

Bidding
Challenge 9

Forthcoming
events 2

Mikey
5

Promotions
18

Results
3



WELSH BRIDGE UNION

Newsletter 84, February 2005

Hold the Front Page

Welsh Bridge players heaved a sigh of relief today at the news that the long-awaited WBU Newsletter was rolling off the presses after a 6-month delay.



A spokeswoman for the Welsh Bridge Union said she very much regretted the harrowing suspense that members had had to endure, but that circumstances beyond the Union's control had blocked publication of the usual September and November issues. "We hope that the problems have been ironed out, and members will henceforth be getting their news in good time".



St David's Day Simultaneous Pairs

At your local club 28th February to 5th March
Enter now to avoid disappointment



A Malmo moment

It was a serious business, playing in the European Seniors Teams Championship in Sweden last summer, as you can see from the concentration on the players' faces during a team talk. A camera-shy Paul Gagne can just be seen behind Diana Harris, while Eric and Annie Favager .

Liam Sheridan and Joe Patrick are missing from this photograph. Team captain Mike Close is also conspicuous by his absence. Maybe the soft-drink bottles provide a clue?

Please don't sue – Ed.

See Page 5 for Mike's story of the *Seniors' Scandinavian Saga*.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

National Mixed Pairs Final

26th-27th February 2005

Rhayader Leisure Centre: Qualifying pairs ONLY. Please notify your Area Tournament Organiser immediately if you have qualified but are unable to play.

Times of play are: Saturday 2.00, evening start time to be announced on the day
Sunday 11.00 am

St. David's Day Simultaneous Pairs

28th February – 4th March 2005

Please support the Welsh Bridge Union by playing. Encourage your local club to take part.

Lots of Masterpoints available for those who do well nationally.



National Open Pairs Final

12th-13th March 2005

Rhayader Leisure Centre: Qualifying pairs ONLY. Please notify your Area Tournament Organiser immediately if you have qualified but are unable to play.

Times of play are: Saturday 2.00, evening start time to be announced on the day
Sunday 11.00 am

Portland Pairs

3rd April 2005

South: Gwent Bridge Academy

Entries to National Tournament Organiser

15 Chester Close, Shotton, Deeside

CH5 1AU

email jeanhand@tiscali.co.uk

North: Colwyn Bay Cricket Club

Entries to Paddy Murphy

Bro Dawel, Valley Road

Llanfairfechan LL33 0SE

email paddy@bangor.ac.uk

Start time: 1.00 pm

Entry fee: £18.50 per player

Llandudno Congress

8th-10th April 2005

Friday: Pre-congress Pairs 8.00pm
Saturday and Sunday: 13-round Green-pointed Swiss Teams 1.00, 7.30, 11.00

Entries to Jean Hand, 15 Chester Close, Shotton, Deeside CH5 1AU, ☎01244 830246, email jeanhand@tiscali.co.uk

May Bank Holiday Congress

1st – 3rd May 2005

County Hall, Cwmbran

Saturday and Sunday: Swiss Teams (13 matches) 1.00pm, 7.30pm, 11.00am, 3.30pm
Monday: Swiss Pairs 11.00am, 4.00pm

Entries to Linda Greenland, 31 Deri Road, Cardiff, CF23 5AH, ☎029 2025 5162, email deri31@ntlworld.com



RESULTS



Mid Wales Congress

16th-18th July 2004

Teams	VPs
1 st Jill Casey, Tim Rees, Diana Kurbalija, Filip Kurbalija	153
2 nd T J Squibb, H Dando, G Davies, G Roxburgh	145
3 rd Ben Green, Duncan Harper, Alex Morris, Michael Byrne	144

Aberystwyth Congress

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%

WBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Clubs, 30th August – 3rd September 2004

1 st Tony Ratcliff, Kevin Maddox (Penarth)	72.05%
2 nd Chris Bradshaw, Barney Hunter (Merlin Bridge Club)	69.92%
3 rd Gwynn Davis, Geoff Evans (Cardiff)	68.74%

Welsh Foursomes

Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl, 11th – 12th September 2004

1 st Liam Sheridan, Andrew Scott, Mike Elliott, Tim Brierley	163 VPs
2 nd Patrick Jourdain, Tony Ratcliff, Tim Rees, Filip Kurbalija	147 VPs
3 rd A Pollok, A Bridgeman, A Slee, K Slee	145 VPs

