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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 82, February 2004

From the cradle ...



20 young bridge players – members' children and pupils from schools in Wales - competed in the first ever Junior section of the Graded Masters Pairs last month in Llanelli. The inaugural Junior Masters was won by Kate McGee and Zoe Potter of Brynhafren School, Barry, with 64.29%.

Earlier in the season Francesca Edwards and Emily Williams of Bishopston Comprehensive School were runaway winners of the Patrick Jourdain Cup for young players.



Winners of the Patrick Jourdain Cup

On the same day in November the first Mini-Bridge Challenge was won by Emma Watkins and Ffion Morgans, also of Bishopston Comprehensive.

Rounding up an excellent winter for junior bridge in Wales, our Junior Camrose team

finished a creditable second in the 2004 Trophy, held in Ireland; the Wales Peggy Bayer Shield team were unlucky to finish fourth, after leading at half time.

More results: Page 3.

... to the ... er ...



Dewi Jones and Dai Hayes (who bear no resemblance to anyone pictured above) sneaked a win in the Veteran Pairs by 0.42% over their nearest rivals. The winners of the South Wales heat were Mary Moore and Irene Thomas.

Results: Page 3

Letters to the Editor



The early bird

When Irene and I played in the Pre-trial Pairs in Newtown last September, one of the most enjoyable things about it was that the bridge started at 11.00 on the Saturday, and was over in time for us to have a leisurely dinner, at what proved to be an excellent Italian restaurant.

No indigestion, no wine-befuddled heads or tight waistbands for the second session, and we were able to go to bed at a time befitting our advanced years, rather than staggering upstairs at midnight.

What do other members think about the idea of earlier starts for competitions, with a short break between Saturday sessions and play finishing in time for dinner? Even if we started at noon, we could probably finish by half past eight.

*Mary Moore
Cowbridge*

*Do let us know what you think of this idea.
Contact Laura (see back page) or Linda (029
2025 5162, email deri31@ntlworld.com).*

Laws & Ethics Update

White Book

The new "White Book" (the EBU Supplement to the EBL Tournament Director's Guide) has been published, and has been adopted for use by the WBU from January 1st 2004, subject to the introduction at a later date of the new VP scales where competitions are already under way.

Matches played privately (Rule 21 c)

A new list of Directors available for telephone consultation is being prepared for the next Journal. In the meantime, however, late night rulings (up to 1.00 a.m.) may be referred to Anne Jones or David Stevenson.

*Anne Jones
Chairman, Laws & Ethics Committee*

Cowbridge celebrates with bridge (and cows?)

On 13th March 1254, Cowbridge was granted its first charter, which established the town. Events already planned to mark the 750th anniversary include a parade, street theatre and a food and wine festival.



Cowbridge Carnival, 1908

Another idea mooted by the *Cowbridge 750* festival group is to stage an equivalent of the world-famous bull run in the Spanish town of Pamplona. "If Pamplona has a bull run, why couldn't Cowbridge have a cow run?," said a spokesperson. Fences would be put down the side of the main street of Cowbridge, and Jerseys and Frisians would be encouraged to chase "the young and energetic folk" through the town.

Since this qualification will rule out most bridge players, local WBU members have planned an alternative event:

Friendly Duplicate Bridge with Prizes

**Wednesday March 17th
Cowbridge Town Hall, 7.00pm**

**£5.00 per head
Visitors Welcome**



☎ 01446 773596 for further information

The festival spokesperson also commented, "Cows tend to have a herd instinct so there is always the chance they would stop and chew the cud". Remind you of any bridge players you know?

RESULTS



Porthcawl Congress

13th – 16th November 2003

Ladies' Pairs	Mamie McCormac, Carol-Ann Cummins
Men's Pairs	Gay Keaveney, Peter Goodman
Mixed Pairs	Gwynn Davis, Aida Aris
Red Dragon Championship Pairs	Alan O'Sullivan, Mamie McCormac
Little Dragon Consolation Pairs	Adam Dunn, Tim Ryan
Open Pairs	Diane Rogers, Eddie Lucioni
Seagull Cup (Pivot Teams)	Jon Williams, Diane Rogers, Tracy Capal, Eddie Lucioni
Championship Teams	Peter Goodman, Filip Kurbalija, Mike Pownall, Diane Kurbalija
Prince of Wales Trophy	Alan Williams, Jim Luck, Jill Casey, Adrian Thomas
Sker Trophy	Hylde Townsend, Dan Crofts, Chris Smart, Peggy Moss
Dewi Sant Teams	Joe and Daphne Patrick, Anne and Mike Saunders
Open Teams Final	Sandra James, Alan Powell, Esme Parry, Kath Fewster

WBU Swiss Teams

Eisteddfod Pavilion, Llangollen 21st – 23rd November 2003

1 st	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain, Mike Tedd, Filip Kurbalija	220 VPs
2 nd	David Stevenson, Ted Revely, David Harris, Jon Williams	194 VPs
3 rd	Jeremy Baker, David Huggett, Jeremy Dhondy, Heather Dhondy	192 VPs

Veteran Pairs

Gwent Academy and Norfolk House Hotel, Colwyn Bay, 30th November 2003

1 st	Dewi Jones, Dai Hayes	59.45%
2 nd	Gwen Hurst, Elwyn Roberts	59.03%
3 rd	Mary Moore, Irene Thomas	58.38%

Women's International Trial

The Kymin, Penarth, 13th-14th December 2003

Rank	Names	Non-balancing par result
1 st	Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey	-27
2 nd	Mary Moore, Irene Thomas	-61
3 rd	Gilly Clench, Ann Hirst	-81

Graded Masters Pairs

Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli, 24th – 25th January 2004

Section 1	Diane Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija	55.66%
Section 2	Eileen Hughes, Isabel Evans	54.48%
Section 3	Wendy Williams, Graham John	60.65%
Section 4	Ann Johnson, Joan Davies	56.79%
Section 5	Jennifer Wardell, Christine Norman	55.97%
Junior Masters	Kate McGee, Zoe Potter	64.29%

