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WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 83, May 2004

From Waterloo to Winner Takes it All

They may not conquer the world as Abba did, but two Welsh teams will be heading to Malmo by air, sea and land, to take on Europe's best in the European Championships this June.

The Seniors' team of Paul Gagne, Diana Harris, Eric and Annie Favager will pit their wits against the likes of Paul Chemla, John Collings and Dano De Falco.



Malmo

Meanwhile in the Open championship, Adrian

Thomas, Paul Denning, Patrick Jourdain, Tony Ratcliff, John Salisbury and Mike Tedd face the world-beating Italian team and other European luminaries.

Keen fans in Wales will be able to follow the action on www.bridgebase.com.

Later in the year, the Open and Senior teams will be joined in Istanbul by a Women's team for the Bridge Olympiad.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS
WBU reports record congress income. See Page 7 for full report ahead of AGM.

England fall to Celtic onslaught

The 2004 Lady Milne Trophy produced a photo finish, with England and Scotland neck and neck right up to the post.

With England only 2VPs behind going into the last match, Scotland fought bravely to wrest the trophy from their rivals' grasp and win by 6VPs.

Congratulations to the Scottish team of Suzanne Cohen, Paula Leslie, Liz McGowan, Fiona McQuaker, Jill Arthur and Sheila Macdonald on a fine win.



And well done to our team of Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey, Ann Hirst, Gilly Clench, Mary Moore and Irene Thomas, who played well throughout to achieve a comfortable third place.

Letters to the Editor

None again ☹



Play a good hand for Cancer Care

Marie Curie Cancer Care is looking for players to take part in its national Bridge Tournament.

More than 120 groups nationwide signed up last year to the fun rubber bridge event which is designed to be played in groups in supporters' homes.

Last year's winner Pat and Sandy Watt, from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, scored 15060. They received a pair of engraved crystal cut glass decanters. Runners-up were presented with exclusively designed Marie Curie Cancer Care playing cards.

The tournament is open to all levels for a donation of £18 to support the charity's work. Participants are asked to sign up to take part by the end of July. The tournament takes place between October 2004 and February 2005. The winners will be announced in March 2005.



Marie Curie

Last year the event raised £30,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. This helped the charity to provide high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their families, across the UK.

For more information on taking part please contact Tournament Director, **Philippa Cannon** on **01371 876731**.

For more information on Marie Curie Cancer Care visit their website:

<http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/>

European Bridge League TD Course, Turin 2004

I have recently returned from attending the TD course at Turin. You will recall that Ken Richardson and I attended the previous one in Tabiano in 2001. There were 57 participants compared with 60 last time, but this time I was the only representative from Wales. I wasn't among the winners of the course, on which we were tested at both the beginning and the end (laurel leaves went to Robin Baker of the EBU, so the UK contingent had a lot to be proud of), but I don't think I let you down.

It was good to meet again some of the well-known TDs we only normally read about, and to make new friends especially from among the TDs of the emerging Eastern Bloc. This year I believe 27 countries were represented.

Ken's description at that time of the intensity of the course still holds good: it was hard work and involved long hours. We stayed in a hotel which is part of the Tellecitta film studio complex, the owner being a Bridge player. Typical of the sort of hospitality that Italy affords its stars and starlets, we were well looked after, and the 24-hour availability of Lavazza Espresso served to keep us awake.

I have just sorted and filed the papers I brought home with me – a source of good bed-time reading for the next three years.

There were twenty-seven table TD-ing simulations that we studied, and barely a revoke or an opening lead out of turn among them. Maybe Ken will arrange a day when some interested Welsh TDs would like to attend a seminar where I could talk about some of these complex rulings that all exercise the TD brain cells.

The papers from Tabiano 2001 are on the European Bridge League website at <http://www.eurobridge.org/index2.html>, but all the Turin ones have not got there yet (6th March 2004).

Anne Jones

RESULTS



East Wales Congress

13th – 15th February 2004

Teams		VPs
1 st	Jon Williams, David Harris, Heather Dhondy, Jeremy Dhondy	198
2 nd	Ben Green, Duncan Happer, Justin Corfield, Glyn Preece	180
3 rd	Chris Burley, Steve Gore, Alan Cordery, Bob Holder	174
Pairs		%
1 st	Mike Hirst & Bernard Goldenfield	65.47
2 nd	Esme Parry & Daphne Patrick	64.38
3 rd	Lesley Smith & Ralph Smith	60.89

National Mixed Pairs

Elephant & Castle, Newtown, 28th-29th February 2004

1 st	Diana Jones & Steve Webb	59.60%
2 nd	Geoff Evans & Isabel Evans	59.16%
3 rd	Liz Commins & Warwick Horspool	57.08%

St. David's Day Simultaneous Pairs

Clubs, 1st-7th March 2004

1 st	Dewi Jones, Dai Hayes (Aberystwyth)	73.75%
2 nd	Mike Best & Gwynn Davis (Cardiff Bridge Club)	67.45%
3 rd	Barney Hunter & Chris Bradshaw (Merlin)	66.71%

National Open Pairs

Elephant & Castle, Newtown, 13th-14th March 2004

1 st	Tony Ratcliff, Patrick Jourdain	59.65%
2 nd	Mary Moore, Irene Thomas	57.82%
3 rd	David Stevenson, Ron Higgins	55.41%

Portland Pairs

Gwent Bridge Academy and Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, 21st March 2004

South Wales	Colin Nash, Connie Warren	60.01%
North Wales	Joy Blakey, Irving Blakey	61.51%
Top Welsh Pair	Joy Blakey, Irving Blakey – 5 th in Britain	

National Men's Pairs

Elephant & Castle, Newtown, 27th-28th March 2004

1 st	Gordon Roxburgh, Hayden Dando	57.39%
2 nd	Keith Shuttleworth, Brian Nicholls	55.48%
3 rd	Steve Webb, Tim Barsby	53.42%

National Ladies' Pairs

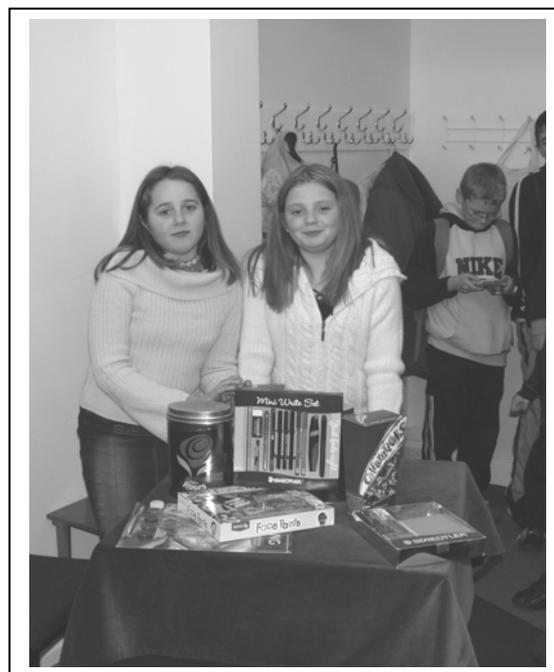
Elephant & Castle, Newtown, 27th-28th March 2004