Ladies' Welsh Cup and Men's Teams

Elephant & Castle Hotel, Newtown, 18th – 19th September 2004

Ladies' Welsh Cup

1 st Laura Woodruff, Mary Moore, 162	Marjorie Morris, Sue Ingham
2 nd Sheila Leyshon, Francis Williams, 121	Margaret John, Colette Davies
3 rd = Noelle Bond, Eileen Hughes, Irene 112	Thomas, Betty Lewis
3 rd = Jill Knight, Joan Marray, Rekha 112	Gatfield, Olwen Brown

Men's Teams

1 st Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, 91	Simon Edwards, Tony Ratcliff
2 nd Joe Patrick, Ken Richardson, 54	John Glubb, Chris Rochelle
3 rd Barry Jones, Kevin Jones, 51	Bryan Edwards, Paddy Murphy

Welsh Invitation Pairs

Cardiff Bridge Club, 25th- 26th September 2004

1 st Rex Anderson, David Greenwood (Northern Ireland)	482 VPs
2 nd Jack Mizel, Tony Forrester (England)	454 VPs
3 rd Tim Rees, Filip Kurbalija (Wales)	418 VPs

Results (continued – a bumper crop this time)

October Swiss Teams

County Hall, Cwmbran, 9th-10th October 2004

1 st	Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey, Tim Rees, Filip Kurbalija	104 VPs
2 nd	Chris Cook, Andy Fenn, John Moore, Pauline Serby	103 VPs
3 rd	Jim Luck, Patrick Jourdain, Mike Hirst, Mike Tedd	96 VPs

Porthcawl Congress

The Rest, Porthcawl, 12th - 14th November 2004

Ladies' Pairs	Pam Pearce, Lesley Harrison
Men's Pairs	Alan Powell, Brian Harden
Mixed Pairs	Malcolm Pryor, Karen Pryor
Red Dragon Championship Pairs	John Glubb, Tim Ryan
Little Dragon Consolation Pairs	Peter Lane, Tony Scouller
Second Consolation Final	Bill Hirst, John Hassett
Saturday Evening Open Pairs	Dafydd Jones, Tessa Greenslade
Championship Teams	Brian Senior, Eva Turner, R Covill, A Scofield
Prince of Wales Trophy	Geoff Evans, David Birt, Philip Felman, Mike Best
Sker Trophy	Karen Pryor, John Griffiths, Alan Wilson, Malcolm Pryor
Open Teams Final	Jim Kinge, Gwyneth Dew, Jill Williams, Marie George

WBU Swiss Teams

Eisteddfod Pavilion, Llangollen 19th – 21st November 2004

1 st	David Stevenson, Ted Revely, David Harris, Jon Williams	192 VPs
2 nd	C Bishop P Collins M Pomfrey B Hirst	189 VPs
3 rd	M Byrne A Morris D Happer B Green	183 VPs

Veteran Pairs

Gwent Academy and Colwyn Bay, 28th November 2004

1 st	Patrick Jourdain, Gary Jones	60.00%
2 nd	E Lucas, C Williams	57.54%
3 rd	Dewi Jones, Dai Hayes	56.47%

Graded Masters Pairs

Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli, 22nd – 23rd January 2005

Section 1	Liam Sheridan, Mike Best	58.21%
Section 2	Kay Clement, Carmel Wiseman	60.69%
Section 3	Stewart Pye, Keith Davison	59.40%
Section 4	Jennifer Wardell, Christine Norman	58.81%
Junior Masters	Fran Edwards, Emily Williams	65.26%

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

Geoff and Julia Griffiths, who climbed five places from 13th place overnight to finish in 8th place

A Seniors' Swedish Saga by Mike Close

“In the Lands of the North, where the black rocks stand guard against the cold sea, in the dark night that is very long, the men of the Northlands sit by their great log fires and they tell a tale...” [1]

The Senior team selected for the 47th European Championships in Malmo, Sweden, Saturday 19th June - Saturday 3rd July was Paul Gagne, Diana Harris, and Annie and Eric Favager. They asked me to be Non-playing Captain. When the organisers indicated that 30 teams were expected to enter, they thought it wise to play a team of six, and added one of the losing trial pairs, Joe Patrick and Liam Sheridan.

