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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 81, November 2003

Talent show: runaway winner

As the 2003 Bidding Challenge drew to a close, no one was taking bets on the Grand Prix – the prize for the overall winner for the year. The early lead established by our bidding pundit, Mike Close, never looked vulnerable to challenge, and he sped to victory with a stunning total of 285 points.

*The new competition's first set can be found on **Page 11**, along with the results for Set 4 on Pages 8-10.*

Myra Morris: Obituary

Regular congress players will remember Myra Morris, who as Entry Secretary for the East Wales Congress and the Cardiff Charity Café Bridge Drive during the height of the Spice Girls' popularity earned the nickname "Entry Spice". Myra died in May, and we publish on **Page 2** Patrick Jourdain's funeral eulogy of this most colourful and good-humoured of bridge players.

Not at all like lemons

The fearless five from the far West continue their tale of sun, sand and systems, this time in prose.



Menton's Lemon Festival pays homage to bridge

See page 9 for Judith Graham-Jones's entertaining write-up of the Ladies' Welsh Cup winners' trip to Menton.

Graded Masters Pairs

Don't forget to enter the only competition where you are guaranteed to meet people who won't frighten you by playing better than you do.

See Page 19 for details, or refer to Page 27 of your copy of the Welsh Bridge Union Journal.

Letters to the Editor

None again, I'm sorry to say.

Funeral address: Myra Morris

This address was given by Patrick Jourdain at Myra's funeral on 27th May 2003.

Of course we are saddened by Myra's passing, but having known Myra for more than 30 years I can tell you she would much prefer you to smile at the many happy moments we all had together. Put simply, my abiding memory of Myra is what excellent company she was. For me Myra was often the one thing that turned committee meetings from a bore into a pleasure.

In the bridge world she was involved in many projects, not wanting to be the leader, but often the driving force, the engine room that kept things working. In 1974 I was away in Scotland when a group of ladies playing at the proprietary bridge club in The Walk, at Myra's prompting, got together and called themselves the Bennett Group after the woman who shot her husband playing bridge. (At the original Trial, on the grounds of the husband's poor standard of play, bridge-players called it justifiable homicide.) Anyway the Bennett Group, with Myra as a key ingredient, set up a members' bridge club that is still going strong today as the Cardiff Bridge Club. Most of that Bennett Group, including Myra's longtime bridge partner, Mary Knapton, are here today.

I was first involved in bridge administration with Myra when we were asked to run the East Wales Congress with whosoever was Area Treasurer. I quickly discovered the best place to meet was at Myra's house, because meetings always came accompanied by her famous Welsh cakes. Over almost ten years we worked together the Congress more than doubled in size to the four hundred people it attracts today. Myra, as Entries Secretary, seemed to know each of the four hundred. She was never a computer buff, everything was hand-written, but if I said "Why have we not had an entry from so-and-so?" Myra

always knew the answer.

"Her husband is ill; they're on holiday in the Channel Islands; he's had a row with his bridge partner" Myra would explain at once. I had to take the minutes, because Myra always had both hands full: one with a cigarette, and the other with the telephone or a glass of whisky.

Later when we had the European Youth Bridge Championships in Cardiff Myra was more sceptical as she didn't want to get back to school, but once it began and she saw enthusiastic youngsters from all over Europe, she pitched in with equal enthusiasm.

Her response when Maggie Pierce and I wanted to start an annual Charity event played in all the different cafés in Cardiff, was immediate. She was the Entries Secretary for five years, and we will be remembering her particularly at this year's event.

My other memories of Myra range around her great hospitality. Her Pancake Wednesday, held the day after Shrove Tuesday, packed her house for most of the day. Her rum pot was legendary. She held an annual New Year's Eve party and had an annual break at the Nant Ddu Lodge hotel where she entertained a group of friends to dinner. Myra was the life and soul of any party, a great joke- and story-teller. If you come to the Bridge Club later you should hear her one about the bibles from Jim Luck.

If there was a political Party called the Welsh Social Workers' Party Myra would have won all our votes. I thank her for the many things she did that made life better for all of us.



Patrick Jourdain

RESULTS



Aberystwyth Congress

29th-31st August 2003

M. Llew. Jenkins Challenge Cup	Mixed Pairs	Louise Orme, Arthur Orme
H. M Stanley Challenge Cup	Championship Pairs	Bob Pringle, George Novak
Gwynne Davies Challenge Cup	Consolation Pairs	Margaret Davies, Margaret James
Cambrian News Trophy	Teams	Dewi Jones, Colin Manley, Dai Hayes, Mike Jones (winners on a split tie over Pat Fielding, Joyce Outred, Brian Partridge, Linda McFarlane)

WBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

1st-7th September 2003

1 st	Barbara Cornish, Joyce Dale (Porthcawl)	68.35%
2 nd	Sue Ingham, Gerald Gould (Penarth)	66.04%
3 rd	Pat Fielding, Geoff Fielding (Newtown)	65.97%

Welsh Foursomes

Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl 6th-7th September 2003

1 st	Andrew Kambites, R Chamberlain, Paul Denning, Pat Shields	171 VPs
2 nd	Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain	162 VPs
3 rd =	Jim Luck, Mike Hirst, Bernard Goldenfield, Rhona Goldenfield, Tom Reddy	140 VPs
3 rd =	Mike Best, Mark Roderick, Philip Felman, Gordon Roxburgh	140 VPs

Welsh Invitation Pairs

Cardiff Bridge Club, 20th-21st September 2003

1 st	Gay Keaveney, Rory Timlin (Ireland)	470
2 nd	Tom Hanlon, John Carroll (Ireland)	432
3 rd	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain (Wales)	430

Ladies' Welsh Cup

Elephant & Castle Hotel, Newtown , 27th-28th September 2003

1 st	Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey, Gilly Clench, Margaret Pitts	155 VPs
2 nd	Noelle Bond, Betty Lewis, Eileen Hughes, Isabel Evans	151 VPs
3 rd =	Linda Greenland, Ann Hirst, Liz Atkinson, Margaret Lane	134 VPs
3 rd =	Laura Woodruff, Susan Ingham, Mary Moore, Marjorie Morris	134 VPs

Men's Teams

Elephant & Castle Hotel, Newtown , 27th-28th September 2003

1 st	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain, Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees	116 VPs
2 nd	Steve Webb, Tim Barsby, Chris Davies, Martin David	80 VPs
3 rd	Joe Patrick, Chris Rochelle, Ken Richards, John Glubb	76 VPs

Around the Areas

Mid Wales

Results of the 2003
McKinley Cup.