1 st	Ann Hirst, Gilly Clench	54.14%
2 nd	Jean Hand, Maureen Borley	53.98%
3 rd	Gwen Hurst, Dorothy Phillips	53.77%

Top of the Form



Photographs from the "junior" pairs plus mini-bridge day on 22nd Feb 2004 at Mumbles bridge club

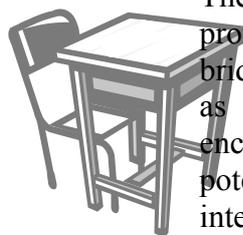


A different class

If anyone would be interested in starting a bridge class at Parc Prison or Young Offenders Institution, Bridgend (or any other prison in Wales), contact Alan Heath on 01656 300266, or email Laura: laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk



HMP Parc



The WBU is actively promoting the teaching of bridge in schools, and will give as much help and encouragement as possible to potential teachers, anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of bridge for numeracy, memory and concentration contact Linda Greenland.

Travel Tips: No. 1 - France

Many bridge players visit local clubs or congresses when abroad on holiday. To help make the experience less daunting, we'll try to publish a few helpful hints when space allows.

♠:	Pique	P
♥:	Coeur	C
♦:	Carreau	K
♣:	Trefle	T
No-trump:	Sans-atout	SA
Suit:	Couleur	
Trick:	Levée	
Lead:	Entame	
Game:	Jeu	
Slam:	Chelème	
Transfers:	Texas	
4-card majors:	Majeures quatrièmes	
Weak no trump:	Sans-atout faible	

Most French players play the *Système Français*: 5-card majors, strong no trump and Benji. You must alert weak no trump, 4-card majors; and also 1♣ and 1♦ if they guarantee four cards. It is normal not to alert any bid above 3NT.

Mikey's Musings by Mike Close

It is just an ordinary evening in your local club duplicate, and you pick up the following very ordinary hand:

♠ Q 4, ♥ K 8 4 3, ♦ K 9 8 6, ♣ 7 4 2

You are East, non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, and South, the dealer, opens 1♣. The bidding proceeds:

East	South	West	North
1♣	1♠	1♥ (!)	

Your opponents are two ordinary players, stalwarts who turn up every week just for the game and in the hope that they can get one good result against you, the club experts.

There is a pause at the table, as everyone bar the unaware North contemplates this insufficient bid. You decide to explain to North that you don't want to accept the bid. As it is a friendly game, you ask if the director should be called. The lady is, however, aware that she can make the bid good by bidding hearts at the appropriate level, but there are penalties if she changes her bid to another suit or a double. She apologises profusely and puts 2♥ down on the table, whereupon the bidding proceeds

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
-	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

This becomes the final contract. Partner contemplates his lead for a short time, and then leads a medium diamond.

[Hand opposite]

Declarer wins in dummy as you duck, and plays on clubs. On winning the king, partner is still reluctant to lead spades, and so leads another diamond. Declarer eventually makes 11 tricks, losing the kings of clubs and hearts. The scoresheet reveals only one other result, 3NT by South making eight, on an initial spade lead, but you know this is a very bad result for you.

Board 3		♠ 9 8 3
Dlr: South	♥ A Q J 9 7	
Vul: NS	♦ Q 10 3	
	♣ Q 9	
♠ K J 10 7 2		♠ Q 4
♥ 6 5 2		♥ K 8 4 3
♦ 7 5 4		♦ K 9 8 6
♣ K 6		♣ 7 4 2
	♠ A 6 5	
	♥ 10	
	♦ A J 2	
	♣ A J 10 8 5 3	

Q: So are you one of those players to shout at partner for not leading the obvious spade?

Is partner an idiot? I know of many players (especially those who are good (or think they are good)) would simply explode at this point. I expect you do too. In practice, all this does is destroy partners concentration for the next board, and he makes another mistake (which is therefore also YOUR fault).

However you don't shout at your partner for not leading a spade, you think about the hand as you move to the next table. Eventually you say "I'm sorry partner, it's my fault. If I had doubled 3NT you would have lead a spade, and we would have a top."

What a good partner you are! No wonder people want to play with you, you look at your own actions first, rather than instantly blaming partner. But partner replies "Yes, that would have told me to lead a spade, but I think that's a very brave action on your part, with quite a poor hand. That wasn't the reason that I didn't lead a spade."

Q: So, what was the actual reason partner did not lead a spade?

(Pause before reading on..)

..
..
....

A: Because you could have accepted the insufficient bid and bid 1♠!

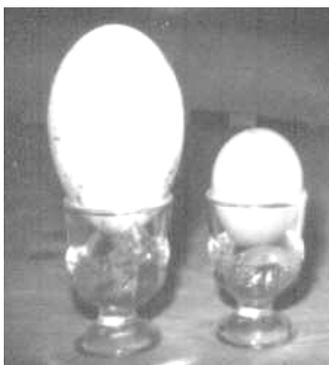
If you had ♠Qxx or ♠Qxxx you would have raised to 2♠ over North's bid, wouldn't you? This is what 'The Law'^{*} tells us to do, to bid to the level of the number of trumps we hold. So Qx is good enough for a 'raise' of 1♠ to 1♠. And partner was good enough to examine what actions you didn't take when you had the chance, and use that information to select the lead.

The moral of the story is: when opponents present you with a cheap or unusual opportunity to help partner, take advantage.

* *The Law of Total Tricks, explained in several books by Larry Cohen, the first being "To Bid or Not to Bid"*.

Mikey

Around the Ash Bucket



One of my tasks as Editor is to fill any space left vacant by other contributors, so the almost-country diary is longer than usual. Luckily there is plenty to report.

When we moved into the house, the former scullery contained some horrid black shelves; and an elderly oil-fired boiler which had left smuts all over the dingy cobalt-blue walls. I planned to use this room as my office, since it led conveniently off the kitchen, and early investigations with a hammer and chisel had revealed a pretty little hatch into the living room. I painted half the room in cream and put up some proper shelves for my WBU files. The other half had to wait until the boiler and its exhaust fumes had gone.