Thomas James Cup (for the pair not in the top two sections climbing the highest number of places during the final session)

Jean Brookes, Muriel Maslin

Porthcawl Congress Pics



Gwynn Davis & Aida Aris, Mixed Pairs



Mike Pownall, Fil and Diane Kurbalija



Mamie McCormac and Carol-Ann Cummins



Adrian Thomas, Jim Luck, Alan Williams



Gay Keaveney & Peter Goodman, Mens Pairs



Mamie McCormac, Alan O'Sullivan

Ask Mikey: asking for aces ...

by Mike Close

One of the things that makes me wince is playing in the local Club and watching the average player launch into asking for aces without justification, and worse still, using Gerber in an auction where only suits have been agreed. As usual, I will present it in the form of questions from an inexperienced player.

Q: Why do the good players laugh at me when I say I play Gerber to ask for aces?

A: Well, I guess that most experienced partnerships play some form of Blackwood as their ace-asking convention.

Q: Do you play Gerber?

A: Only in specific circumstances, when partner opens 1NT, or 2NT. Otherwise I play Roman Keycard Blackwood.

Q: Roman Keycard?

A: Roman Keycard Blackwood treats the King of trumps as another ace, and you can find out about the queen of trumps as well. It is played by many, if not most, tournament players.

Q: So what are the most popular ace-asking conventions, and the responses?

A: Standard Blackwood: 4NT asks for aces, 5♣ = 0 or 4, 5♦ = 1, 5♥ = 2, 5♠ = 3. After 4NT and response, 5NT asks for Kings, same responses except that 6♣ = 0 and 6NT = 4.

Keycard Blackwood: 4NT asks for aces, 5♣ = 0 or 3, 5♦ = 1 or 4, 5♥ = 2 without the trump Q, 5♠ = 2 + trump Q.

- After 4NT and response, 5NT asks for kings (ignoring trump king), 6♣ = 0, 6♦ = 1, 6♥ = 2, 6♠ = 3.
- After 4NT and response, next suit up (not trumps) asks for trump Q. Bid of trump suit = no queen, 5NT = queen, but no outside king, new suit = queen,

plus the king of this suit. (show lowest king first).

NB: Many tournament players now use 1430 responses, .ie. 5♣ = 1 or 4 and 5♦ = 0 or 3. This gives a little extra room in heart slams. There are also many other 'twiddles' that can be adopted.

Roman Blackwood: 4NT asks for aces, 5♣ = 0 or 3, 5♦ = 1 or 4, 5♥ = 2 of same colour, 5♠ = 2 of same rank, 5NT = 2 odd. This is an old-fashioned method, now out of favour.

Gerber: 4♣ asks for aces. 4♦ = 0 or 4, 4♥ = 1, 4♠ = 2, 4NT = 3. After 4♣ and response, 5♣ asks for kings, 5♦ = 0, 5♥ = 1, 5♠ = 2, 5NT = 3, 6♣ = 4.

Some players use the next suit up to ask for kings (I have heard this described as Progressive Gerber, a description which leaves me biting my tongue...).

Q: So you would recommend using the same bid, one level higher as asking for kings?

A: Yes, its easy to remember and thus makes life much more simple. And I would recommend the following well-known tip among tournament players:

If you ask for kings after asking for aces, you guarantee the partnership holds all the aces.

After all, why ask for kings when there is an ace missing? What is the point? You are not looking for the grand slam, so you might as well bid 6 and be done with it. Look at these hands and bidding sequence (we are using Roman Keycard):

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

South	North
1 ♥	2 ♠ ¹
3 ♦	3 ♥ ²
4NT ³	5 ♠ ⁴
5NT ⁵	7 ♥ ⁶
¹	<i>Jump shift, forcing to game, suggests extras</i>
²	<i>Agrees hearts</i>
³	<i>RKCB</i>
⁴	<i>2 of the 5 aces, plus ♥Q</i>
⁵	<i>King ask, guarantees all aces)</i>
⁶	<i>I have an extra source of tricks</i>

Now responder finds it easy to count thirteen tricks (6 spades, 5 hearts and two 'known' aces, or 5 spades, 5 hearts, two aces and a diamond ruff), and can bid the grand without further ado.

Q: Give me an example of when you would use Gerber.

A: Partner opens 1NT and you hold ♠x, ♥x, ♦AKQJ, ♣KQJ109xx.

7♣ and 6♣ are possible. You can bid 4♣ for aces, and depending upon the response select the final contract. You can even play in 4NT at pairs. Perfect.

Q: OK, so why are you against Gerber in suit contracts?

A: For a start, the 4♣ bid can be used in much better ways, for showing controls (cue bidding) and/or showing singletons (splinters).

Secondly, it leads to enormous confusion, so you have to have even more agreements with your partner than the Roman Keycard bidders! Take this auction I heard recently (no opposition bidding):

South	North
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	4 ♣

Is that Gerber? Or because the opener bid 1♣ is it natural?

Here is another. This time you are playing 'progressive Gerber', so next suit up (ignoring trumps) is for kings.

South	North
1 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♣

Now I think we can safely say that after the 2♥ bid, we cannot pass this, so I guess this must be Gerber. The auction proceeds

a)	1 ♣	2 ♥
	2 ♠	4 ♣*
	4 ♦* (0 or 4)	4 ♥?
b)	1 ♣	2 ♥
	2 ♠	4 ♣*
	4 ♥* (1 ace)	4 ♠?

In a), is 4♥ a sign-off in partners suit, or is the sign-off bid 4♠? In b), is 4♠ for kings (with ♥ as trumps)? Or is it a sign-off with spades agreed?

And most importantly, does the partner you are playing with today agree?

Q: We use progressive Gerber to keep the bidding low – we can check on aces and kings, and often can still play in 4♥ or 4♠.