1st: Phil Dorling, Alan Screen, Monica Garbett-Edwards, Glenda Dorling (Newtown)
100VPs

2nd: Andrew Young, Val Gould, Chris Blackman, John Waller (Newtown and Welshpool)
80VPs

3rd: Dewi Jones, Dai Hayes, Mike Jones, Sue Raybould (Aberystwyth)
66VPs

West Wales

Afan Daniel Swiss Teams

by Roy Griffin



The Afan Daniel Swiss Teams on 5th October was won by Diana Panniers, Vera Jardine, Des Jarvis and David Smith.

The play on this board from the Afan Daniel reminds me of a favourite saying of Alan Sontag, the great American expert, that it is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There are not enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

Dlr: South ♠ A 8 5 4
Vul: Game all ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ K Q 8 4

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

♠ K J 9 6 2
♥ K 9 6
♦ A 4
♣ A J 2

Against South's 4♠, West led the ♦Q to the ace. Declarer cashed the top spades and then started on his clubs. East ruffed the third round and switched to the ♥Q, and declarer was soon one down. South railed against his

bad luck - the trumps did not break, East had only two clubs, and the heart ace was off side.

At the other table, South also played in 4♠ against the ♦Q lead. But he made the simple deduction that he could afford to lose a trump to West but not to East. So he cashed the ♠A and then led a small one, finessing the knave. If this had lost to West, he was still guaranteed ten tricks. When it won he made eleven.

Sontag would have approved.

North Wales

1-Day Swiss Pairs 18th October



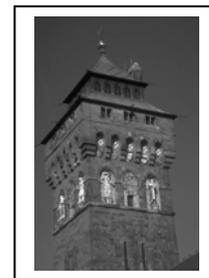
1st: Margaret Dash, Arthur Balham 115VPs
2nd: Linda Smith, Peter Smith 104VPs
3rd: Alan Reid, Bernard Palmer 96VPs

1-Day Swiss Teams 19th October

1st: Zizi Covrigaru, Gisela Martin, Dave Ivens, Val Ivens 101VPs
2nd: John Salisbury, Mike Tedd, Bob Pitts, Pete Broster 100VPs
3rd: Paddy Murphy, John Halliwell, Peter Smith, Linda Smith 96VPs

East Wales

Western League (South-West Counties League): East Wales v. Somerset



"A" team David Birt, Geoff Evans
 Joe Patrick, Chris Rochelle
Result: Won 16-4

"B" team Laura Woodruff, Noelle Bond
 Steve Webb, Tim Barsby
Result: Won 20-0

The next match is against Devon on 18th October – away.

Mikey's Musings: Our fate, dear Brutus ...

by Mike Close

The Webber Cup is the WBU's premier Teams of Four competition, and like all big events, you need a smidgeon of luck to win it. It could be something like playing a Strong No Trump on a particular board with the opponents conceding 1100 on the double of a Weak NT, or a hand particularly suitable for one of your favourite system toys which could be enough to make the difference.

When one of our qualifying team was unable to make the final, we were fortunate to find the Welsh international player, Peter Goodman available. Given that we already had the English International David Burn in our team, we arranged our line-up so that I played with our esteemed Editor, (at least one pair would have some idea of what they were doing), whilst our two stars formed a scratch partnership.



With our team well placed just behind the leaders after the Saturday Evening session, our stars must have decided to find out how much 'rub of the green' they were due on the Sunday. In one match, they and their opponents decided to break Burn's Rule ("Play in a suit where you have more trumps than your opponents") on successive hands - both sides played in 3-3 fits at the three-level. Good technique won out - our side made their contract, the opponents failed in theirs.

They also managed to bid 6NT on a hand which required opponents not to cash their ♦AK, and to lead the ♣Q from QJxxx - this all duly happened for a 10 IMP gain.

On another hand, a combined heart holding of J2 opposite a singleton 10 turned out to be a stopper in 3NT.

Board 22	<i>North</i>
E-W Vulnerable	♠ A Q 9
Dealer East	♥ K Q 6 5 3
	♦ 5 4 3
	♣ 8 2
<i>West (Star 1)</i>	<i>East (Star 2)</i>
♠ K	♠ J 10 8 7 6 4
♥ J 2	♥ 10
♦ A 9 7 6	♦ K Q J 2
♣ A K Q J 9 6	♣ 10 4
	<i>South</i>
	♠ 5 3 2
	♥ A 9 8 7 4
	♦ 10 8
	♣ 7 5 3

The contract was 3NT by West. On the lead of the ♥5, South wins the ace. Now on the return of the ♥9 or ♥7, North plays South for A9x or A7x and ducks the J, (giving West his trick from an original holding of J872 or J982), and waits to get in to cash his other three hearts and the ♠A. Sadly, this wait is prolonged by West's cashing his other 10 top tricks.

Now the standard play when you hold four cards in partner's led suit, defending a No Trump contract, is to return the original 4th highest. So holding A742, partner leads the 5, you win the ace and return the 2, so that partner can tell that you hold four cards in the suit. With A72 you would win the ace and return your highest remaining card, in this case the 7.

So here is a little tip: if your partner leads a suit against 3NT and you find yourself with a surprising number of cards in the suit, say

five, return your lowest. Partner will play you for four, but will then start to cash his tricks, so he will find out the good news!

In this case if the four is returned, North will assume three with declarer, and cash out. Of course, North made a mistake on the hand, and did not count partner's points (if you are defending a freely bid 3NT, assume the opponents have 26 points and place points with partner accordingly). He would have then realised after seeing the ace of hearts that he was holding all the defence's remaining assets, and there was therefore no point in ducking to maintain communications with partner.

And yes, they should be in 5♦, which is icy cold, and no, I don't know what the bidding was.

Here is another hand from the tournament. It is very much the norm now to bid aggressively with weak hands and employ lots of conventional two-suited bids. The reasoning behind this is to destroy opponents' constructive bidding, to preempt as high as you dare and make them guess the right contract. It can be very effective, but these two-suited bids can backfire, pushing the opponents into a contract they might not otherwise have reached, or giving declarer a road map to the winning play.