At Christmas 2002 we had the gas put in, and by May last year we had saved up enough for a new boiler, so in January this year I finally embarked on sugar-soaping and painting the other half of the room. The best-laid plans ... when we took off a skirting board to paint it,

it fell to pieces in our hands. Far from slapping a quick litre or two on the walls and enjoying my nice clean office, I found myself moving the computer and all my files into the kitchen while an acre of plaster was hacked off and some offensive and, no doubt, ecologically unsound chemical applied to all the rotten timber in the walls. The room is now finished – Jon laid the last piece of laminate flooring ten minutes before the Hirsts, Liam Sheridan and Gwyneth Dew arrived for dinner one Saturday – and I can sit and type in congenial surroundings.

Meanwhile, back in the farmyard, Jon has discovered the well. He dug out a few hundredweight of rubble, beer cans, old carpet, rusted and mysterious implements and old wellington boots, but once the hole was at about head height he decided to stop and turn it into a pond. We'll dig deeper when we've made a proper pond on the other side of the garden next year, but to Gretel the temporary water feature is a delight; and it is a delight to us to watch her swimming around on it. I bought about £20 worth of water plants, as instructed by Alan Titchmarsh, but Gretel simply regarded them as wet food and immediately ate them all.

The chickens continue to thrive and lay eggs. They enjoy eating the ants and worms exposed by Jon's excavations, and will also try to eat the "worms" on the end of one's feet if one is careless enough to wear open-toed sandals in the garden. Gretel, too, has been laying (I suppose geese, being in principle migratory, lay eggs seasonally). She becomes very affectionate after she's made an egg, and will allow me to stroke her head and neck.



And we have a hedgehog and her baby nesting, if that's what hedgehogs do, in the barn. They come out at night, and bury their heads, ostrich-like, in the hay when we switch the light on. Given the cats' penchant for killing small animals (and the odd sausage), it's lucky they've protected themselves with spines.

Lau

The Welsh Bridge Union Accounts 2003-2004

The results of the WBU for the last two years are shown below, together with a forecast of what should happen in the year we have just entered. WBU financial policy is to aim for a surplus in traditional activities equal to our investment income of £2548; the actual surplus was £2610.

Membership has fallen slightly in the year from 2043 to 2036.

Congress income has benefited by £5112 thanks to the two successful new congresses organised by the WBU at Cwmbran.

Income from competitions is deceptive; this year we have had an extra simultaneous pairs competition and held the Mens & Ladies Pairs twice – thus boosting competition income by £1215. Removing this you will see that competition income is down; this is partly due to a policy of setting prizes at more realistic levels, and partly due to lower participation.

The increase in other income is mainly interest which rose from £1704 to £2610.

It is expected that the cost of Home internationals will reduce next year when the Camrose format reduces from five weekends to two.

Honoraria & Fees have increased due to Council's decision to Increase the Chief Executive's fee to £5500 per annum; this is split between the main accounts & world fund proportional to workload. Savings have been made in meetings & other expenses thanks to more centralisation, the reduction of the number of Council meetings from 4 to 3 per annum, and the increased use of electronic communication. Our plans for the future are to continue along these lines, and place more emphasis on supporting junior bridge and bridge promotion.

The original BGB agreement on Sim Pairs income has ended; as a result of this the World fund has had a bumper payout of £25680 this year. The figure for the next

three years is likelier to be nearer £8000 per annum. 2004, being an even numbered year, has two major events and so the fund will fall. This will be partially recouped in odd numbered years.

The figures above and this commentary have of necessity been summarised; a full copy of the accounts has been sent to every club. If members have further questions they are welcome to attend the AGM or contact me directly.

Linda Greenland
Treasurer

	Year Ended 31/3/2003	Year Ended 31/3/2004	Estimate 31/3/2005
Income			
Subscriptions	9285	9625	11400
Less EBL/WBF	(1781)	(1732)	(1800)
Net WBU Subs	7504	7892	9600
Masterpoints	8777	8477	8500
Congresses	9796	13428	14000
Competitions	5974	5376	4000
Other Income	1766	3010	3000
Total Income	33817	38183	39100
Expenses			
Home Internationals	15482	17254	14000
Trials & Training	2377	1176	2500
Honoraria & Fees	3415	7888	8500
Meetings	2149	1163	1700
Member Publications	2930	3768	4000
Other Expenses	4984	4324	6000
Excess Income	2480	2610	2400
Total	33817	38183	39100
World Fund			
NCBO Income	17976	30461	13000
Less Expenses	(15732)	(5194)	(30000)
Increase in Fund	2244	25267	(17000)

Bidding Challenge No. 6

Once again many thanks to the panellists for their time and courage in answering these problems. This was a very tough set – two contestants Simon Richards and Betty Lewis did well to achieve the top score of 62 – Betty’s name came out of the hat first so a cheque for £25 is on its way to her. David Williams of Wrexham was third with 61.

Make sure you enter set 7 on page 12 - answers to Linda Greenland by post, email (deri31@ntlworld.com) by August 8th. I am also looking for problem hands.

The Experts’ View

Question 1

Dlr: South
 Vul: Love all
 Scoring: Teams

South
 ♠ A K 10
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ A 10 9 4 2
 ♣ A Q 2

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1 ♦
Dbl	1 ♠	Pass	?

Marks: 2NT 10, 3♠ 7, others 5

The panel came out strongly in favour of bidding NT with balanced hands:

Tim: 2NT. It’s generally best to bid NT on balanced hands as soon as possible so that partner can make an informed decision on the final contract. On this hand, partner can check for a 5-3 spade fit if he’s bidding on so we won’t miss 4♠. The alternative is to bid 2♣, but this will get very messy if partner raises – even if he bids 2♦ I’m not much better off.

Paul: 2NT forcing showing 18-19 balanced. Partner can still show a five-card spade suit or diamond support so we will get to the right game. How many readers play transfers after a 2NT rebid? It’s a very good idea.

Dafydd: 2NT. I know it’s not ideal but I think it’s the best description.

Chris: 2NT. Showing 17-19 balanced - the only problem is can you stop in 3♠ if partner is weak with 5♠?

A light comes on and now I see the advantages of playing transfers over the 2NT rebid as advocated by Paul.

MikeT: 3♠ - there is no fully satisfactory bid. 4♠ may well be the right contract even if partner only has four. Partner will bid 3NT

with a balanced hand where that is the right contract.

Question 2

Dlr: West
 Vul: Game All
 Scoring: Teams

South
 ♠ A 6 5 3 2
 ♥ A 10 8 3 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Marks: 3NT 10, 5♣ 9, 3♥ 8, Pass 7, others 5

The panel split between those who think vulnerable pre-empts in 2nd position should be good, and those who think they are likely to be 13 cards with a few more clubs than usual.