Wales was represented by an Open team of Adrian Thomas and Paul Denning, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff, John Salisbury and Mike Tedd, with Tim Rees as NPC. Sadly, we did not field a Women's Team.

The Favs and I flew into Copenhagen from Bristol on the Saturday afternoon. The approach into Kastrup Airport is right over the Sund, the sea between Sweden and Denmark. As Eric, a very reluctant flyer, sat bolt upright clutching the arm-rests, the little girl behind me looked out of the window and said “Mummy, we are landing in the water”.

Copenhagen Airport has a proper integrated transport system, with dedicated motorway exit and a mainline railway station directly underneath, so it was less than an hour before we, and Paul and Adrian whom we had acquired *en route*, found ourselves in Malmo Central railway station after crossing the Sund on the recently opened Oresund road/rail bridge between Denmark and Sweden. Here we waited for Paul and Di who had decided to bring their car via Dover and Calais (to pick up sufficient supplies of alcohol for the fortnight) and Belgium (for the cheap cigarettes). While we waited I found a pub, called the Bishops Arms, near the station, and had our first shock of the trip – beer at £4.50 a pint. Gulp! Or, rather, sip slowly.

We were staying in a self-catering four-bedroom apartment at Jaravallens, a golf-and-business conference centre some 20 minutes' drive from Malmo. This proved not to be too taxing for several reasons: very polite Swedish drivers, no speed cameras, and the friendliest traffic lights in the world, a set that always changed to green as Diana's car approached, even if they had changed to red just seconds before. Also, at the motorway junction nearby there was an area of supermarkets and fast food outlets called Loddekoping. After several inventive pronunciation attempts by us, a Swedish lady told us this was actually pronounced “load-o-shopping”. How apt.

The venue was the MalmoMassan Convention Centre, a large, warehouse-like structure in the docks area of Malmo. Like Cardiff, the docks were being redeveloped with many new office buildings and purpose-built venues. In the Centre there was plenty of room for all the tournaments, a very large Vugraph/Rama theatre and on-site refreshment areas and souvenir shops.



The Swedish bridge Federation had decided to play many of their national competitions alongside the European Championships, and so there were lots of domestic players around in the Centre, and there were also daily barometer pairs competitions of 24, 36 and 54 boards with cash prizes.

Just before we travelled we found that the numbers of Seniors entries had fallen well

short of expected. As compensation, the Seniors teams were invited to play in the Swedish Seniors Championship at the start of the first week, a series of 4-board matches against about 30 domestic and international teams. Meanwhile, the organisers reorganised the Seniors competition.

I witnessed the following auction:

Paul	Opp1	Diana	Opp2
-	1♣	2♥	Questions, questions...
			Pass
3♥	Dble ¹	Pass	3♠
All Pass			¹ Take-out

This contract made exactly. I waited for the steam to come from Paul's ears as his lid flipped (asking questions and then passing rather implies that you have some values, so ethically partner must bend over backwards to not take advantage of this), but he simply sat there, a picture of calm. After the opponents had left, he just turned to me and said "They won't get away with that with screens". [2]

Eric and Annie were involved in an appeal after a Director's ruling, and I cannot begin to describe the experience of a Swedish Appeals Committee – you must ask Eric for the full story. I'm told it helps if you have seen the Swedish Chef in The Muppet Show.

We also managed to play in a couple of the "barometer" pairs events, and I partnered Paul in one of them. You get the scores and positions after each round, so we could see we were doing very well. We were also lucky:

Board 4	♠ A Q 6	<i>(Hand rotated for convenience)</i>
Vul: All	♥ K J 6 4	
Dlr: West	♦ J 8 7 6	
	♣ A 5	
♠ K 10 8 5 2		♠ 3
♥ 9		♥ 10 5
♦ A 10 9 4 2		♦ K Q 5 3
♣ J 4		♣ Q 10 9 7 6 3
	♠ J 9 7 4	
	♥ A Q 8 7 3 2	
	♦ void	
	♣ K 8 2	

After an auction with a 1♠ overcall from West and a couple of slight misunderstandings by us, which cancelled each other out, we reached 6♥ played by Paul as South. On the ♦A lead from West, Paul ruffed, pulled trumps and played the ♠7 to the queen. When East followed with the 3, Paul ruffed another diamond back to hand and played the ♠4. West sleepily played the 5 and Paul finessed the 6 for an overtrick and a huge matchpoint score.