A: Really? Or are you just using it because you can? The whole point about ace-asking conventions is not to allow you to bid slams because you have enough aces and kings, but to keep you OUT of bad slams that are missing two aces. The bidding beforehand should tell you whether slam is possible or likely. You should not launch into Blackwood or Gerber, just because you hold 17 points and partner has opened.

Q: I have noticed that the experts bid slams even when they don't have enough points. What should I be looking for when we are close to a slam? Show me some examples:

A: OK.. Firstly, POWER. It is customary to bid 6NT with 33 points:

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

South	North
1NT (12-14)	4NT (bid slam if max)
6NT	

Note that although 4NT is not Blackwood, some pairs respond with standard Blackwood responses if they only have 13 points and there may be two aces missing. And if there are two aces missing, a common treatment in standard Blackwood is to bid a new suit at the 5 level to get partner to sign off in 5NT.

Secondly, DISTRIBUTION:

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

South

1 ♠
4 ♦²
4NT³
6 ♠

North

4 ♣¹
4 ♥²
5 ♥⁴

- ¹ Splinter – losing singleton ♣, 10-14 points
² Cue bids
³ Roman Keycard Blackwood
⁴ Two of the five key cards, no trump queen.

Here we use 4♣ to show a shortage, and now we are playing with a 30-point pack! An easy make, just ruff a club in dummy.

Thirdly, LONG SUITS as a source of tricks:

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

South

1 ♣
3 ♠
4NT²
6 ♠

North

1 ♠
4 ♣¹
5 ♠³

- ¹ Cue-bid
² Roman Keycard Blackwood
³ Two of the five keycards, with the ♠Q

Note that the cue bid of 4♣ is always the ace or king when partner has bid the suit – we never cue bid voids in partners suit. Now,

with the clubs will provide six tricks, it is just a matter of whether we have enough controls – so we ask for aces.

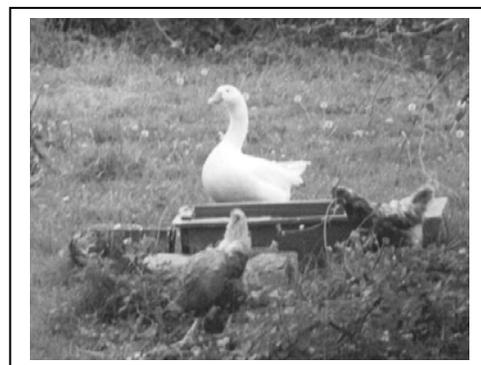
Q: Well thanks Mikey, for your advice. Can I approach you with other questions later?

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

Around the Ash Bucket

The theme of this winter seems, appropriately enough, to have been loss.

Two days after Christmas someone stole two of our hens, Babs and Bunty. We know they were stolen because the door of the coop was unhooked and propped open, which neither fox nor hen could have accomplished. It would have made more sense if they'd been abducted before Christmas; as it is, I'm amazed at the intrepidity of the thief who, to bring off his heist, had to enter a confined space containing a very much alive goose.



Gretel, Dolly and Edna around the water trough

Last week we restocked, and now have Beryl, Myrtle, Mabel and Ethel to bring the daily egg crop to six.

On Monday TomTom lost his miaow. The pitiful croak that emerged when he opened his mouth was distressing to hear, and he was clearly upset by his misfortune because he spent two nights cowering on the boiler instead of tucked up on my bed. A trip to the hated vet has, thankfully, restored his vocal range.

And in the past month I have lost about a stone, which is better news.

hauer

Bidding Challenge No. 5

This year we have some new panellists – Tim Rees, Paul Denning, Jill Casey, Adam Dunn and Dafydd Jones have been joined by Mike Tedd, Gwynn Davis, Chris Rochelle and last year's winner Mike Close. I thank them all for their time & efforts.

Congratulations go to **Simon Richards** who had a winning score of **72** - a cheque for £25 is on the way. Other good scores were Betty Lewis 68, Tony Parish 67, Eric Davison 66, Christine Jones 65, Joe Patrick and Chris Overton 64, David Brooke and Charlotte Jones 63.

Make sure you enter set 6 on page 12 - answers to Linda Greenland by post, email (deri31@ntlworld.com) or drop an entry into the box at East Wales Congress or North Wales Spring Congress. Closing date 31st March.

The Experts' View

Question 1

Dlr: North

Vul: None

Scoring: Teams

South

♠ K Q 8 6

♥ Q J 10 5 3

♦ A 6 3 2

♣ none

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

¹ Splinter

Marks: 4♣ 10, 4♠/4♦ 7, Pass 6, others 5

The panel was fair split four ways, with a small majority in favour of a slam try but first the pessimists:

Tim: 4♠. Partner's 3NT shows a minimum-(ish) hand with a lot of wasted values in clubs and poor spades. Slam is unlikely to be good, even though I also have diamond support. The question is whether 3NT is better than 4♠ or 5♦. As I have slow tricks, we may not have time to develop them in 3NT. 5♦ may have three top losers, so I'll try 4♠

MikeT: 4♠ Partner has wasted values in ♣. There could be no obvious losers, or just one in ♥, but there just won't be enough tricks for a slam, unless partner has a ♥ honour, which is unlikely. Even if partner has AJxx /void /KQxxx /KQTx there would be too much work to do on a ♠ or ♥ lead. 3NT could be difficult if partner's ♣s aren't very good, and 10 tricks are easier than 11, hence 4♠ as the best game.

MikeC: Pass. Partner heard me agree spades and show short clubs, and yet he still bid 3NT. Suspect he has a 4-1-4-4 with weak

spades and strong clubs, so lets play for the 9 trick game.

Jill: 4♦. Partner has wasted ♣ values but I will make one last try. I will pass 4♠.

As opposed to ...

Chris: 4♦ to show double fit then 5♣ over 4♠ to show void.

For the majority...

Paul: 4♣ must show a void or singleton Ace, I don't want to give up on a slam just yet.

