, asked me to transfer his points to the EBU, he also wanted to be remembered to all his friends in the WBU, adding that bridge is “coming to my rescue and helping me to settle in here.”

I also made some new friends recently, when I played at the Aberystwyth congress. I was pleased to meet people I only knew from letters or phone calls. Our team was made very welcome. I feel it is a great shame that Aberystwyth and Swansea are the last of the small local congresses, which were always so enjoyable. Condemned for lack of green points, I’m afraid.

When packing my case for the weekend I thought of the difference since my first “away” event, years ago. Then my case would contain several changes of clothes and not much more than lipstick, eye shadow, and a toothbrush. Now I study the weather forecast to get my clothes to a minimum to allow room for my maintenance and care kit: skin cream, mousse, hot brush, tablets for this and that, backrest, special tea, vitamin supplements, hairspray, eye-drops, hot water bottle. Now I’ve lost my own youth I really need one to carry my case.

I’m beginning to wonder if the WBU website should contain a recommended hotels list, for I’ve certainly stayed in some strange ones this year. In one, the fire exit route for the top floor, where we slept, consisted of breaking into our room, dashing past our beds, climbing out of the window, running across the roof leads and breaking in through a window in the house next door; in another, no lights on the ground floor, hot water only in some rooms, and (horrors) no breakfast. Oh, and then one with the dressing table legs two inches shorter at one end than the other; the waste paper basket strategically placed to catch anything that rolled off.

I’m still getting letters without sufficient postage, please try to think about the weight of your letter when sending me points. A single first class stamp is good only for the lightest. (See my note in the last newsletter)

Found in a magazine for 1948: a letter about “courtship” (a word abandoned in these more permissive times?): “If it’s wet, we stay at home and play bridge.” How shocking, I didn’t learn to play until after I was married.

Noelle

List of promotions for each rank from 25th August to 29th October 2002

Club Master

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| John Bailey | S |
| Valerie Bell | BRE |
| Carol Cochlin | PN |
| Catherine Dudlyke | L |
| Joyce Outred | CD |
| Barrie Phillips | BSC |
| Win Thomasson | AG |
| Ann Williams | S |

Local Master

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Patricia Beardmore | MB |
| John Beardmore | MB |
| Andrew Dearing | BV |
| John Dow | CBY |
| Ivor Morgan | S |
| Mike Reed | CAR |
| Robyn Reed | CAR |
| Paul Richardson | GA |
| Michael Rowland | CN |
| George Williams | CB |
| John Worlock | PN |

County Master

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Huw Evans | S |
| Geoff Griffiths | L |
| Colin Haldenby | LP |
| Maria Haldenby | LP |
| Arthur Orme | M |
| Philip Rogers | SP |

Master

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Lynne Jones | WS |
| Ann Walters | R |
| Mair Young | R |

Advanced Master

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Norman Clewer | R |
| Roy Dickinson | WS |
| Margaret Doig | LD |
| Ian Haston | H |
| Dai Hayes | A |
| Olwen Mitchell | GA |

One Star Master

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Churchill Al Temimi | MON |
| Jo Copping | BRE |

Two Star Master

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Joan Jenkins | SU |
| Maureen Worthington | PW |

Three Star Master

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Alan Ashton | CBY |
| Graham Ball | CBY |
| Jane Brook | BV |

Four Star Master

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Dorothy Bretherton | CR |
| Hywel Williams | MB |

Five Star Master

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Mary Benton | S |
|-------------|---|

Tournament Master

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Ray Curry | S |
|-----------|---|

Regional Master

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lee Collier | H |
| Keith Davison | S |

Premier Regional Master

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Gwyneth Dew | GA |
| Doreen Dixon | GA |
| Dorothy Gilbert | R |

National Master

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Betty Lewis | BV |
| Brian Schofield | RH |
| Lucy Williams | CR |
| Pamela Woodhouse | STD |