Board 20	<i>North</i>			
All Vulnerable	♠ A Q J 5			
Dealer West	♥ 9 6 5			
	♦ K 10			
	♣ A Q 10 2			
	<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>	
	♠ 4 3		♠ K 10 8 6	
	♥ A K J 3 2		♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ 8 7		♦ J 6 5 2	
	♣ J 8 6 4		♣ K 3	
		<i>South</i>		
		♠ 9 7 2		
		♥ 8 4		
		♦ A Q 9 4 3		
		♣ 9 7 5		
West	North	East	South	
2♥ ¹	Double	Pass	2NT ²	
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♦	
All Pass				

- ¹ Lucas, showing 5 hearts and another 4-card suit
- ² Lebensohl, many possibilities, but in this case a weak way to get to 3♦
- ³ Conventional relay, in case partner is weak with clubs.

The ace of hearts is led, and then West switches to the ♠4.

Declarer's initial thoughts were that the Lucas bid was based on five hearts and four of a black suit - if the Lucas bidder has five hearts and four diamonds, declarer is going to struggle, so he ignored that possibility. The spade was likely from a short suit, so pulling some trumps seemed a very good idea. Up with the ♠A, followed by the king of diamonds (K,2,3,7) and the 10. East followed small smoothly, but declarer knew that the odds heavily favoured the J being with the four-card holding (with luck not five-card) on his right, so he ran the 10 (10,5,4,8).

Continuing with his plan, declarer set up his eighth trick by leading the ♠Q from dummy (Q,K,2,3), confirming West's shape as 2-5-2-4. East cashed the ♥Q and led another, ruffed by declarer, who then pulled the remaining trumps.

An elegant ending has arisen:

N-S: 5 tricks	<i>North</i>
E-W: 3 tricks	♠ J 5
	♥ none
	♦ None
	♣ A Q 10
	<i>West</i>
	♠ none
	♥ K J
	♦ none
	♣ J 8 6
	<i>East</i>
	♠ 10 6
	♥ none
	♦ J
	♣ K 3
	<i>South (Declarer)</i>
	♠ 9
	♥ none
	♦ Q
	♣ 9 7 5

On the last trump declarer threw the ♣10, and played a spade to the jack. When he exited with the ♠5, East was end-played to lead a club into the AQ.

Uppercuts Both Ways

from David Hamilton's Cuttings Service

Defending is the most frustrating part of the game. It is so difficult to have an understanding with partner so that every card means something.

Dlr North ♠ K 6
 Vul: E/W ♥ 7
 ♦ A K Q 10 8
 ♣ J8432

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

 ♠ J 5
 ♥ A K J 9 8 6 4
 ♦ J 4 2
 ♣ K

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

This was the bidding in one room of a teams match and West led a spade. After East cashed two spade tricks he switched to his singleton club, the ♣K losing to the ♣A. At this stage West concluded that unless partner had an honour of some sort in trumps the contract was safe, he therefore led a small club and when East ruffed with the ♥Q the contract failed as declarer had to lose a trick to West's ♥10.

In the other room after a competitive auction East ended in 4♠. South cashed the ♥AK and realised that the contract was safe unless North had either the king or queen of trumps, accordingly he led a low heart, North ruffed with the ♠K and declarer lost two hearts, a diamond and a club.

It is rare to find a deal where both contracts are defeated with an uppercut.

Around the Ash Bucket

Or rather, on this occasion, the ash pile. We missed Guy Fawkes Night by three days, but on Saturday we lit a bonfire and burned a Mount Everest of worm-eaten timber, old doors, ivy (spawn of the devil), empty and uselessly-sized cardboard boxes, dead brambles, and a decaying roll of asphalt.

Gretel the goose was unnerved by the unwonted heat and smoke, and honked (I believe that's what geese do) for hours in her hen-house home. The chickens were unperturbed: perhaps they knew that when Christmas is coming, it's not they who are getting fat.

We now have a functional sitting room, complete with built-in bookcases, gas fire and tapestry cushions (a birthday present from my sister), so I have been tempted away from my keyboard, whose down-cursor key has irritatingly ceased to function, to watch strange and fascinating television shows such

as What Not to Wear. My viewing had previously been limited to the Premiership (come back Match of the Day, all is forgiven), ER and Casualty, with the best comedy programme of the week, the Antiques Roadshow, thrown in for good measure. But Trinny and Susanna are so satisfyingly rude and produce such extraordinary results, that I find myself longing for the next episode as if they were a soap opera.

Despite the soft furnishings, sitting has been less comfortable since I did a flying somersault over my horse's nose a fortnight ago, but the bruise is beginning to fade and my only permanent loss from the mishap has been a pearl earring which is now lying in a ditch on the Argoed. I would try to retrieve it next time I go out, but although it was a long way down from the saddle, it's an even longer way up.



Bidding Challenge No. 4

Many thanks to the panel for their time and comments. Congratulations to **Simon Richards** who had a winning score of 70, Mike Close was second with 67 followed by David Williams with 64. A cheque for £25 is on the way to Simon.

Mike Close has won the annual competition for 2003 with an overall score of 285 – Well done indeed. A cheque for £100 will soon land on his doorstep along with an invitation to join the panel next year. Runner up was David Williams with 277.

Set 5 (on Page 11) is the start of a new competition, so make sure you enter - Answers to Linda Greenland by post or email (deri31@ntlworld.com) by 31st December 2003.

The Experts' View

Question 1

Dlr: North

Vul: None

Scoring: Pairs

South

♠ A 10

♥ Q 7 4

♦ 9 8 6 4 3 2

♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
-	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	?

Marks: 4♣ 10, 3♥ 7, others 5

Whenever I get a unanimous answer from the panel, I wonder if the problem is too easy – then I look at the multitude of answers from members:

Tim: 4♣. This is a cue-bid for diamonds. Partner will be 5431 or similar, and slam will depend on how good his diamonds are. If he has something like ♠Kxxxx, ♥AKxx, ♦AKx, ♣x, then slam is very good. The problem is I don't have a way of finding out. 3NT is a non-starter (if he has the above hand, then 3NT and 7♦ are both on the diamond break).

Dafydd: 4♣, Partner has shown a good shape hand. We have a 9 card fit and I have some excellent cards for him.

Tony : 4♣ I seem to have all the right cards for a slam. If partner bids 4♠ I'll pass.

Jill: 4♣ - cue bid for diamonds. Slam is very possible. If partner bids 4♦, I will bid 4♠ (no ♥ control). Over 4♥, I will bid 4♠ - with bad diamonds partner will pass this.

Question 2

Dlr: North

Vul: N/S Vul

Scoring: Pairs

South

♠ 9 6 2

♥ A K Q 9 4

♦ A 2

♣ 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
-	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	?