Gwynn : 4♣. Partner's 3NT rebid tends to douse slam aspirations (too much in ♣) but I'm not prepared to give up yet. 4♦ is too enthusiastic in my book, and I see 4♣ (presumably showing void) as a halfway house, warning partner not to overvalue ♣A. I'll bid 4♠ over 4♦. I seem to have all the right cards for a slam. If partner bids 4♠, I'll pass.

Question 2

Dlr: West

Vul: NS

Scoring: Teams

South

♠ A Q 8 7 5 2

♥ A K

♦ K 8 6

♣ K J

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♥	?

Marks: Double 10, 4♠ 8, 3NT 7, others 5

Paul: Double: then 4♠ when partner bids a minor. This must show a very big hand with long spades.

Adam: Double: followed by 4♠, or a cue over 3♠ from partner.

MikeT: Double: 3♠ is an underbid. 4♠ implies better ♠. 3NT isn't very likely to be the right game. So I have to double and then bid 4♠.

Tim: 4♠. Just too good for 3♠, although that may turn out better, especially if RHO has a ♠ stack. 3NT may be a better contract than 4♠, but with slow tricks, I might not have time to develop them. Double won't help, as partner is unlikely to be able to bid 3NT, and if I bid 4♠ over four of a minor, that shows a better hand than I've got.

Gwynn: 4♠. Good hand with 6 card ♠ suit (and I'm a simple soul)

Jill: 3NT. Double then 4♠ over 4 minor overstates the ♠ suit; 3NT may go down with 4(6?) ♠ cold. East has forced me to guess

Question 3

Dlr: West	South
Vul: EW	♠ A K J 4 2
Scoring: Teams	♥ K 7 4
	♦ 6 2
	♣ A K 5

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

Marks: 2NT 10, 2♥/2♦ 7, others 5

Tim: 2NT. This is commonly played as forcing nowadays. It leaves partner able to check for a 5-3 spade fit on the way to 3NT. Don't worry about the diamonds - it's best to show a balanced hand at this stage, rather than inventing bids.

Chris: 2NT. I thought this was standard 15-19 balanced - I would not support clubs with only 3.

Now for those trying to protect partner's ♦K:

MikeT: 2♥. We are looking for the best game, which could be 3NT, 4♠ or 5♣. Partner should not pass, and his next bid is much more likely to be helpful than to be an awkward ♥ raise.

Mike has obviously trained his partners well ☺

Paul: 2♦ natural and forcing, 2NT was the big winner with the panel, but everyone is confident that their bid is forcing once partner has responded at the two level.

Question 4

Dlr: West	South
Vul: Love All	♠ none
Scoring: Teams	♥ A 8 7 4
	♦ A K J 9 7 5 4
	♣ Q 3

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♥	?

Marks: 3♦ 10, others 5

I can almost hear the panel saying "What's the problem?"

Tim: 3♦. This shows a good suit, but without ♠ support, as otherwise I'd double first. 3♦ is invitational; if partner passes, we are unlikely to be missing anything as his values are likely to be in ♠.

MikeT: 3♦. It is very unlikely to end here and this keeps options open. We might end in 3NT, 5♦, or a doubled ♥ contract. When I was young I might have doubled 2♥ and it would have been a penalty double!

Jill: 3♦. Highly invitational. ♠AKxxx, ♥x, ♦xxx, ♣Kxxx will raise; ♠KJ10xx, ♥xx, ♦xx, ♣Kxxx will pass. Note 3♦ is our limit on last hand, may make 6♦ on first hand. 3NT although attractive gives partner NO chance to cooperate.

Gwynn: 3♦. It's what I've got. Partner may well rebid ♠, but then I'll rebid ♦. I'll win eventually - probably at 5♦.

Question 5

Dlr: North	South
Vul: Game all	♠ Q J 8 5 2
Scoring: Teams	♥ J 10 3
	♦ A K 7 2
	♣ 9

West	North	East	South
-	1NT ¹	5♣	?

¹ 15-17

Marks: Double 10, 5♠ 8, others 5

Tim: Double. This is best played as general values over high level pre-empts. Partner often passes, but he can bid on if he thinks we can make something. Any other bid from me would be a shot in the dark. If I was slightly stronger I could bid 5NT (pick a slam).

Paul: Double just showing values, anything else would be a gamble. I'll take a plus score

Adam: Double – take out in principle.

Gwynn: Double. This is a bit of a guess. 5♠ is possible, but not guaranteed to be right. I prefer the sure plus. Partner will normally pass, but if he/she has a 5-card major and opts to bid it that's fine by me.

Now let's hear from a brave man

MikeT: 5♠ confidently. It might be right to take the money, but 5♣ could well make or be cheap. Partner hasn't many wasted values in clubs, so I'm hopeful for 5♠, although I might run to 6♦ if West salivates as he doubles. I'll double 6♣.

And finally, the man who held the hand at table ...

MikeC: Double - take the money. Ho! Ho! Ho! I seem to remember the Bidding Challenge Editor saying afterwards that she forgot we were playing a strong NT when she bid 5♣ here. So I'd better repeat my action at the table, despite the fact that 5♣ almost made and we can make 11 tricks in ♠.

Question 6

Dlr: South

Vul: Game all

Scoring: Teams

South

♠ A 4

♥ K Q 8

♦ J 7 3

♣ A 10 9 6 5

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

¹ transfer to spades

Marks: 3NT 10, 3♠ 9, others 5

Tim: 3NT. I don't have support for either major, so I'm forced into this. Partner is bidding his suits; neither needs to be good, so I can't raise either at this stage. Incidentally, I wouldn't have opened 1NT; the decent 5-card suit makes this hand worth 15 points.

Jill: 3NT – what else?

Well, nearly half the panel opted for ...

Paul: 3♠ - partner still has a chance to bid 3NT or 4♥ so that we get to the correct game. Also, 4♠ in the 5-2 fit will probably play better than 4♥ in a 4-3 fit.