Paul: 3NT and keep my fingers crossed. I trust partner's vulnerable pre-empts

MikeT: 3NT. When pre-empts were more to be relied on, I’d have bid 5♣ with great confidence. Nowadays the risk that there might be only ten tricks in clubs is greater than the risk of losing five diamonds in 3NT – we should have nine tricks when we get in.

Dafydd: 5♣ - 3NT would be very cheeky.

MikeC: 5♣ - Might be a trick short, but it’s teams. Partner is pre-empting in second seat, and therefore should be sound. But it doesn't have to be KQJxxxx, so 3NT would be a mistake, and the majors aren't solid enough to play there. Might pass if I was playing with Gwynn, and hope he can make 9 tricks. *In case you think this is a vile slur on a solid bidder we hear from the man himself...*

Gwynn: Pass. Playing with myself (as they say) this is hardly a problem. With a 'sound' partner opposite it's mildly tempting to bid a major, but which one? Anyway,

even if you choose the right one, game is still odds against.

Tim: 3♥. Partner has opened second in hand vulnerable, so should have KQ to seven clubs, and usually an outside card as well. I could try 3NT and hope they can't cash 5 diamonds. However, 3♥ is better. If partner bids 3NT, his diamond stop will be protected. He can also raise hearts, or bid 3♠ with three. A good agreement in this type of auction is that partner can't go past 3NT (unless he's raising your suit).

Question 3

Dlr: West

South

Vul: EW

♠ K Q J 5 4

Scoring: Teams

♥ 3

♦ A K 7

♣ 10 9 6 2

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

¹ Unassuming Cue bid

Marks: 3♣ 10, 2NT 9, 3NT 8, others 5

Tim: 3♣. I'm better than minimum, so I bid the suit where I want help. I'd prefer to have a honour in clubs, but nothing else is better.

MikeT: 3♣. By my standards this is a very good overcall, and 2♠ could be passed. So I develop the hand naturally. I'll bid 3NT over 3♥.

MikeC: 3♣, need-help-in-this-suit game try.

Chris: 2NT. Opening hand with 5 spades and a diamond stop.

Paul: 2NT seems to describe the hand best.

Dafydd: 3NT – partner can always convert and may sometimes be forced to bid 2♦ without 3 spades.

Would a new suit by partner be forcing here? Does it make any difference that he is a passed hand?

Question 4

Dlr: South

South

Vul: Love All

♠ A 8

Scoring: Teams

♥ 9 5 3 2

♦ 6

♣ A J 9 6 5 2

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

Marks: 3NT 10, 3♠ 9, 3♥ 8, 4♣ 7, others 5

Tim: 3NT. 3♦ is forcing, so I have to bid. I might as well pick the bid that gives the greatest reward if it's right. Partner can't have four hearts, so there's no point in bidding 3♥.

MikeC: 3NT. Most likely game. Partner had splinters available at the three level to agree clubs (1♦ - 2♣ - 2♥ is forcing so 1♦ - 2♣ - 3♥ is a splinter). Could be wrong on certain hands, but hey, that's bridge.

Chris: 3♥. With outside stops, 3NT by partner is probably the best contract – I'd never pass 3♦.

Dafydd: 3♠. We may be better in 5/6 minor than 3NT if partner has a heart shortage.

Paul: 3♠ showing a stop below 3NT. After my response at the two level, a 3♦ rebid is forcing so pass is not an option.

MikeT: 3NT. I am tempted to pass, but two aces make me hopeful of nine tricks in NT – it is teams.

Question 5

Dlr: West

South

Vul: EW

♠ Q 10 9 6 4

Scoring: Pairs

♥ K 10 5

♦ J 7 6

♣ 8 7

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

Marks: 4♥ 10, 3♦ 9, 3♥ 8, 3♣ 7, 2♠ 6, others 5

Gwynn: 4♥. Partner has a very shapely red-suited hand, including at least 5 hearts, and that suits me pretty well.

Paul: 4♥ - my red suit holdings are very suitable.

Dafydd: 3♦. I had a 2♦ bid on the first round, 3♦ is probably best now.

MikeC: 3♦. Good problem. In context I have quite a decent hand for partner, but it's pairs, where plus scores count. Pass or 3♥

might be right to score 140 or 170. Partner did not reopen with a double, so is likely to have very short spades, perhaps 1-4-5-3 or 0-4-6-3. If she is 1-5-6-1 she will probably make another bid and I can offer ♥ as an alternative.

Tim: 3♥. This is an unusual auction; partner will try to reopen with a double whenever possible. When he doesn't, it's usually because he has an outside singleton. Also, with three cards in clubs, he will pass unless he's strong. Partner could be 0562, 1462 (strong) or 1453 (very strong). 4♥ is the most likely game, so I'll raise. I can't bid 3♣ here, as that would suggest that I was going to pass 2♣X for penalties (and therefore a stronger hand).

Chris: 3♣, to find out if partner has 5♥ or is 6-4; I'll raise whatever suit he bids. He is unlikely to have spade tolerance and 2♠ would be weak with 6 spades. *Or not*

MikeT: 2♠. I have a few values, so this seems more positive than giving preference to diamonds.

Question 6

Dlr: West
 Vul: Game all
 Scoring: Teams

South
♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ 7
♦ K J 8 3
♣ K 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
2♠	Dbl	3♠	?

Marks: 4NT 10, 4♠ 9, Double 8, Pass 7, others 5

Tim: 4NT. It looks like partner is void in spades, and if we can make 3NT, we can probably make slam in a minor. It may be right to defend 3♠X, and I might do this if game was our limit. However, the chance of making slam looks too great to double now. 4NT shows both minors and a good hand, and partner can bid slam with a suitable hand (a 5-card minor and not many wasted values in hearts). I'll pass five of a minor if he bids that.

Paul: 4♠ showing both minors. My hand has suddenly become much better.

Dafydd: 4♠ – pick a minor.

did not reopen with a double, so is likely to *What is the difference between 4♠ and 4NT for the minors? It's clear you haven't got hearts as you would have bid them before now.*

Chris: Double. This should be penalties but if he bids, I will raise 4m to 5m, and bid 4NT for the minors over 4♥.

MikeT: I'm not sure we can make a game and have no easy way to find the right fit. 3♠ should go down, but if I double, partner may bid 4♥ on a five card suit. I hope he doubles again!

Question 7

Dlr: North	South
Vul: Game all	♠ K J 7 5 3
Scoring: Teams	♥ 6
	♦ A 7 3
	♣ A 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
3♥	3♠	5♥	?