¹ fourth suit forcing

Marks: 3♣ 10, 2♥ 8, 3♦ 7, others 5

Adam: 3♣ – Asking again. Initial 3♣ would have been natural 5-5. Partner may still have a club stop but wanted to stress 6-4 shape first.

Dafydd: 3♣. Just trying to find the best contract.

Tony: 3♥. Forcing, I'd prefer to have 6 hearts. Partner may still have a stop in clubs and bid 3NT.

Tim: 2♥. This should be forcing, as otherwise I'd have bid 2♥ or 3♥ earlier. I'm looking to get to 3NT if partner has xxx in clubs, or to 4♥ if he has xx or J in hearts.

Jill: 3♦ forcing. If partner bids 3NT I will pass. Her next bid will tell me length/strength in ♥/♣

One for discussion with partner, just how far is fourth suit forcing to? Certainly our experts seem to play as forcing to game.

Question 3

Dlr: East **South**
 Vul: Love all ♠ A Q 4 2
 Scoring: Pairs ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♦	3♥	?

Marks: Double 10, Pass 9, others 5

Tim: Pass. Partner needn't have very much. As he is marked with short hearts, he can reopen with a double if he has extra values.

Tony: Pass. We are likely to be going down in 4♦ and they in 3♥ - mustn't punish partner.

Jill: Double (with misgivings). Partner may have 6♦/4♠. I will convert 4♣ to 4♦. 4♦ could well be a better bid but at least I am giving partner options.

Adam: Double – takeout, you need to get your four spades into the auction and prepared to compete to 4♦.

Dafydd: Double. I may pass because partner can reopen with a double but in case he is concerned about not having a fit I want him to know I can play in diamonds or spades.

A close call between the two bids, with the balance just tipped in favour of using a takeout double to tell partner you have values & a choice of places to play.

Question 4

Dlr: North **South**
 Vul: Love All ♠ A J 8 7 4
 Scoring: Pairs ♥ K Q 9 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ 6 2

West	North	East	South
-	1NT ¹	2♥	Dbl ²
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

¹ 12-14

² penalty

Marks: 3♠ 10, others 5

Once again we have a unanimous panel:

Jill: 3♠. Who knows? Partner can't double diamonds so may have spade support.

Tim: 3♠. If partner can't double 3♦, I certainly can't. No-one ever knows whether bids after you've tried to catch the opposition are forcing or not. In my opinion, this one isn't forcing, but partner will probably raise if he has support.

Dafydd: 3♠; is this forcing or isn't it? The worst thing is that we play in 4♠ or 3NT if partner takes it as forcing, I have been in worse contracts!!

Tony: 3♠ Can't leave 3♦ which may be making. If partner bids 4♠ we may be on a lucky make. Worst 2 down undoubled - better than 3♦ making.

Adam: 3♠. Would have bid 2♠ initially rather than double and am now in awkward position. Will bid 3♠ as I have to compete but do accept that partner may well think it's forcing. Have a horrible feeling the defence will have a cross ruff on but ...

Question 5

Dlr: North **South**
 Vul: N/S Vul ♠ A K Q 10
 Scoring: Pairs ♥ 5 4 3 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ 5 3

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Marks: 3NT 10, 3♠ 9, 3♥/3♦ 7, others 5

Firstly well done to all those who spotted that there are only 12 cards in the hand; No-one ever accused me of being able to count up to 13.

Adam: 12 cards?

Dafydd: I have 12 cards, I would not bid anything. This is a good test to see who is awake!!

Tim: 3♠ (assuming that my thirteenth card is a spade, as seems likely from my 1♠ response). This is forcing, and partner will normally raise or bid 3NT; whichever he chooses will normally be the right contract. I don't want to bid 3♦ or 3♥, as this asks for a stop in the other suit, and I don't necessarily have a stop in the suit I'll have bid.

Yes the ♠3 is currently on the floor.

Tony: 3NT plenty to spare - hope the enemy suit is 4-4.

Jill: 3♦, very very reluctantly. I refuse to bid 3♥ so I am stuck with 3♦. I don't know where we are headed.

Question 6

Dlr: South **South**
 Vul: Game all ♠ A Q J 4
 Scoring: Teams ♥ Q 8 7 6 2
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	?

¹ natural

Marks: 3♦ 10, 3NT 7, others 5

Tim: 3♦. Pass may be right, but at teams, it's usually correct to try for game. 3♦ gets my shape across, and leaving 3NT and 5♦ open as possible contracts. Over 3♥/♠ from partner, I'll bid 3NT.

Jill: 3♦. This shows my hand shape and point count.

Adam: 3♦ – Natural (either 4540 or this shape) and game forcing.

Tony: 3NT; partner sounds minimum - still worth a try.

I do like these mild game tries.

Question 7

Dlr: East **South**
 Vul: Love all ♠ 6 5 3
 Scoring: Teams ♥ K 8 6 5
 ♦ K J 6 2
 ♣ 7 4

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	Pass
3♦	Dbl	Pass	?

Marks: Pass 10, 3NT 9, 3♥ 8, others 5

Tim: Pass. 3♦ is likely to go off, and game for us is unlikely. 3♥ may also go off, especially if partner has only three hearts. I don't usually like leaving takeout doubles in at teams, as I hate -470s on my card, but I

think I'll gain 6 IMPs often enough to make up for the odd disaster.

Dafydd: Pass. even sitting under the 3♦ bidder this must be the right call

Jill: 3NT. I am not passing at love all.

Tony: 3NT hope we've got a heart fit to generate some tricks.

Adam: 3♥ – call me coward but sure I would bid this at the table. Not a situation I've come across much and would like to know more about. Certainly accept that pass might be right.

Question 8

Dlr: West **South**
 Vul: LoveAll ♠ A Q J 8 6 3
 Scoring: Teams ♥ A 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Marks: 3♥ 10, 4♠ 8, 4♣/5♣ 7, others 5

Jill: 3♥. Partner must be 6/5 minors, max 8 count, likely void ♠. Should play well in ♣. 5♣ is some way off but possible. I will correct any bid to 4♣.

Tony: 3♥. I'm going to game. I'll raise 3♠ to 4♠, and I'll pass 3NT.

Adam: 3♥ – Don't quite know what's going on yet. Loads of potential contracts and need to know more about partner's hand. Whatever happens I am very good for my 2♠ so will make slam tries over 3♠ or 4♣, but will pass 3NT.