On the last round we played my good friends from Ireland, Tos and Antoinette McGee, who were also doing well. I would like to thank them for their defence to 4♠ which allowed us a top and first place in the event. The McGees finished 4th, so they also received a money prize, but I still owe them a beer...

In the Open teams Wales had started well, and were lying eighth at one point, ahead of all the other UK teams. Unfortunately Patrick then performed a "Murray Walker Kiss of Death" [3] by reporting this in his Bridge column in the Daily Telegraph. The English took this as a mortal insult and charged up the table to finish fifth, whilst the Welsh drifted gently in the opposite direction.

The Senior event started on the first Wednesday. It had been decided to have a round-robin of 15 matches, and then split the field into two halves, with two 7-match round-robins for the A and B sections. Scores would be carried over, and the four qualifiers to the World Championships would be the top four teams in Section A.

It was noticeable over the first few matches that even when we were competitive, the match would drift away from us at the end, and this was no doubt due to the format of 16 boards without a break (20 in the Open). We do not play this way in any of the domestic competitions, and perhaps teams going to play in these events should practise the format beforehand [4], so as to maintain concentration until the very end.

We did manage one win against the much-fancied Poles, but our second win did not

materialise until we played the Irish, who had not won a match.

After observing the first match at the table, I found that the best way to monitor the team's performance was to watch the excellent Rama show in the theatre, where I could see the hands as played - contract, opening lead and results - and compare them with those in the Open and Women's events. This was most informative, and I could frequently anticipate after-match discussions when scoring up.

What do you lead from ♠AK93, ♥J652, ♦Q8, ♣1083 after the auction:

- a) 1NT – 3NT ?
- b) 1♦ – 1♥ – 1NT(12-14) – 3NT ?

The commentators on Rama came out strongly in favour of the ♠A, and suggested that fourth highest with this hand was a bad move. And this was the layout:

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

Sadly, our man led a small spade, and now declarer with 8 top tricks planned to test the clubs before taking the diamond finesse. When clubs broke he naturally cashed the ace and king of diamonds, and got some more good news and twelve tricks. At the other table the spade ace was led and met by an encouraging signal from North, resulting in a fast one off and a 13 IMP swing.

So is this correct? Curiously enough, I was playing a little later in another barometer pairs event, with the Welsh Open scorer, Martin Kane, and this hand came up:

You are on lead with ♠87, ♥9643, ♦J92, ♣AK104, after the auction 1♠–2♠–2NT–

3NT. So, following the commentators' advice, I led the ♣A, and partner encouraged. Here is the hand:

Vul: EW	♠ 10 3)
Dlr: North	♥ A 2	
	♦ Q 8 6 5 3	
	♣ J 9 7 3	
♠ 9 5 4 2		♠ A K Q J 6
♥ Q 10 8 7	◼	♥ K J 5
♦ K 7 4		♦ A 10
♣ Q 2		♣ 8 6 5
	♠ 8 7	
	♥ 9 6 4 3	
	♦ J 9 2	
	♣ A K 10 4	

Four club tricks and the ♥A led to one off. On a low club, declarer puts up the queen and has nine tricks for -600, a worse score than -620 in 4♠. But +100 was worth 88 of 90 matchpoints for us (and, more significantly, 13 IMPs if we had been playing teams).

In Malmo itself, the organisers and sponsors had arranged many local benefits for the players, such as a free drink or starter in restaurants, and free or reduced entry to external events. Liam Sheridan took advantage of this to go to a race meeting one evening and had a great time, free entry to the VIP lounge, complimentary buffet food, and a bookie's runner on hand for his bets. He claims he was up on the day, but they all say that, don't they?

I managed to get away one day and visit Copenhagen. The Danish military seemed to take an undue interest in me, and I was chased off the grass in the Citadel by an army corporal, and some Spanish kids and I were told not to sit on a stone step at the Amalienborg Palace by a chocolate soldier with a busby and blue uniform. On arrival at the Rosenborg, my third militarily-guarded site of interest, I decided not to attempt to steal the Danish Crown jewels as they were obviously watching me, and instead took a look around the royal apartments and portraits therein. I discovered that the Danish royal family over the last 400 years had two strange traits: they all had enormous noses, and they

are all called Christian or Frederik alternately. I guess this saves a lot of time thinking up names for the first child. Still, you must feel sorry for poor old Frederik IX in 1940, awaiting the birth of his firstborn, asking the midwife, "Where is my Prince Christian?" only to be told "Sorry Sire, it's a girl!" [5]