Marks: 5♠ 10, 6♠ 9, Double 8, others 5

Tim: 5♠. I don't like doing this, as I believe the five level belongs to the opposition. However, it's pairs and I don't think we'll get enough from 5♥X to compensate for the vulnerable game. Partner has probably stretched to bid 3♠, so it's unlikely we can make slam. At teams, I'd double 5♥.

Gwynn: 5♠. Partner doesn't promise the world for 3♠ (although he will have 4 spades), so I think this is enough. A pass wouldn't be forcing here, so I can't pass the buck even if I wanted to.

MikeT: 6♠. It is hard to find a hand for partner where 6♠ won't have play. They may well sacrifice anyway.

MikeC: 6♠. Partner may have had to stretch with 3♠ over 3♥, but even so we are playing with a 30-point pack here, so this has to be a fair shot.

Paul: 6♠ - bid the slam quickly and confidently. It may be the right thing to do. At the vulnerability they may wrongly sacrifice when the slam is not making.

Chris: Double. 3♠ did not sound very strong, so even 5♠ may not be safe.

Question 8

Dlr: East

Vul: EW

Scoring: Teams

South

♠ J 7 4

♥ K 5 3 2

♦ K Q T

♣ Q 7 4

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

Marks: 2♥ 10, 2♣ 9, 3♥ 8, others 5

Tim: 2♥. I'm maximum for this, but I've no shape. We're unlikely to miss 4♥, as partner will probably have enough to raise if we've got game on. I can't bid no trumps as my club stop isn't good enough, I don't want to cuebid as there's only one suit I want to play in, and 3♥ is too much (it may not make if partner is minimum, especially if he doesn't have four hearts).

MikeT: 2♥. This hand isn't worth its apparent 11 points, so I'll bid quietly.

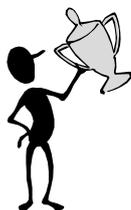
Gwynn: 2♥. This isn't much of a hand, despite the 11-count, and partner doesn't even have to have 4 hearts, so I think 2♥ is enough to be going on with. I'll bid 3 if required.

MikeC: 2♣. Great problem, as there are so many possible answers. For me double would show spades, catching a possible psych, not responsive, so that is out. I have a maximum pass, so I think the cue bid is about right, and forcing to suit agreement. Partner does not always have 4♥ in this position (she would double 1♣ with 4-3-4-2) so a rush to 3♥ could be wrong. 2NT (natural) is a possibility, the hand is a tad too heavy for 1NT but is very flat.

Chris: 2♣. Maximum pass – other choice 1NT showing 9-11 balanced. My regular partners are probably wondering why they forgot to open this hand.

Paul: 3♥. An awkward choice - at least this expresses my values.

Hands for set 7 are on Page 12.



Anagram Anthology



Following my call in the last Newsletter for more anagrams, Robert Upton supplied the following, remarking that inventing anagrams was harder than bridge:

Tony Ratcliff = FLINT FACTORY
Peter Goodman = TOP ANGER MODE?

More amusing anagrams welcomed.

Kantar Korner

Some fun quotations, taken from Eddie Kantar's Website www.kantarbridge.com. Some have been sent to him, others he used from his classes.

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last a lifetime, he can't afford to waste much of it on bridge partners.

Alfred Sheinwold

Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a large number of antisocial people.

Unattributed

"Where's the hand you held during the auction?"

Jan Nanitschke when he saw the dummy

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit; (2) sudden death.

Alfred Sheinwold

I ask my friend John Levinson for a tip. He says he never preempts against weak players because it takes away all those levels that they could be using to confuse themselves.

Eddie Kantar

Gerber Grotto

An occasional series devoted to spectacular examples of the (mis)use of Gerber (*see "Ask Mikey", Newsletter 82, February 2004*).

LHO	Partner	RHO	Me
4♣*	4♦	4♥*	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Me: "What did 4♣ mean?" RHO: "Gerber".

More examples of garbled Gerber welcomed.

WBU Bidding Challenge – Set 7

Answers to Linda by 8th August 2004

Hand 1	Game all - Scoring: Teams			
♠ 10973	West	North	East	South
♥ AK10865	-	1♥	Dbl	?
♦ 5				
♣ 62				
Hand 2	Game all - Scoring: Teams			
♠ KQ42	West	North	East	South
♥ AKJ742	-	-	-	1♥
♦ void	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
♣ J42	Pass	3♦	Dbl	?
Hand 3	Game all - Scoring: Teams			
♠ K3	West	North	East	South
♥ QJ8632	-	1§	1NT	?
♦ A9874				
♣ void				
Hand 4	EW Vul - Scoring: Teams			
♠ 763	West	North	East	South
♥ KJ98	-	1♦	Pass	1♥
♦ 4	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
♣ Q10762	2♠	3♣	3♠	?
Hand 5	Love all - Scoring: Teams			
♠ AJ104	West	North	East	South
♥ 53	-	-	3♣	Pass
♦ Q104	Pass	4♣	Pass	?
♣ A1042				
Hand 6	NS Vul - Scoring: Teams			
♠ A103	West	North	East	South
♥ 82	-	1♥	Pass	2♦
♦ AKJ1063	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
♣ 98	Pass	3♠	Pass	?
Hand 7	EW Vul - Scoring: Teams			
♠ Q1076	West	North	East	South
♥ 10	-	1♠	2♥	?
♦ 642				
♣ AJ754				
Hand 8	EW Vul - Scoring: Teams			
♠ AJ9642	West	North	East	South
♥ 43	-	Pass	Pass	1♠
♦ K	2♦	Dbl ¹	Pass	?
♣ AQJ5				

¹ take out

Our Man in Malta

Simon Gottschalk reports from the Malta Bridge Festival, March 2004

It was my first time at the Malta Bridge Festival and although I have visited Malta many times on business, I had never had time to visit Gozo. Apart from the bridge itself, the Malta Bridge festival is a great opportunity to meet people from different countries and make new friends. Sometimes you also meet old friends that you haven't seen for a long time.

I arrived on Friday afternoon and was met at the airport by hosts, Margaret and Mario. Several other bridge addicts were also on the same plane, but my crude attempts to get them to identify themselves by waving the bridge classic "To Bid Or Not To Bid" by Larry Cohen around on the plane had failed miserably. However, the suggestion of a Saturday trip to the island of Gozo (population 28,000) met with more success, and the next morning I set out for the Gozo ferry with Tessa, Simona and Paul. Of course, if you put four bridge players together for the day, the conversation will always eventually turn to bridge. To cater for this eventuality, we decided to have lunch at the Il-Panzier Restaurant in Victoria, the main town on Gozo. We had been told that the owner, Valentino Valenti was a keen bridge player and the food would be excellent. We were not disappointed on either front. The food was indeed excellent, and Valentino was pleased to explain his bidding system to us. As all the food is cooked to order, Valentino said we would have time to play a few hands between courses and he set-up a bridge table.