Tim: 4♠. Partner is a passed hand, but he should still have a reasonable hand. (He shouldn't be trying to rescue me on a weakish hand with short spades – he ought to respond 1NT with that.) His hearts can't be good enough for 3NT, or he'd have bid 2NT rather than 3♣. My spades are good enough to play opposite a singleton, and I'm a complete maximum. 5♣ may make one more trick than 4♠ by ruffing a spade when they're 4-2, but it's unlikely that 5♣ will be a better contract than 4♠.

Hands for set 5 are opposite

WBU Bidding Challenge – Set 5

Answers to Linda by 31st December 2003

Hand 1	Love all - Scoring: Teams				
♠ K Q 8 6	West	North	East	South	
♥ Q J 10 5 3	-	1♦	Pass	1♥	
♦ A 6 3 2	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣ ¹	¹ Splinter
♣ void	Pass	3NT	Pass	?	
Hand 2	N/S Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠ A Q 8 7 5 2	West	North	East	South	
♥ A K	Pass	Pass	3♥	?	
♦ K 8 6					
♣ K J					
Hand 3	E/W Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠ A K J 4 2	West	North	East	South	
♥ K 7 4	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	
♦ 6 2	Pass	2♣	Pass	?	
♣ A K 5					
Hand 4	Love All - Scoring: Teams				
♠ void	West	North	East	South	
♥ A 8 7 4	1♥	1♠	2♥	?	
♦ AKJ9754					
♣ Q 3					
Hand 5	Game all - Scoring: Teams				
♠ Q J 8 5 2	West	North	East	South	
♥ J 10 3	-	1NT ¹	5♣	?	¹ 15-17
♦ A K 7 2					
♣ 9					
Hand 6	Game All - Scoring: Teams				
♠ A 4	West	North	East	South	
♥ K Q 8	-	-	-	1NT	
♦ J 7 3	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠	¹ Transfer to ♠
♣ A 10 9 6 5	Pass	3♥	Pass	?	
Hand 7	N/S Vul - Scoring: Pairs				
♠ 7 4	West	North	East	South	
♥ K 3	-	1NT	3♦	?	
♦ 8 5					
♣ KJ108743					
Hand 8	E/W Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠ J 10 3	West	North	East	South	
♥ J 8 4 2	-	1♠	Pass	Pass	
♦ Q 10 2	2♣	Dbl	3♣	?	
♣ 7 4 3					

Motivation: how to get your club members to enter competitions

Mumbles Duplicate Bridge Club

The following memo was sent by Bill Nicholls, of Mumbles Bridge Club, to his members, and is a shining example of how to encourage members to enter competitions. Thank you, Bill, and to Graham John for sending it to us for publication.

Many members do not seem to be aware of some changes that have been made regarding Competitions (don't switch off at the mention of that word, they are fun!).

There was a time when pairs had to go through a 3-week qualifying competition at their club and only the top few pairs got through. This has all changed in our Area, in that all events are now Direct Entry. Any pairs fancying a pleasant Sunday's Bridge can enter by sending their names to the Area Tournament Director (or giving them to me and I will forward) together with £1.50 per head. There will be a further charge on the day which I think is a fiver. The events are held in the Lakefield Hall, Llanelli. Entries are strictly on a first come, first served basis.

First timers are naturally a little nervous and I get asked questions such as "Are there good players there?" Standard is variable and yes some are good. "Do they take it seriously?" I think we all want to do the best we can, but you will find the better the player, the politer they are. Many of our members have played in competitions in Tenby and West and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Graded Masters is a great event which is quite well attended by our club, so give the Area Events a go! Details are as follows

The Vince Bevan pairs. An ordinary Duplicate pairs event of 2 sessions. Entries have to be in by October 5th. and it will be held on Sunday Oct.26th.

Area Mixed Pairs. Obviously a "mixed" event (preferably one of each sex). Again a normal Duplicate session. Entries by October 12th. To be held on Sun.2nd.Nov.

Open Pairs. Says it all, another 2-session duplicate. Entries by 19th Dec for Sunday 11th Jan 04.

Laidlaw Murray Teams of Four. Unfortunately we do not play a lot of Teams in the Club, perhaps we should start if members are interested. All you and your partner need are 2 understanding chums to form a team. Many will tell you it is by far the best form of bridge. Entries by 26th.Dec. for 18th Jan 04

Men's and Ladies' pairs. 2 separate sexist Duplicate pairs. Entries by 15th.Feb for 7th March 04.

These events start at 11 am so there is an early finish. So there you are. If you have never entered anything like this before - try it.

How to enter a competition

Congresses, National competitions and simultaneous pairs, as well as Area competitions, can introduce you to a huge number of fascinating people as well as improving your bridge.

If you are nervous about playing against expert opposition, please don't be: most players are friendly and polite, and if you quake at the thought of sitting at a table with David Hamilton or Mike Close, you will find them positively affable. You can always tell the opponents that you're new to competition, and they will (nearly) always help you to conquer your nerves.

Every player is issued (via their clubs) with a copy of the Welsh Bridge Union's annual Masterpoint Journal (this year's has a tasteful apricot cover), which contains a calendar of events, details of all the National competitions and entry forms. Congress entry forms can be obtained from the Entry Secretaries whose names and contact details are published on Page 56 of the Journal.

If you think you might like to enter but are not sure what to do, ring Laura on 01656 741748 or Linda on 029 2025 5162.

Laura Woodruff, NTO

From West Wales to the French Riviera

(a Ladies' Team from Pembrokeshire competes in the European Championships in Menton, June 2003)

by Judith Graham-Jones

A suggestion from the WBU that the Ladies' team from Haverfordwest Bridge Club that won the Welsh Ladies Team Championship in 2002 might like to enter the European Championships, was eagerly grasped and on 18th June the group, consisting of Beryl Warner, Lee Collier, Carmel Wiseman and Kay Clement with Judith Graham-Jones as general factotum, set off to Heathrow for the flight to Nice.



Before we left there was work to be done, for while the bridge may have seemed a little threatening the Rules and Regulations appeared much more daunting. It took ages to complete the International Convention Cards that had to be handed in at registration. Yet it turned out that the cards were scarcely needed and the regulations, for instance dress codes, position of kibitzers, were mostly ignored. The intimidating rules turned out to be false threats, and many were flouted. Talking at the table was overlooked, spectators were watching from both sides of the screens, and no attempt was made to quieten down especially at the end of sessions. Even the statement that English would be the official language did not hold water, for it was neither spoken or understood by all Tournament Directors and stewards.