Gwynn: 3♠. My points are in the majors, so I want to bid one of them (rather than 3NT with no guaranteed ♦ stop).

Question 7

Dlr: North

Vul: NS

Scoring: Pairs

South

♠ 7 4

♥ K 3

♦ 8 5

♣ K J 10 8 7 4 3

West	North	East	South
-	1NT	3♦	?

Marks: 4♣ 10, Pass 9, others 5

There are fundamental differences in the panel's approach here; those who think 4♣ is definitely forcing and make a disciplined pass; those who think 4♣ is forcing and bid it anyway; those who hope 4♣ isn't forcing; and those who know it isn't forcing. Seems like this is an area for partnerships to discuss – would it be different if the new suit was a major I wonder?

Jill: Pass. 2227 is bad shape. 4♣ would be forcing which is too much; 3NT is off the planet!

Dafydd: Pass – I think 4♣ is forcing.

MikeC: Pass: hate this problem. I want to bid 4♣ to play, but if I bid it my man will surely take it as forcing and bid 5 or cue bid. That will lead to a double and -200, death at pairs. I don't think 3NT will make: this needs partner to have several key cards, and is too much to hope for. However, this will get me to 4♣ if they doubled it, but minus several hundred if they don't. Would they save in diamonds if I bid 4♣? I suspect not as we probably have too many diamonds.

Tim: 4♣. I don't think I can afford to pass out 3♦ when I've got a 7-card suit. On grounds of frequency, bids after jump overcalls of 1NT should be non-forcing. If you happen to have a good hand, you just have to jump to game (or start with a takeout double). If partner does bid 5♣, it may even make (Axxx, AQx, xxx, Axx).

Adam: 4♣. Might be forcing (although I might have a take out double available to force) but also probably the last chance we'll have at playing a contract.

Gwynn: 4♣. If, as I first thought on reading this problem, we were playing a Strong NT, I would chance 3NT here. Opposite a weak NT that is too rich even for me but I'm not willing to let 3♦ go, so I'll bid what I hope is a non-forcing 4♣. X (take-out), followed by 4♣ should be different, and probably stronger. Not a situation I've ever discussed, so chance of partner being on a different wavelength is even higher than usual.

MikeT: 4♣ - natural and non-forcing. 4♣ is probably one off, but they aren't likely to double.

Question 8

Dlr: North

Vul: EW

Scoring: Teams

South

♠ J 10 3

♥ J 8 4 2

♦ Q 10 2

♣ 7 4 3

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

Marks: Double 10, 3♠/3♥ 8, Pass 7, others 5

Jill: 3♥. Partner has invited me to show a 4-card ♥ suit and I have one. She will remember I passed 1♠ and not punish me for competing on minimum values. Occasionally she has a rock crusher and can raise to 4♥.

Chris: 3♠ - If partner was 5-4 he would have bid 2 or 3 hearts.

Only if he was feeling helpful

Adam: Double takeout. Don't want to be bullied out of the auction when we could have a 4-4♥ fit, certainly have a spade fit, may have an eight card ♦ fit, partner has values and I'm limited. 3♥ might suggest 5 so want to give partner the option. Also, if he has a massive hand I don't want to be stuck with what to do over another double - rather get the hand off my chest now.

Good point.

Tim: Double. Once opponents have bid and supported a suit, this is competitive (takeout). I think we can make something; if partner has

four ♥, I want to play in ♥, otherwise, we'll play in ♠. The three level will be high enough unless partner can go on.

MikeT: Double. This has become a fine hand: no wasted values, support for ♠, a possible 4-4 ♠ fit, and useful filling for partner's ♦. The competitive double describes it perfectly, leaving the decision to partner. Of course partner might think this is penalty, especially playing with someone who likes penalty doubles (me), but then on a trump lead it should be 200 anyway.

Paul: Double take-out. I will pass if partner bids 3♥, but will correct 3♦ to 3♠.

Gwynn: Pass. Some people say I am incapable of passing in these situations. What a calumny! The shape is unappealing, to say the least, so pass quickly (I hope) so as not to inhibit partner if they are contemplating another go.

MikeC: Pass. I have flat hand, no quick entry to take a finesse, no shortage, no guarantee of 4♥ opposite equals no bid. Give me king to five hearts and a doubleton ♦, and I would be in there. Partner has another bid so if he has a very good hand, he can double again.

Hands for set 6 are on Page 12.



Joe and Daphne Patrick, Anne and Mike Saunders,- winners of the Dewi Sant Teams at the Porthcawl Congress (see p.3)

WBU Bidding Challenge – Set 6

Answers to Linda by 31st March 2004

Hand 1	Love all - Scoring: Teams				
♠ AK10	West	North	East	South	
♥ J6	-	-	-	1♦	
♦ A10942	Dbl	1♠	Pass	?	
♣ AQ2					
Hand 2	Game All - Scoring: Teams				
♠ A6532	West	North	East	South	
♥ A10832	Pass	3♣	Pass	?	
♦ 6					
♣ A4					
Hand 3	EW Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠ KQJ54	West	North	East	South	
♥ 3	-	-	1♦	1♠	
♦ AK7	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	?	¹ Unassuming Cue Bid
♣ 10962					
Hand 4	Love All - Scoring: Teams				
♠ A8	West	North	East	South	
♥ 9532	-	-	-	Pass	
♦ 6	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	
♣ AJ9652	Pass	3♦	Pass	?	
Hand 5	EW Vul - Scoring: Pairs				
♠ Q10964	West	North	East	South	
♥ K105	Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass	
♦ J76	Pass	2♥	Pass	?	
♣ 87					
Hand 6	Game All - Scoring: Teams				
♠ Q984	West	North	East	South	
♥ 7	1♠	Double	Pass	1NT	
♦ KJ83	2♠	Double	3♠	?	
♣ K642					
Hand 7	NS Vul - Scoring: Pairs				
♠ KJ753	West	North	East	South	
♥ 6	-	1♦	Pass	1♠	
♦ A73	3♥	3♠	5♥	?	
♣ A932					
Hand 8	EW Vul - Scoring: Teams				
♠ J74	West	North	East	South	
♥ K532	-	-	Pass	Pass	
♦ KQT	1♣	Double	1♠	?	
♣ Q74					

Now you see it ... now you don't

by Jon Seavers

It has often been remarked with puzzlement by those who teach bridge that players, once they've left the classroom, spend nearly all their time trying to improve their bidding, while defence and declarer play are left as poor relations.