We spent the afternoon being given a guided tour of Gozo by taxi returning just in time for the first bridge session of the festival – the "Welcome Pairs".

Most written-up hands are based on events that go "right" at the bridge table. So the following hands are slightly different!

For me a good partner is one who takes your bad bids and turns them into good ones and also who doesn't get upset after a bad board. The following hand is instructive:

Board 19: ♠ J 3 2
Dir: South ♥ A 9 8 7 6 4 2
Vul: EW ♦ A
 ♣ 10 2

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

♠ A 10 8
 ♥ K 4 3
 ♦ J 8 7 2
 ♣ J 6 4

South	West	North	East
(Simon)		(Simona)	
Pass	3♣ ¹	4♥ ²	Pass
Pass	5♣ ³	Pass	Pass
5♥?? ⁴	All pass		

- ¹ 5-5 in minors
- ² If you are in a competitive auction and have a good 7+-card suit, bidding at the 4 level is usually correct – the word "good" can hardly apply to North's suit, but this is pairs and our partnership style is to pressure opponents.
- ³ Not a good bid; partner knows you have 5 clubs, why tell him that you have 6 or 7?
- ⁴ Probably my worst bid of the evening! Partner has pressured opponents into making a 5 level guess. Why turn partner's good bid into a bad result by making a 5 level guess of your own. I think that "double" is correct here even though once in a while ♣ may make and that partner may make 5♥ occasionally.

On the actual hand 5♣ will go 3 down on accurate defence - ♦A lead, South playing the ♦J to suggest a ♠ switch, the spade to the ace, a ♦ ruff, South playing the ♦8 to suggest a heart return, North underleads ♥A, and a further trick for EW would lead to -800 and a clear top.

But that's the good thing about a partner who can turn your bad bids into good results – the lead was ♣Q, then a ♦ switch (yes East believed that West had more than five clubs

too!). North won and ran the hearts, and in the ensuing confusion, managed to finesse the ♠8, losing to the king, and make the ten of clubs. I still don't know quite how this happened. Although not an outright top, +450 was still a good (but lucky) result.

We won the Welcome event, but our best effort in the main Pairs competitions was 3rd in the Open; and a 3rd for my partner in the Ladies' - luckily for her, she wasn't playing with me. We fared better in the Teams.

We sat down with our team-mates from the Malta Bridge Club, Maria Farrugia and Albert Sacco and argued over who would be captain – no-one wanted the responsibility. The organisers put us down as the Sacco team. The initial team talk was interesting. Has anyone played much teams bridge? I asked. I was hoping for a positive response as I am not really a teams player: I have difficulty with the words “safe”, “safety play” and “try to defeat the contract”. Partner claimed to have played some IMPs on the Internet. Team-mates remained silent throughout though I was aware that Albert had represented Malta. OK, I said, we'll just play it like pairs but not worry about the over-tricks.

At the end of the first session we had won all three matches and were up with the leaders. The second session was played late at night. I had been at work from 8am to 1pm, played Session 1 from 2pm to 7pm, and then started session 2 at around 8.30. I needed matchsticks to prop my eyes open. It was now around 11.00 and we played a match against a Sicilian team. The following controversial disaster occurred:

Board 6

Dlr E

Vul: EW

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥(i)	Pass	4♥

i) Probably showed 4♥

Now the hands as we could see them – South was dummy:

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

I led the ♦6. When dummy went down, partner started to laugh. I wasn't quite with it, but soon realised that dummy had 14 cards. We all counted our cards to make sure we had the right number. Then the Director was called. We established that South hadn't counted his cards before looking at them, and that the extra card was from the previous deal (South had not only failed to count his hand, he had also misboarded a card from the previous hand into this hand!) The Director told us to play the next hand; when he returned he ruled that we should play the hand with the extra card removed, a surprising ruling given that our opponents had infringed the rules. North demonstrated good technique to bring home his impossible contract. We mistakenly tried to cash three rounds of diamonds; North discarded a ♣ on the third round, won the ♠ switch, drew trumps, set up the 4th ♣ in dummy for a ♠ discard for +420.

At about one in the morning, seeing my agitated state, a kind opponent offered me a glass of whisky. I thought this sounded like a really good idea and accepted. The lady opened her handbag, produced a whisky flask and poured me a “large” one. The session finally ended at around 1.45am.

A good performance by our team-mates meant we had won the event with a match to spare, but we all wanted to play the last, against Mark Horton (Eng.), Margaret Parnis-England (Malta), Pony Nehmert and Claus Daehr (Ger.). I thought we had had a solid set against Pony and Claus, but against top class players, the final results can be surprising, and my solid set was revealed to be a poor one.

Menorca Once More



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

The Hotel S'Algar is still proving as popular as ever with bridge players so we'll be returning 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. Choice of apartments or hotel rooms. Director is **Graham Hedley**.

Price from **£829.00*** is based on Gatwick but other airports are available at a supplement. Includes air travel; airport taxes; insurance; transfers from airport to resort; full board; full bridge programme; prizes; and special events as specified. *Single occupancy add £75.00.

Magical Madeira

PESTANA BAY HOTEL, nr FUNCHAL

15th-29th November 2004

Our first holiday at the Pestana Bay was a huge success. Situated on one of the island's beachfront sites, Praia Formosa, this four star hotel offers mainly sea view twin bedrooms with balconies. Bridge is under the friendly direction of **Graham Hedley**.

Cost **£869.00*** is based on Gatwick but other airports are available at a supplement. Includes half board, bridge fees, entertainment, transfers and airport duties. *Single occupancy add £129.00.

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. Cost of this holiday is from just **£829.00** to include full board, bridge fees and transfers.

MENORCA FOR IMPROVERS

We'll be running holidays for less experienced players and improvers in Menorca again in 2005 with Andrew Kambites. Dates and times available later or keep an eye on our website - bridge-holidays.com

UK Bridge Breaks at Thistle Hotels

CARDIFF New Year

Thu 30th Dec 2004 - Sun 2nd Jan 2005

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. Director **Graham Hedley**.

Located in the heart of Cardiff, this Victorian hotel has been beautifully restored to offer luxury with sophistication and provides high standards of service. Half board, full Welsh afternoon tea, and all bridge fees. Five course gala new year's eve dinner, cocktails, champagne, piper, entertainment **£299.00** per person. Limited number of singles available without supplement.