Water was, however a vital part of the event. Litres upon litres were consumed during play as throughout our stay temperatures were well into the nineties. At the champagne reception held in the Casino on the eve of the Teams

events, the Italian President of the European Bridge League was practically on his knees in a paeon of apology for the excessive heat in the playing rooms at the Palais de Congres d'Europe. He gave the impression that he alone was responsible for the tropical conditions. For four days Menton was the hottest place in Europe, putting the northern Europeans at a disadvantage and causing much angst to the officials and workers. Every day some 800 competitors converged on the venue and faced the enemy: heat. When each session finished the great rush of players to get out of the building and escape the stifling conditions could be heard a block away, and sounded like a swarm of bees escaping from a very restrictive hive.

The venue was grandiose, spacious and light but lacked a vital feature - air conditioning. It was an eye opener to look down from the balcony on to the vast hall and see the Open Teams in play, with many kibitzers alongside. Once I counted twenty onlookers standing behind one player alone. Although there were no cash prizes, just medals, many famous internationals were competing, among them Zia Mahmood, Eric Rodwell, Chemla, Chagas, Meckstroth and assorted Scandinavians and Russians as well as the big names from the UK. Zia displayed his cards so that they could all be seen and by those sitting alongside, and as West he did his share of the work looking after the tray at the start and finish of bidding.

Then to our own play. With only one exception the Ladies' Teams were pleasant and we socialised a little with the Swedish girls - yes they were much younger than us - because we met them at registration and at the Reception. They were accompanied by their team coach; we discovered that some

Continued on p.14 overleaf

(Continued from previous page)

governments subsidise bridge -we wish! We wondered how other countries are able to produce excellent players of a much lower age than the home countries? Twenty four ladies' teams were in contention; some nations fielding several teams.

Bidding systems were very different from those encountered in the UK, mostly 5-card major and strong no trumps. More surprising was the frequent use of a 1♦ opening that could indicate a variety of hands while 1♣ could convey many messages including a long unknown suit. Many bids suggested similar possibilities as the Multi 2 Diamond but nothing akin to the Benji - Acol system was encountered. Opponents were courteous and forthcoming with their explanations of systems and bids, always by writing concise notes.

This was a wonderful opportunity and a glorious chance to play in an international atmosphere with some of the bridge world greats. We were victorious against the Czech Republic and Denmark and just failed to secure a win over Italy ... but then oblivion as the consolation teams on the final day were a non-event as many players had left Menton for cooler climes. However what could one expect from the only raw team to enter this contest?

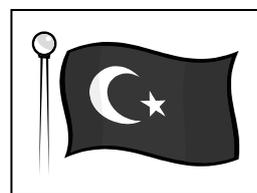
Lambs to the slaughter? Not at all. Just terriers snapping at the heels of a wolf pack. And so we said farewell to an exciting and unique experience and we are grateful to all those who made it possible. We thank especially the WBU, Haverfordwest Bridge Club, and Tenby Bridge Club, for their support, and Linda Greenland for spending time to introduce the team to the use of screens, a facility that we came to enjoy.

Judith Graham-Jones

Ladies' Trials 2004 onwards

The selectors have decided that next season pairs who want to enter the Lady Milne should also enter the pre-trial pairs in September 2004 and that this will count as one of the Lady Milne trials. It is hoped that all pairs playing in a larger event against stronger opposition will give a fairer result.

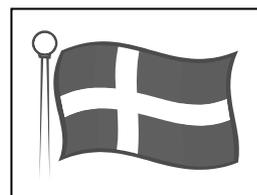
Calling all Seniors



Olympiad Istanbul: August-September 2004

The Olympiad again includes a Seniors section. Qualifying members (aged over 55) interested in playing in a Seniors team in Turkey should contact Linda Greenland by the end of February.

Council is considering whether it will be able to fund the entry fee, but players will in any case need to pay their own expenses.



European Championships Malmo, June 2004

In the 64 board match held between the two teams who entered for the Seniors section of the European Teams Championships, Harris (Gagne, Favager Favager) beat Patrick (Patrick, Parry, Sheridan) by 159 – 142, and will therefore represent Wales in Malmo next summer.

Grasmere Thistle

SIX-DAY BREAK - Sunday 7th - Saturday 13th March 2004

A return to Grasmere where we hosted a successful one-week break last year. The Thistle Hotel is right on the shore of the lake and just minutes away from charming Grasmere village. The surrounding scenery is absolutely breathtaking, no wonder it inspired Wordsworth who lived in Dove cottage, just opposite the hotel.

The bridge will be under the direction of **Graham Hedley** assisted as always by his wife Berry. There will be a full and varied programme which will also allow plenty of time to explore the wonderful scenery and surrounding areas. There will also be excursions available dependent on demand.

The cost per person in Grasmere depends on the type of hotel room required. Prices include all bridge fees, half board, tea & coffee during the bridge sessions.

Lake view room **£379.00**, standard room **£325.00**, economy room **£271.00** per person. There are a limited number of single rooms available without supplement.

Cardiff Thistle

NEW YEAR 2003/4 - Tue 30th December to Fri 2nd January

Located in the heart of Cardiff, this Victorian hotel has been restored to offer luxury with sophistication and provides high standards of service. It offers four-star accommodation as well as a choice of three bars, a brasserie and two comfortable lounges.

We are returning to the superb Cardiff Thistle for this event where guests can expect traditional hospitality in a congenial setting. Martin and Judy will be on hand throughout the break to ensure everyone has an enjoyable time.

Both **Graham Hedley** and his wife Berry have an enthusiasm for bridge which they are able to convey to all who come into contact with them. Their friendly, informal approach makes for a relaxed atmosphere in the bridge room.

The cost of **£299.00*** per person includes half board, full Welsh afternoon teas and all bridge fees.

There will be a new year's eve gala dinner with champagne at midnight. *There are a limited number of rooms available for single occupancy without supplement.



Better Bridge with Andrew Kambites Improvers Level 1

LA QUINTA HOTEL, MENORCA - 16th-23rd April 2004

Know anyone who might benefit from this holiday? Based at the superb 5-star La Quinta Hotel, it caters for the less experienced player currently receiving lessons, who has played bridge for some time but is new to duplicate or is simply a little rusty. Tuition will be overseen by **Andrew Kambites**. All tutors are EBUTA qualified with a maximum ratio of 1:20. The EBU have endorsed the programme.

The price of the holiday based on flying from London Gatwick is **£491.00*** which includes half board, all tuition, materials and bridge fees, flights and transfers. *(Subject to Single Supplement)

Improvers Level 2

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 23rd - 30th April 2004

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, has devised a programme to appeal to all who wish to improve their game.