Premier National Master

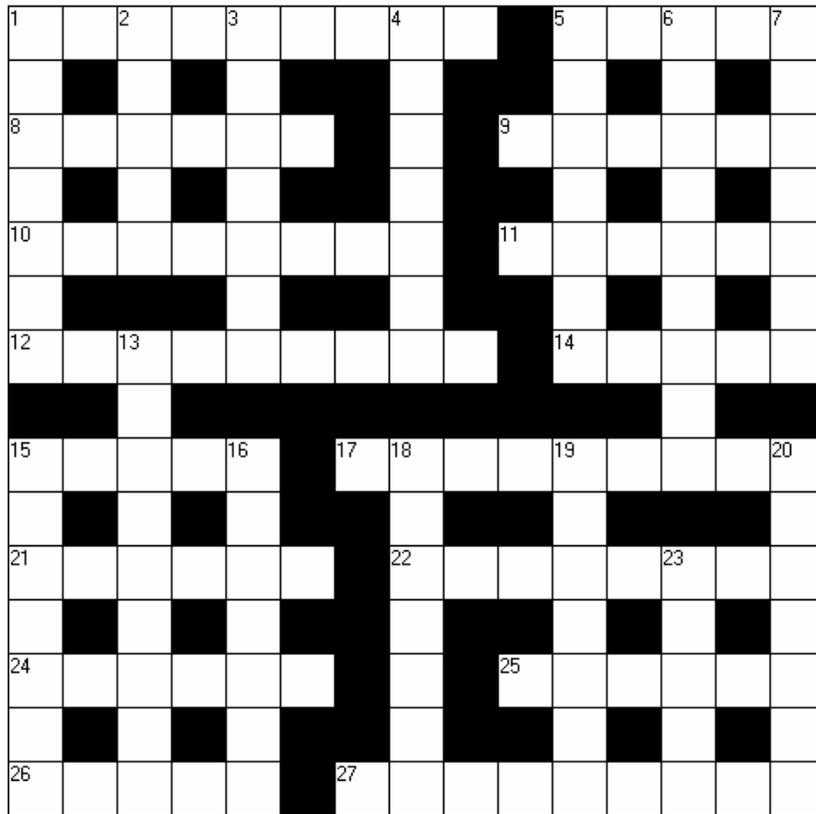
| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Eric Howells | C |
| Dianne Knight | W |
| Beryl Warner | H |
| Wyn Williams | CBY |



Just in case you missed it on the back page, the NTO has moved house:

**Laura Woodruff
Hall Farm
North Cornelly
Bridgend
CF33 4HR**

Tel: 01656 741748



2, 10, 19 and 24 are broadly of a kind and have partial clues

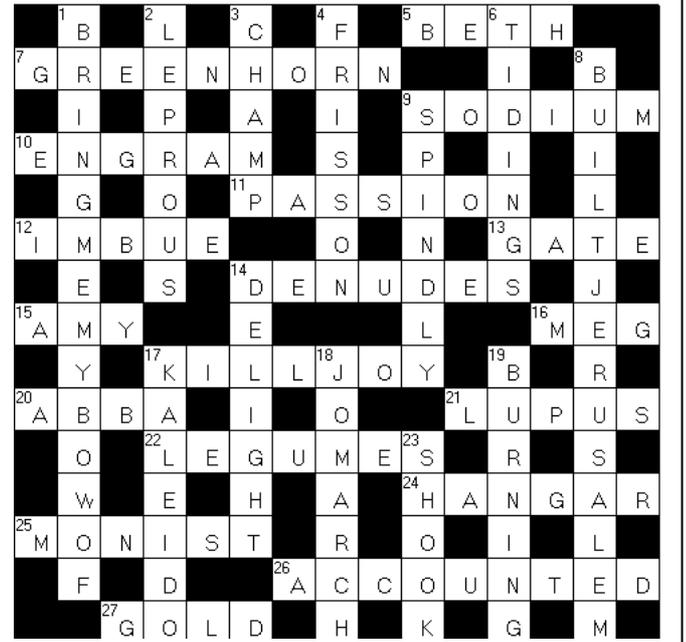
ACROSS

- 1. Bend one of 5 across before crossing (9)
- 5. Beam substitutes new direction – top side, for example (5)
- 8. Backward Tom’s first contented sound: I burst in (6)
- 9. As gruesome as the homicide appeared to begin with, she wrote about it (6)
- 10. A tart, a little girl at heart, gone astray (8)
- 11. Irish high ground, say - keep card up here? (6)
- 12. A morning’s stolen away, East has stolen in to wedding songs; cover our bodies (9)
- 14. Find Cologne upon it, or find Myrrh in Eastern lands (5)
- 15. “M ... you old ... you old ... well I declare!” (2, 3)
- 17. Fugitive sailor scorned reform (9)
- 21. “The struggle –“ avaieth nothing (6)
- 22. No speed? First look South, boss (8)
- 24. Much ado about one king (6)
- 25. 5 Eastern river mouths, after Burns (2,4)
- 26. Alien, thou? Turn back into fish (5)
- 27. Dictator last and first, and Iberian warrior. We’ve all got it in us (5,4)