GRASMERE Six nights: 7th-13th March 2005

An attractive 72-bedroom hotel with the style of an old country house, situated in the heart of the Lake District, a few minutes walk to the village of Grasmere and perfectly placed to enjoy the splendid local walking. Choice of bedroom styles to suit all budgets: Lake View **£399.00**, Standard **£345.00**, Economy **£295.00**. Prices are per person and include all bridge plus dinner and full breakfast daily with free tea and coffee during all bridge sessions. Director **Graham Hedley**.

BRISTOL Weekend: 18th - 20th March 2005

This distinguished 4-star hotel is situated in the heart of the city. Its luxurious 182 en-suite bedrooms are designed and furnished for maximum comfort. The Hotel recently opened the Otium Health and Leisure Club, the largest hotel leisure complex within the city centre. Cost per person half board **£149.00** for two nights plus four sessions of bridge. Director **Andrew Kambites**.

CHELTENHAM Five nights: 30th May - 4th June 2005

This modern hotel is situated in its own grounds on the edge of Cheltenham just one mile from junction 11 of the M5. All 122 en-suite bedrooms are furnished to high standards and all include satellite TV plus tea and coffee making facilities. There is an Otium Leisure Club and two all-weather tennis courts. Cost per person half board **£339.00** for five nights. Director **Andrew Kambites**.

Brochures and booking forms for all the above holidays from: **FIRST FOR BRIDGE**

4 The Lyes, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5HF

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

E-mail - info@bridge-holidays.com



Keep up to date with all the latest First for Bridge news and our new £75 prize competition by logging on to our web site at www.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/WBU



Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

Here's the latest news: (News again? I'm turning into Charlotte Green. If this keeps up I'll be taken up by News International Corp. and syndicated around the world.) Yesterday I entered the first batch of Online Bridge Club points for our members. Online points have different rules from ordinary points so before I was allowed to enter any, Mike, my husband, programmer, and general slave (I wish) insisted we made lots of tests in case the changes we'd made to the MP system, over the last couple of years, had affected the Online Points features which had been ready and waiting but never used. This was also a chance for me to ask for a couple of new things and for Mike to tidy some of the programs which have grown greatly since I started using them (I suppose that's because it's too easy for me to say innocently across the dinner table "It would be very nice if I could...." And then, perhaps after a sigh from Mike, the computer is made to do something new. I know I'm spoiled, because if I had to write down everything I think of and send it off to someone else, I'd probably never bother).

Testing isn't ever a waste of time, but it does take a lot, and I don't ever seem to have any to spare. Whilst I was counting points and doing useful work, I often had to put up with Mike standing over me muttering "I thought we were going to test the programs again today." When I say "Don't nag me," he claims to be the only one brave enough to do so. Still we got through it in the end, so if you play online, contact the Online Bridge club and ask to have your points transferred to me, making sure to give them your WBU number. I have a list of those whose online points have been sent to me so far; it's very small so I'll see if the editor (another one who nags me) can find space for it.

We have to have codes for the different points entries (LP for Local Points, WBSN for The Seniors Congress, for example) and we chose "NET" for the Online Points. Whilst we were involved in all the testing, the WBU computer was attacked again and again by a virus called "NETSKY", I wondered if it was trying to tell us something.

Now something else new, though not good news! Recently I've had several letters returned by the Post Office because members had moved house and I had only an old address. If you do move please make sure you let either me or the membership secretary know you have done so, then we can keep your records up to date. Also, please don't send me an envelope with just points in, always include something with your name and address, even if not my preferred SAE. Oh, and a witty letter to amuse me definitely helps.

Now, a complaint which isn't new, but about something which is getting more of a problem to me. Please make sure you put sufficient postage on your letters: it doesn't take many MP slips before they need more than a first class stamp. The postmen can no longer take payment for excess postage at the door and I now have to go to the main Post Office to pay the excess amount, plus one pound for the privilege,

before I can collect the letters. When I'm very busy and do not have time to go out this can mean a delay of some days, putting such letters way back in my queue. (I expect at this point some of you are going "Doesn't she nag?" again.) Anyway, I received a letter the other day with the correct postage made by a row of nine stamps. As far as I'm concerned this is both excellent and a record.

An official Post Office letter the other day informed me that from now on our post will not be delivered before midday, and there will be no longer be a second post. I pity the postman who will have to carry all the year end mail on busy days. There was so much today it was carried up to my study in a supermarket bag. But I certainly won't miss staggering down the stairs in my dressing gown, half asleep, when the early postman rang the bell for a signature at half past six in the morning.

I was stuck in horrendous traffic the other weekend on my way to play in an event, but being stationary managed to phone Mike to ask him to call the club to say I was on my way. He complained later that although there was normally a phone number for the club secretary in the Journal, there was rarely one for a club. At least in this case the strange new 118 directory enquiry system worked and he found the number. (Did you hear that since they changed from the old 192 to dozens of 118 numbers there have been far fewer enquiries? Too confusing, perhaps. Like I heard the more different kinds of jams supermarkets put on the shelves, the fewer they sell.) I've got a suggestion: perhaps for the next Journal clubs could supply a phone number for urgent contacts. If the club does not have its own premises it could say "valid only when the club meets" or something similar (or shorter). Personally, I shan't take that annoying route where I was held up again, not only because I missed the first round, costing us valuable points, but also because I had to put up with Mike reminding me he had mentioned there are often traffic problems just where I was stuck.

After my "Advantages of playing bridge No. 1" in the last newsletter, I expected people would write in with more, but so far nothing. Nor have I had any stories (except one I can't repeat). There have been a couple of odd things to intrigue us, though. Someone half remembering an obituary note Mike wrote, transferred him from author to subject and I got commiseration on his demise. Then more recently, a similar mistake led to me getting a letter on my retirement as MP secretary. Mike says he doesn't intend to go just yet, and I'm not yet ready to retire. Mike says that when I do retire, somebody, probably having taken early retirement and looking for something to do, will volunteer to take over. They'll arrive here to learn the computer system, try that, see all the shelves of files, boxes of points, masses of data, (not to mention those letters at the Post Office) and will decide they need to go back to work. (It's not that bad a job, honest.)

And now I must make the promotion list and then back to the points. I've over a hundred letters in my backlog at the moment, many more than usual at this time, so perhaps more people are sending their points in early this year. I'll be grateful if they are. Though I expect early in May I'll still get at least one call asking "Is it too late to send in points?" By then, it is!