The inclusive cost of this holiday is just **£475.00*** which includes full board, all bridge fees, transfers and airport duties. A unique holiday at a unique location. *(Subject to Single Supplement)

Flights for both these holidays are also available from Manchester at a supplement. Negotiations are ongoing for other regional airports.

SPECIAL OFFER Put into practice what you've learned - combine these two holidays for just **£831.00**, a saving of £135.00

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

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 our web site at www.bridge-holidays.com. You'll also find a £75 prize quiz and photos from all our recent holidays E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com

Menorca holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd, ATOL No: 1772; Algarve holiday operated by Saga Holidays Ltd, ATOL No: 0308; Madeira holiday operated by Atlantic Holidays ATOL No: 270. Bridge licensed by the EBU

Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS - 29th January - 12th February 2004

Our first three Vilamoura ventures were sell-out successes and our 2004 holiday looks like being the same. The hotel, the service, the facilities and the bridge are always a huge hit with our guests. Graham Hedley will once again be our bridge director.

The cost of this holiday is from just **£799.00*** which includes full board, bridge fees, insurance, entertainment, free wine, tea and coffee, free 'happy hour', free excursions and airport duties. Flights from Gatwick, Heathrow or Luton. Manchester £10.00 supplement.

*Deduct £38 if insurance not required. No single supplement, subject to availability.

Menorca Once More

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 8th-22nd October 2004

The Hotel S'Algar is so popular with bridge players that we're going back to Menorca for the thirty-third time in October 2004.

Bridge is licensed by the EBU and master points awarded at all sessions. Prizes will be presented to the winners of all events.

Flights from most UK airports

Absolute Beginners

Do you know anyone who'd like to learn bridge but has never played? Thistle Hotels, First for Bridge and The English Bridge Union have got together with leading bridge teacher **Andrew Kambites** to create a series of tuition-based breaks in Bristol, Cheltenham and Liverpool. These have been designed to introduce the novice to duplicate bridge in a simple and understandable manner while ensuring that the bridge tuition is professional, enjoyable and conducted in comfortable surroundings. Give us a call or get full details from our web site www.bridge-holidays.com



Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

Towards the (thankfully) end of the postal strike, some wag on Radio 4 alleged that the last day for Christmas post was sometime in October. Watching the strike spread I did wonder whether it would work its way into Wales and drag on for weeks. I really didn't fancy getting a large sack of long-delayed master points delivered to my door on Christmas Eve. Like most ordinary people, I suppose, I don't know the rights and wrongs of the dispute. The editor of a monthly magazine wrote that the effects might lead to an increase in price but that they still supported the postmen. Nothing to do with this, I'm sure, but I did receive an envelope with a perfect semicircle removed from one edge; fortunately the master points escaped damage.

"Won't it be so much better when we send everything by email?" I'm asked, but again I don't know. For some weeks the WBU computer which holds all the master point records was bombarded by viruses trying to destroy it. This makes me even more paranoid about making copies of all the data for safety. If I ever forget to do so before closing down the computer one day, it's the first thing I do the next. These viruses (I always want to write "viri" which is probably wrong anyway: Latin scholars please advise) usually spread themselves by picking addresses from the computer's email Address Book. To help protect our valuable master point records, I'd like to ask everyone who only needs to email me very occasionally, or even not at all, to remove my email address from their Address Book if it is there. It only takes a moment or two to type it in if you need to email me. "And what about our addresses on the WBU machine?" you ask me in return. Well, I have a special address book program which Mike has written which should make it very difficult or, dare I say, impossible, for any virus to find them.

Oh, and if you do email me, please put "Bridge", "Master points" or something similar in the title, so I don't have to worry so much if I don't recognise who has sent the note. Most of the emails I get from people I don't know either want me to play practical jokes on my friends or offer very peculiar services which I couldn't possible mention here. The Internet is a strange place. I read some time ago that no matter what you are looking for, hundreds of items will be found, and one at least will be pornographic. More recently the same writer said that a sign of leading a dull life is entering your own name to see if you have your own place on the Internet (of course, after reading that I just had to try it myself). Non-computer people please accept my apologies for the last two paragraphs.

We are all someone's child, of course, but how long do we remain children? A member wrote recently that as he left for bridge his ninety-five year old mother instructed him "No silly mistakes." While we are on the subject of age; a member wrote that he is on target to be Grand Master at the age of two hundred and forty six and another expects to manage it by his 154th birthday. I suppose, as we all live so much longer these days, they might make it. At the other end of the scale, during the

summer, I spent a little while teaching my five-year-old granddaughter to play very basic whist. Unfortunately I probably won't have chance to continue this until sometime in her next school holiday, so progressing to the Acol system is going to be slow.

This is probably my only chance, so I want to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

(Noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk)

Noelle

Editor's Note: The Latin plural of virus is virus. Viri is the plural of vir, meaning "man". The mental picture of a crowd of men attacking the Hon. Masterpoint Secretary's computer is not unamusing.

List of promotions for each rank from 9th September to 8th November 2003
(Only ranks with promotions are listed)

Club Master		Master		Two Star Master	
Margaret Eccleston	CR	Jean Cole	NT	Alan Clegg	WS
Ann Maslin	STD	Megan Evans	Y	Ted Merrette	PN
Sue Norris	VOG	Teresa Goss	C	Three Star Master	
Mearle Owen	OH	Yvonne Hamill	PN	Terry Dolan	BSC
Judith Pulford	LD	Sally Jones	WS	David Rowley	WS
Celia Reed	CAR	Chris Morley	CAR	Four Star Master	
Betty Rosser	PN	Arthur Orme	M	Gaynor Shenton	MB
Jean Sparkes	SU	Pamela Sherman	PN	Five Star Master	
John Strong	BRE	Derek Taylor	PN	Eleanor Howells	R
Local Master		James Williams	CN	Regional Master	
Margaret Brookes	STD	Advanced Master		Terry Evans	MG
Catherine Dudlyke	L	Robin Allan	CRI	Dai Hayes	A
David C Hay	C	Vera Allan	CRI	Margaret A Jones	R
K Allan James	RH	Gwen Anderson	SP	National Master	
Tony Mason	BRE	Joan Bird	VOG	Betty Gardner	GA
John Webber	P	Bob Cooper	WS	Premier National Master	
County Master		Martin Green	GA	Kath Fewster	GA
Stella Bassett	BV	Geoff Griffiths	L	Life Master	
Andrew Dearing	BV	Noel Griffiths	GA	Warwick Horspool	PR
June Fligelstone	GA	Tommy Moore	BV	Roger Penton	S
William Glynn	GA	One Star Master		Senior Life Master	
Roger Goodwin	CD	Alan Heath	PC	Noelle Bond	BV
Ted Moore	MON	Reg Mealings	CBY		
Brian Neville	GA	Nigel Saunders	ROF		
Alan Pettifor	PD				
Robert Yates	GA				

The Biter Bit: Mikey learns from a master

by Mike Close

On Saturday 8th October 2003 Bridgend Bridge Club invited us to a two-session masterclass from the well-known Australian bridge author, teacher and commentator, Ron Klinger.