Declarer play and defence are linked, since in defence it's always helpful if you can work out what declarer is trying to do. Conversely, if declarer can see what the defence is trying to do, he may be able to take a different line.

The following hand is a good example:

```

♠ K 10
♥ A 3
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ A Q 10 4 2
    □
♠ Q J 8 7 5 3 2
♥ J 9 8 2
♦ 10 2
♣ none
  
```

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

West leads the ♦6 to East's king, and after some thought East returns the ♥4. Declarer has few options. If he thinks spades are 4-0 or 3-1, with West holding the ace and nine, there is little hope – he will lose a diamond, and a spade, and since he cannot ruff two hearts without establishing another spade winner for the defence he will lose two heart tricks as well.

The only chance is therefore to assume that spades break 2-2, and to create winners in dummy for heart discards. Declarer must cash the ♣A, discarding his ♦10, and take a ruffing finesse against the marked ♦A in East's hand. When the queen of diamonds is played, if East rises with the ace he establishes two winners in dummy. Now declarer can exit a heart, and the defence cannot prevail: if they play ace and another

spade, declarer can discard his two remaining hearts on the ♦J and 9; if they play anything else, declarer can cross-ruff for ten tricks; if they cash the ♠A and exit a heart, declarer can establish the ♥J for his tenth trick.



So East must duck the ♦A, even though this will allow declarer a heart discard – declarer cannot repeat the ruffing finesse without allowing West a ruff; and will be left with two losing hearts.

The full deal was as follows:

```

♠ K 10
♥ A 3
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ A Q 10 4 2

♠ A 9
♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ 6 5
♣ 9 8 7 6 3

♠ 6 4
♥ K 6 4
♦ A K 8 7 4
♣ K J 5

♠ Q J 8 7 5 3 2
♥ J 9 8 2
♦ 10 2
♣ none
  
```

As you can see, the contract can easily be defeated even though the defence has started badly, but it is also easy to allow the contract to make.

East was unsure whether the ♦6 was from 6 5 or 10 6 5, so was left with a difficult choice and eventually chose a small heart. If the defence can see what declarer is trying to do, the successful defensive line is plain.

Dim marciau, pob Saes



Do you preempt with a four-card major on the side? Well, it depends whether it's a major worth having.

In a recent Avon League match, our Welsh heroes (Gagne, Harris, Close and Malam) encountered the following hand:

♠ none
♥ A Q 9 8 2
♦ A 10 6 3
♣ K Q J 7

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ J 10
♦ K Q J 9 8 4 2
♣ none

At one table, Mike Close reckoned his four awful spades were only worth three, and opened 3♦. The next bid was 6♦ and that's where they played, for +1370.

Mike's English counterpart, having been brought up in the traditional school, decided he couldn't open 3♦ with this four-card spade suit, so passed. Right-hand opponent also passed, and North opened 1♥.

Now, of course, with only seven points, the hapless Englishman couldn't bid 2♦ so he responded 1♠. His partner showed his four-card club suit before his four-card diamond suit, so diamonds now became the fourth suit.

Poor South couldn't bid that, because it would have been game-forcing, so he showed preference with 2♥. And that's where they played, for a loss of 15 IMPs.

The Night before Camrose

Some years ago (two, to be precise), Wales was hosting the final Camrose weekend at the Newport Hilton. Anne Jones suggested a Camrose version of Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem about the night before Christmas. Between us, Anne and your editor fine-tuned the verse produce the following. Those of you who know them will recognise their eccentricities; those who don't will be able to appreciate what an odd lot bridge players can be.

Twas the night before Camrose and all through the Hilton
The Scots drank their Scotch and the English read Milton.
The Irish were lost somewhere near Rhandirmwyn,
But we Welsh have our own ways of girding the loin.

Pete Goodman was planning tomorrow's fine dress,
Lime green jeans in the grip of that weird trouser press.
And Filip, his sandwiches next to the pillow
Dreamt Forest had beaten the Dons seven-nil-oh.*

Tim Rees was as always the last one to bed
The seventeenth pint never goes to his head.
Ken and Linda were still setting up all their rig
While Adam chilled out with a long herbal ... bath.

Salisbury was next to the bed on his knees
Praying to Heav'n for those seventy VPs;
The other selectors were feeling quite frisky
On several glasses of cask strength malt whisky.

Who else could be found in this fine Newport pub?
Here's Patrick a-smiling at all the free grub;
But where was young Ratcliff? Relaxing? Not him!
He'd gone to Bridgend for the BBL Sim.

*[*Forest were playing Wimbledon that Saturday.]*



The weekend in question: Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn relax with Tom Hanlon and a well-earned pint after dinner.

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 EBU/TA 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)

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

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 EBU/TA 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.

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.

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. Apartments or hotel rooms.

Price from **£829.00** includes air travel; airport taxes; insurance; transfers airport/resort; full board; full bridge programme; prizes; and special events as specified. £75.00 single supplement.

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



Magical Madeira

PESTANA BAY HOTEL, nr FUNCHAL - 15th-29th November 2004

Martin and Judy Holcombe have just returned from their first holiday at the Pestana Bay and it was generally reckoned to be first class. Not surprisingly, they'll be going back again in 2004.

Spectacularly situated on one of the island's 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. 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.