Noelle@glanmor45.freemove.co.uk

Noelle

List of Promotions for each Rank: 30th January 2004 to 20th April 2004

Club Master

Tricia Davies	H
Gwynant Edwards	A
Donald Ellis	PW
C Stuart Evans	MG
Eifion Evans	PW
Angela Gilbert	C
Vida Halford	P
Matthew Henson	BR
Marion Higton	CBY
Martyn Ingham	C
Marilyn Jones	BR
Roy Jones	CN
Stephanie Nicholas	PT
Colin Nunn	OH
Judith Nunn	OH
Harry Starr	MG

Local Master

Susan Anthony	P
David Clay	D
Margaret Evans	Y
Irene Flannigan	GA
David Foot	CAR
Roy France	WS
Joan Gallagher	GA
Malcolm James	NT
Mary Jones	SU
Owen E Jones	LP
Emma Knagg	C
Eric Knagg	C
Lyn Martin	GA
David Opie	BRE
Jean Pollard	MER
Alun Richards	A
Marion Shewell	GA
Vic Smith	BEN

County Master

David Batterley	AA
Jean Brooks	MG
Clive Dummer	S
Ian Dunlingson	OH
Jean Flynn	C
Chris Overton	H
John Owen	Y
Allen Williams	CN
Vivian Woolley	BEN

Master

Doreen Anthony	A
Hana Backer	C
Beryl Baker	S
Roger Bowman	PV
Daphne Caddy	BR
Bill Carter	WS
Beryl M Gibbs	P
Roy Hobson	PR
Kenneth Jenkins	P
Kath Moore	NT
Val Stoyle	C
Elaine Thomas	C
Derek Walmsley	PR
Joy Williams	CD

Advanced Master

Jean Chuter	MON
Malcolm Cousins	BRE
Liz Crockford	T
Rosemarie Davies	L
Pat Harris	GA
Eleanor Jones	BR
Joan Jones	BEN
Phil Reed	CRI

One Star Master

Archie Grainger	MON
Anne E Hughes	PR
Wendy Jenkins	WS
Megan Jones	WS
David Spalding	CN
Pat Walker	PN
Christine Wiseman	PN

Two Star Master

Eirwen Brown	GA
Christine Forbes	BRE
Ian Haston	H
Huw Jones	S
Ted Lucas	F
Deg Morgan	MB
Sally Parkes	Y
Mick Rogers	OH
Margaret Thompson	MB

Three Star Master

Janet Bradley	S
John Dewsnap	ROF

Celia Holt	A
Pat Radway	BR
Debbie Richards	VOG

Four Star Master

Jill Alexander	C
Owen Davies	BEN
Syd Phillipps	MON
Doreen Preston	RH

Five Star Master

Joan Jenkins	SU
Muriel Richardson	WS

Tournament Master

Jimmy James	S
David Stephenson	VOG

Regional Master

Kate Walker	GA
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Premier Regional Master

Emyr Tudwal Jones	STD
Jim Kinge	GA
Denis Mottram	BV
Louise Orme	M
David Smith	S

National Master

Martin David	C
Steve Webb	R

Premier National Master

Mollie Evans	PW
Anne Jones	C
Simon Murray-Williams	PW

Life Master

Alan R Powell	GA
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Perry Shield and Spickett Bowl

22nd-23rd May 2004

The Rest, Porthcawl. Spectators welcome.

The Welsh Bridge Union Inter-Area championship will be contested in Porthcawl.

Times of play are: Saturday 12.00

Sunday 1.00 pm or on completion of the AGM, whichever is the later.

WBU Annual General Meeting

23rd May 2004

The AGM will be held at The Rest at 11.30 a.m. All members are entitled, and encouraged, to attend.

... Witness the installation of the new President

... Applaud the winners of 2003-2004 trophies

... Then watch some bridge.

Welsh Seniors' Congress

29th-31st May 2004

Cwmbran

Entry forms are available from Annie Favager, ☎ 029 2070 8004,
email annie.favager@ntlworld.com.

Saturday: Pairs **Sunday:** Swiss Teams

Monday: Green Pointed Swiss Pairs (open to non-Seniors)



Swansea Congress

12th-13th June 2004

Saturday 2.00 and 7.00: Pairs
£8.00 per player

Sunday 1.00 Swiss Teams
£8.00 per player

Entries to Diana Panniers, 13 Llewellyn Street, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AL, ☎ 01792 297081,
email dipanniers@sketty.fsworld.co.uk

WBU Swiss Pairs

3rd & 4th July 2004

North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno

Entries to Jill Knight, Caer Hirfryn, Bay View Road, Benllech LL74 8TP, ☎ 01248 853033,
email polly64335@aol.com

Mid Wales Congress

16th-18th July 2004

Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Entries to Cecelia McCreary, 15 Parc Hafan, Newcastle Emlyn SA38 9AR, ☎ 01239 710784,
email cm.mccreary@virgin.net



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

Item	Page	Details
National Tournament Organiser	2	From 23 rd May, the National Tournament Organiser will be Peter Hand, 15 Chester Close, Shotton, Deeside CH5 1AU, ☎01244 830246, email jeanhand@tiscali.co.uk
Area Secretary	3	The email address for Bill Parkinson in his capacity of EWBA Secretary is william.parkinson1@ntlworld.com ; his telephone number is ☎ 01633 667844, not that published in the last Newsletter.
Change of email address	3, 56	Cecelia McCreary's new email address is cm.mccreary@virgin.net .

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy (Most Points Registered in One Year) – 21/04/04latest

Kevin Maddox	226	Mike Tedd	120	Chris Rochelle	99
Tony Ratcliff	207	Alan Screen	119	Ted Merrette	96
Patrick Jourdain	184	Filip Kurbalija	118	Esme Parry	95
Mary Moore	145	Robin Parris	110	Paul Gagne	93
Irene Thomas	139	Eric Hartland	110	Diana Harris	89
Mike Best	122	Paddy Murphy	104	David Davies	87
Adrian Thomas	121	Joan Jenkins	100		

WBU Council Meeting

Items of interest from the meeting of Council held on 7th March 2004.

The facility to pay for congresses organised by the WBU by **credit card** has been introduced on the WBU website.

The Age limit for **seniors events** is being raised to 60 by 2010 - eligibility will continue to increase by 1 year per annum until the limit is reached.

The new **“White Book”** tournament directors' guide is available via the WBU website.



Changes to the constitution to reflect the reality of the **Chief Executive** post are to be put forward at the next AGM.

Copy deadline for next newsletter: Articles, hands, information, obituaries, photographs all welcome: send to laura.woodruff@ukonline.co.uk no later than **15th August 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.