The masterclass consisted of two teaching sessions at the Heronston Hotel in Bridgend, featuring Competitive Bidding in the afternoon, and Winning Bridge and Duplicate Tips in the evening session.

Now I'm sure that most bridge players have heard of Ron Klinger, because he is the author of a large number of beginner's and intermediate bridge books, pocket-sized bridge 'flippers' and regular articles in Bridge Plus, as well as hosting bridge holidays in Australia and giving Vugraph commentary at major championships.



Photo Courtesy of Bridge magazine

Ron's style is to teach by doing, or more accurately, by getting his audience doing. About ninety people attended one or both sessions. We gathered around bridge tables, some with favourite partners, some with partners randomly allocated. As each hand was bid, Ron would pace the aisles between the tables, watching for correct bids, and particularly for tables where the bidding did not go as anticipated. Then he would go back to his whiteboard where he would discuss the

expected bidding, comment on any sensible or strange deviations he had seen, answer questions from the audience, and dispense pearls of wisdom.

For example, after several tables had made the mistake of overcalling 2♦ with a suit of Q7542, we learnt Ron's rule that to overcall, your suit length plus the number of honour cards (including the 10) should add up to the number of tricks you were contracting for, in this case eight, so AQxxxx would be OK, but Qxxxx definitely not.

We were then told the contract we were playing, sometimes the lead we were to make, and left to play out this contract, before Ron would repeat the process, highlighting some points of interest in the play.

All of this was done with a liberal dose of humour and many bridge anecdotes from Ron, to provide a most entertaining teaching session for all standards of player. And in the intervals you could buy one of Ron's books from his wife Suzie and get it signed by the great man himself.

Bridgend Bridge Club would like to thank the WBU and East and West Wales Bridge Associations for their sponsorship of the event.

And we who attended the masterclass would like to congratulate Bridgend Bridge Club, and in particular Bill Turner, for putting in the time and effort to bring such a notable bridge writer to South Wales.

Websites

Ron Klinger:

<http://www.ron-klinger.com.au>

Bridgend Bridge Club

<http://home.clara.net/dav4hw>

Email

Mike Close:

mg.close@ntlworld.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Veteran Pairs

30th November 2003

If you receive your copy of this Newsletter promptly, you may be in time to email or telephone a late entry to the National Tournament Organiser. Venues are Gwent Bridge Academy and The Norfolk House Hotel, Colwyn Bay. Players must be 53 or over with a combined partnership age of at least 110.

Contact Laura Woodruff on 01656 741748 or laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk

Camrose Trophy

6th-7th December 2003

Our boys play Scotland at the Newport Hilton. Start times 11.00 both days, finishing at 8.20 on Saturday and 3.20 on Sunday.

All spectators are welcome in the VuGraph Theatre. Commentary will as usual be provided by a team of experts. Contact Linda Greenland on 029 2025 5162 or deri31@tlworld.com

Graded Masters Pairs

24th-25th January 2004

Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli

Opinions differ about Llanelli, but the Diplomat Hotel is a wonderful venue with possibly the best playing area in Wales. It is an appropriate venue for one of the most enjoyable competitions in the calendar.

Tournament novices and Grand Masters alike can enjoy their bridge in the knowledge that they will not encounter anyone much better or worse than themselves. Details of the competition are on Page 27 of the current WBU Journal, and entry forms may be found in the centre pages of the Journal.

Contact the NTO on ☎ 01656 741748, email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk for further details.

East Wales Congress

13th-15th February 2003

Another wonderful venue, and the popular Swiss Teams format always ensures plenty of interest.

Entry forms are available from clubs or from Annie Favager, 3 Albert Crescent, Penarth CF64 1DA, ☎ 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 Club Secretary	6	The new Secretary of Dolgellau Bridge Club is Christine Redman, 3 Gwern Helig, Dolgellau LL40 1PA ☎ 01341 422735
VETERAN PAIRS Change of Venue	29 and inside back cover	The venue for the Veteran Pairs (NORTH WALES) has changed to: Norfolk House Hotel, 39 Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay LL29 8PD, ☎ 01492 531757
Correction to Masterpoint Listing	34	Marion Brooke (B007, Mumbles) was inadvertently omitted from the Masterpoint listing. She should appear between Marjorie Williams and Eileen Hughes at line 85 with a total Masterpoint holding of 1199.

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy (Most Points Registered in One Year) – 8/11/2003 latest

1	Kevin Maddox	190	8	Diana Harris	80	15	Simon Edwards	71
2	Eric Hartland	109	9	Adam Dunn	79	16	David Utting	68
3	Ted Merrette	96	10	Tony Ratcliff	78	17	Patrick Jourdain	66
4	Mary Moore	88	11	Adrian Thomas	76	18	Joan Jenkins	64
5	David Davies	87	12	Peter Goodman	76	19	Michael Tedd	60
6	Paul Gagne	84	13	Filip Kurbalija	75	20	Mike Jones	58
7	Alan Screen	83	14	Irene Thomas	73			

WBU Council Meeting

There has been no meeting of Council since the publication of the last Newsletter.

Web link: Zar Points

<http://public.aci.on.ca/~zpetkov/>

Players of a mathematical bent may be interested in the Zar Points mini-website, which gives details of an alternative hand evaluation system devised by Zar Petkov. Petkov claims that this tool allows advanced and intermediate players to acquire ‘expert-level “aggressive” judgment and never miss a game again – be it a “somehow-magical” or just a “regular, plain” contract, and to stop at a part-score when no game is in sight’.

The website also offers a Zar Point perspective on the Monte Carlo Bermuda Bowl, 2-15 November 2003, with a day-by-day analysis of the most interesting “aggressive bidding” boards from the day before – a “live” exercise in Zar Points bidding.

(The Welsh Bridge Union neither endorses nor rejects the ideas contained in the articles published on the above website and provides the website address solely for information.)

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 2004. 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. I now have a scanner, so photos are possible, but it’s easier if you can email them all the same.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.