Cost **£869.00** including half board, bridge fees, entertainment, transfers and taxes. Single supplement £129. Price based on Gatwick but nine other airports available at a supplement.

Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS - 27th January - 10th February 2005

Our first four Vilamoura ventures have been sell-out successes and we're already taking bookings for 2005. The hotel, the service, the facilities and the bridge are a huge hit with our guests and **Graham Hedley** is again our bridge director. Price should be very close to this year's and will be confirmed as soon as possible.



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 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: 2704. Bridge licensed by the EBU



Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

A rarity for this page, real news! For some months past I've been talking to the organisers of the Online Bridge Club about the WBU registering the Online Points earned by WBU members. The news is that the Online Bridge Club have completed computer software changes to allow this, and soon will be able to

send Online points for WBU members direct to me. The Online Bridge Club will need to be informed by the player that they wish their points sent to the WBU. At this stage I can't say whether we will enter Online Points before our April year end but it will happen soon. This will not only please those members who have so often asked me about this, but also Mike, my husband, who had included much about Online Points handling in the new MP system, and has complained about it not being used.

One Sunday early in December our daughter phoned to say she had fallen down her stairs. Last Newsletter I wondered if parents ever cease to think of their offspring as children. I've decided now we never do. She has reached such an age that she wants to lie about it (my mention of her real age recently evoked "Oh, Mum, don't say that out loud") but I still had to bite back "How many times have we told you not to play on the stairs?" She had damaged her back and wanted me to take her to the local hospital in the morning. As did my mother who was still having problems with her ankle, sprained some weeks before. After taking our granddaughter (our daughter's daughter) to school in the morning I had to bundle two damaged persons into the car, most awkwardly in my daughter's case as she could not bend, (I really needed a truck for her to lie flat in the back) and take them to the hospital as a job lot. I was hoping with all our different surnames no one would know they belonged to me.

My daughter would require some weeks of rest before she would return to normal. So there I was, back to being an active parent again, looking after our daughter and granddaughter and getting up very early (horrors) for the morning school run. I was very glad when the Christmas school holidays began. All this severely cut into my time, so my WBU work fell behind, which is why I mention all this. So for those whose Master Points suffered delay, I have told my daughter to say sorry, like a good little girl.

I usually try to clear the MP decks by Christmas so I can relax over the holidays. Fortunately the December post was light - perhaps everyone was out shopping. Only on my birthday did a large heap of master point mail arrive; I tried to tell myself people were thinking about me. Earlier I'd received a letter with a set of beautiful playing cards printed at the top, actually most galling as at that time, my own colour printer was not printing properly - it deteriorated even more with a horrible grinding

noise, after I bought a cheap replacement cartridge. . I had to buy a new printer. Don't expect to see colours on your MP statements though, the printer on the WBU computer only prints in black.

Do you remember the stamps issued about a year ago which featured large fruit? One letter recently had the stamp's large lemon transformed into a General Custer with stuck on little eyes, nose, moustache, hat and boots, I remembered a letter sometime ago where the tomato had become a city gent with bowler hat and tie. I thought such changes were quite illegal and wondered how it ever made it through the post, but I think the sender is connected to the postal service.

Advantages of playing bridge: No.1 (will there ever be any more?): Mike had a phone call from a man, who seemed uncertain whom he was speaking to, but asked for a member's phone number. We are not normally allowed to give out such information from the WBU files so Mike enquired what it was about. Apparently this person had found a handbag, complete, surprisingly I think, with mobile phone. He had kindly decided to try to find the owner himself rather than drop the bag into the police station where it might languish for days. And the only clue to ownership was the MP card within. The kind person was Mr. David Rees, no bridge player but I felt he deserved his name mentioned.

The other day I heard of another MP card noticed in a supermarket car park by the sister of a local bridge player, probably the only person in all the hundreds there who would have recognised what it was and not just walked over it.

History of an MP certificate: Recently I scored a simultaneous event for a local club and printed the MP slips. Rather than delay them by posting, I passed them to a friend who passed them on to another while playing elsewhere that night. The next day this second person passed them to the appropriate club MP secretary, who later passed them back to her for distribution. Yesterday I was given one of the slips for myself. Now I have only to send it to myself for registration. These fifteen local points are exceedingly well travelled, but is it a record?

The end of January always seems so remote from the Christmas holidays, it's as if they didn't exist - I didn't even go to the sales - so I suppose the next thing I have to look forward to is Easter which always seems to coincide with the start of the Master Point end of year rush. Remember to send your points in by April 30th at the latest. The earlier the better really; it helps me and makes sure you are not too late.

Noelle@glanmor45.freeserve.co.uk

Noelle

List of promotions for each rank: 11th November 2003 to 29th January 2004

Club Master		Eddie Jones	PC	Two Star Master	
Fanny Brogden	FG	Mari Jones	PC	Mair Cameron	NT
Vivian Brogden	FG	Michael Jones	BRE	Jo Copping	BRE
Keith H Butt	S	Peter Milewski	H	Four Star Master	
Robert Hellier	GA	George Morrison	PR	Carolyn Williams	F
Richard Hughes	C	Vivien Penny	MG	Premier Regional Master	
Gareth Jones	H	Lona Thomas	BRE	Simon Gottschalk	GA
Julie Milewski	H	David R Williams	M	Jurdy Pearce	R
Annette Russell	BRE	Master		Life Master	
Patricia Townsend	Y	Brenda Emett	BR	Colin Nash	S
Local Master		Alan Garland	BV	Senior Life Master	
Terry Brunnock	GA	Ted Moore	MON	Michael Close	BV
Yvonne Brunnock	GA	Advanced Master		Robin Parris	S
John Capel	GA	Julia Davies	MB		
Anthony Curry	S	Marjorie Gray Jones	M		
Irene Delahunty	T	Norma Stedman	WS		
Anne Edwards	A	George Woodhouse	WS		
Logan Jack	BRE	Malcolm Young	MON		
County Master		One Star Master			
John Bunker	CAS	Martin Jones	L		
Helen Cottam	ROF	Rowe Jones	BRE		
John Dow	CBY				



Odds and Ends

Be thou wise as Methuselah and patient as Job, thou shalt not escape failing eyesight. Joe Patrick, asked why he had opened INT with a void in a recent competition, explained that when he made his bid he had twored suits. Unfortunately, upon closer examination they both turned out to be hearts.