DOWN

- 1. Corn for grinding French article; it’s tough to chew (7)
- 2. Not mother either (5)
- 3. Affected no *pianissimo* during second course (7)
- 4. No point to Indian rising – it rose to make Indian food (7)
- 5. Liquid-carrier with posh household spirit carries fluid to head (7)
- 6. Nobler place for fancies (2,3,4)
- 7. Salesman meddled with Catherine Jones’s middle swing (7)
- 13. Third power rises in headless sport to keep cold in (3,6)
- 15. Free turn after bloke, with German to follow (7)
- 16. City lay low before North American low-life (7)
- 18. Grow from 20 and flourish around good men (7)
- 19. Love to embrace torment (7)
- 20. Stick around home counties, picking up benefit; press king’s last (7)
- 23. Made up Russian writing, back to front for words (5)

Solution to Newsletter 76 crossword



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WBU Simultaneous Pairs

28th November (may be played on other days in the same week). Contact your nearest participating club for details of their heat, or:

Rob Charlesworth at robchar63@hotmail.com.

Lots of masterpoints and cash prizes to be won.

Camrose v Republic of Ireland



30th November – 1st December at the Holt Lodge, Wrexham.

Wales will be represented by Tim Rees & Fil Kurbalija, Gary & Dafydd Jones, Peter Goodman & Adam Dunn; NPC Paul Denning.

Supporters and other spectators are welcome. The VuGraph theatre will be open *free of charge* throughout play (11 till 8.30 Saturday, 11 till 3.20 Sunday). Contact Linda Greenland at deri31@ntlworld.com for further details.

Graded Masters Pairs

25th-26th January, Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli.

Closing date 5th January 2003. Entry fee £20 per player (£10 for under-25s).

The chance to play in a national event without fear of meeting anyone much better (or much worse) than you are.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 will be made up according to Green-point holdings, with restrictions (Life Master and above in Section 1; Premier Regional Master in Section 2; Regional Master in Section 3). Other sections according to total masterpoint holding.

Please send your entry on the form provided in the centre of the Journal to the NTO, Hall Farm, North Cornelly CF33 4HR, email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk (but you will still need to send an entry form and the entry fee by post).

East Wales Congress

14th – 16th February 2003 at County Hall, Cwmbran.

Entries to: Annie Favager, 3 Albert Crescent, Penarth CF64 1DA
Tel. 029 2070 8004, email annie.favager@ntlworld.com



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

| Item | Journal page | Details |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Change of address | 2 | The NTO, Laura Woodruff, has moved to Hall Farm, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR, Tel. 01656 741748 (still no calls before 11.00, please). Any items already sent to the old address will be forwarded. |
| Change of Area Tournament Organiser | 3 | WWBA's new ATO is Keith Davison, Tel. 01639 768357, email keithbanana@hotmail.com . (Gary Martin has resigned after many years' service because of pressure of work, but will continue to maintain the WWBA website.) |
| Change of Club Secretary | 4 | Cardiff's new secretary is Susan Williams, 48 Torrens Drive, Cardiff CF23 6DS Tel. 029 2075 6512. |
| Change of Club Secretary | 8 | Wrexham Park View's new secretary is David Williams, 28 Wenfryn Close, Trevor, Llangollen LL20 7TU, Tel. 01978 821244 |
| Change of Club Secretary | 10 | Port Talbot's new secretary is Lavinia Thomas, 293 Delffordd, Rhos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3EP, Tel. 01792 862781 |
| Change of Congress Organiser | 15 | The Aberystwyth Congress will be organised by Betty Brookes, Buckton, Llangorwen, Aberystwyth, SY23 3DP Tel. 01970-828301. |

Note to members

Competition entry forms can be found in the centre pages of the WBU Journal 2002-2003 (the green one), and details of venues and start times on pages 21 – 28. You may telephone or email to notify the NTO of a late entry but will still need to complete a form and post it with the entry fee.

WBU Council meeting 1st September 2002 *Notes of significant items from the recent meeting*

The draft minutes of AGM and the constitution are available on the WBU website

Two new events were approved to be run by the WBU in May and October each year at Cwmbran.

Other information

Elena Jeronomides, the editor of Bridge Plus, has asked me to let members know that she has a new email address: e-mail: ejeronimidis@btconnect.com; website: www.bridge-plus.co.uk; Tel/Fax: 0118 935 1052

Copy deadline for next newsletter

Articles, hands, information, obituaries, photographs are all welcome: send to Laura on laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk no later than 31st January 2003. If you have no access to email, hard copy may as a last resort be sent to Hall Farm, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4HR but allow extra time for typing. Please do not send photographs in the post, as I have no scanner.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.