On one of his visits to Wales, the English international bridge player and journalist David Burn, revealed a talent hitherto unknown, that of anagramising people's names. Adrian Thomas was very taken with "I am a sad North", and has sat South ever since. Many players in England and Wales will recognise the appositeness of the anagram for Paul Gagne and Diana Harris: "Piranhas arguing a deal".

Can you think of any others? If so, I will publish the best of the printable submissions in future newsletters. Email Laura on laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk.



We announce with regret the sad demise the Favagers' parrot, George.

George entertained many a visiting team with his timely interventions. The house will seem quiet now that he's fallen off his perch.

Condolences to Eric and Annie on their loss.

WBU website: www.wbu.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Camrose v. England

21st-22nd February 2004

The GEORGE HOTEL, High Street, Crawley; Sussex.

There will be a vu-graph presentation of the event, and spectators are very welcome. There is no admission fee. The Chief Commentator will be Paul Bowyer

Times of play are: Saturday 11.00 am to 8.30 pm with short breaks in between stanzas
Sunday 11.00 am to 3.30 pm

England: David Price-Colin Simpson; Phil King-Andrew McIntosh; David Gold-Tom Townsend [NPC David Burn].

Wales: Peter Goodman-Adam Dunn; Tim Rees-Filip Kurbalija; Gary Jones-Dafydd Jones [NPC Paul Denning].

St David's Day Simultaneous

1st – 7th March 2004

Compete against everyone else in Wales (well, quite a lot of us) in your own Club.

If your Club has not already applied to hold a heat, ask your Club Secretary to contact the Chief Executive, Linda Greenland, on 029 2025 5162, email deri31@ntlworld.com.

The event will be scored on Ecats for the first time, so you will be able to see your scores both locally and nationally as soon as the results are posted.



Portland Pairs

21st March 2004

The premier Mixed Pairs event in Britain, held simultaneously in venues across the country. Welsh venues will be, as last year, Gwent Bridge Academy in Newport, and Colwyn Bay Cricket Club in Rhos on Sea.

Entry forms are available from the NTO, Laura Woodruff, ☎ 01656 741748, email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk.



Men's and Ladies' Pairs

27th-28th March 2004

Open to all, this three-session weekend will be held at the Elephant & Castle Hotel in Newtown, Powys. Plenty of Green Points available.

Entries on the form which may be found in the centre pages of this year's Journal (apricot cover) or on a slip of paper with names, WBU numbers, address and telephone number of one player and a cheque for £40 payable to the WBU to: Laura Woodruff, Hall Farm, North Cornelly CF33 4HR, ☎ 01656 741748, email laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk.



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

Item	Page	Details
Area Secretary	3	The secretary of East Wales Bridge Association is now Bill Parkinson, 52 Ronald Rd, Newport, Gwent NP9 7GF, ☎ 01633 273153, email gwentbridge@btinternet.com .
Change of address	3, 56	Cecelia McCreary, Treasurer of Mid Wales Bridge Association and Entry Secretary for the Mid Wales Congress, has moved to 15 Parc Hafan, Newcastle Emlyn, SA38 9AR ☎ 01239 710784.
Club telephone number	4	The telephone number of Cardiff Bridge Club's premises is 029 2049 1865. NB: this is not the number for the Club Secretary.
Change of Club Secretary	6	The new secretary of Dolgellau Bridge Club is Christine Redman, 3 Gwern Helig, Dolgellau LL40 1PA, ☎ 01341 422735
Club closure	6	St David's Bridge Club has, sadly, closed. Members' registration has transferred to Aberystwyth Bridge Club.
Change of Club Secretary	10	The new secretary of Newport Bridge Club (Pembs) is Rosemary Davison, Bryningli, Cardigan Road, Newport SA42 0LZ, ☎ 01239 821292, email jsdavison@mistral.co.uk .

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy (Most Points Registered in One Year) – 29/1/2004 latest

Kevin Maddox	191	Mary Moore	91	Adrian Thomas	78
Tony Ratcliff	174	Diana Harris	89	Colin Nash	77
Eric Hartland	110	David Davies	87	Irene Thomas	76
Filip Kurbalija	106	Patrick Jourdain	85	Peter Goodman	76
Chris Rochelle	97	Alan Screen	85	Roger Eastwood	73
Ted Merrette	96	Marjorie Morris	83	Eileen Hughes	71
Paul Gagne	93	Adam Dunn	79		

WBU Council Meeting

Items of interest from the meeting of Council held on 9th November 2003.

Future **WBU Simultaneous Pairs** events will be scored using Ecats, and will be administered by the Chief Executive. Council thanked Rob Charlesworth for his work on past Simultaneous events.

Disability Discrimination Act: from 1st October 2004 the WBU and Areas may not hold events in venues without full facilities for disabled people. Clubs which allow visitors or rent out their premises to third parties will be vulnerable under the Act if they do not comply. The WBU has sent relevant information to all club secretaries; contact the Chief Executive for further information.

Changes to the **Welsh and Cambria Cups:** in 2004-5, entry will be free to teams all of whose members are ranked Regional Master and below; eight teams will be seeded to the round of 16; clubs are asked to publicise the events more extensively to their members.

To improve communication, members are asked to provide their **email addresses** to the Chief Executive: deri31@ntlworld.com. Email addresses will not be disclosed to outside agencies.

Copy deadline for next newsletter: Articles, hands, information, obituaries, photographs all welcome: send to laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk no later than 23rd April 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. Photos can be scanned, but it's easier if you can email them all the same.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.