Meanwhile, back in the Senior B Final things were not going well, with only a draw against Norway breaking up a string of losses, and we were firmly fixed in 15th place. Still, there was always the last match against the Irish to end the competition and send us away with a win. Well, that was the plan ... What actually happened was an end-of-term party, with gifts and custard pies thrown from one side to the other. As I watched the our 2IMP lead dribble away to a 15-15 draw in the Rama room, I skulked off to score up, only to be told by the Welsh players that a ringing noise from an Irish handbag had been followed by a congregation of tournament directors around the table. Yes, we had won the match by that smallest of margins, a mobile phone. [6]

As we sat with the Scots at the closing ceremony and banquet we all agreed that the bridge had been less than impressive, the Swedish weather had been dreadful, but we had all had a very good time. The English team were behind us, celebrating their qualification for Estoril, and I pointed out the darkened stage to David Burn. "I wonder what entertainment the Swedes have in store for us?" He muttered through his beard something along the lines of "Anything as long as its not an Abba tribute band". Moments later, the opening bars of "Dancing Queen" drifted from the loudspeakers...

Mike Close

1] The Sagas of Noggin the Nog: by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, 1961.

[2] This is because the screen isolates you from your partner and one opponent, and questions asked on one side of the screen do not carry to the other side. Instead you alert your own bids and your partner's bids to your "screenmate", and provide a written description of all these bids when asked.

[3] Murray Walker, former Formula One Motor Racing Commentator, was famous for saying, towards the end of a Grand Prix, "Nothing can stop XXX (usually a British driver) winning this race now", whereupon the driver in question would promptly spin off, break down or run out of petrol.

[4] Practice sessions of this nature were organised for the November Olympiad in Turkey.

[5] They called her Margrethe (not Christine).

[6] The penalty for a mobile phone in the playing area was 2VPs and €100. Some websites show the result as 16-14 (-2) to Wales – this was due to a scoring error going uncorrected by an irate Irish lady.



Post script: Occasionally even the Grandmasters in the Open team were mortal and made mistakes. After Tony Ratcliff ran out of cards at trick 12 on one hand (yes he'd forgotten to count his cards at the start) one wag asked him if he had bid no-trumps with his flat 3-3-3-3 distribution. "Oooh nooo", said Tony, "I had two four card suits!"

Bidding Challenge No. 7 answers

Once again many thanks to those who entered for their time and courage in answering these problems. The lucky winner of this one is Betty Lewis with a score of 74.

This was the last Bidding Challenge for a while. We will reintroduce it when the compiler's and experts' grey cells have recovered from the effort. We apologise for the lack of comments from the experts, but this Challenge came at a particularly difficult time.

Hand 1 Game all - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ 10973					
♥ AK10865	-	1♥	Dbl	?	4♥=10, 4♦=8, others 5
♦ 5					
♣ 62					

Hand 2 Game all - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ KQ42					
♥ AKJ742	-	-	-	1♥	4♣ = 10, 4♥ = 9, 4♦ = 8, others 5
♦ void	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	
♣ J42	Pass	3♦	Dbl	?	

Hand 3 Game all - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ K3					
♥ QJ8632	-	1♣	1NT	?	X = 10, 2NT = 8, others 5
♦ A9874					
♣ void					

Hand 4 EW Vul - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ 763					
♥ KJ98	-	1♦	Pass	1♥	4♣ = 10, 5♣ = 7, others 5
♦ 4	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	
♣ Q10762	2♠	3♣	3♠	?	

Hand 5 Love all - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ AJ104					
♥ 53	-	-	3♣	Pass	5♣ = 10, 4♦ = 9, 4♠ = 8, others 5
♦ Q104	Pass	4♣	Pass	?	
♣ A1042					

Hand 6 NS Vul - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ A103					
♥ 82	-	1♥	Pass	2♦	4♦ = 10, 3NT = 9, Pass = 7, others 5
♦ AKJ1063	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	
♣ 98	Pass	3♠	Pass	?	

Hand 7 EW Vul - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ Q1076					
♥ 10	-	1♠	2♥	?	3♠ = 10, 3♥ = 9, others 5
♦ 642					
♣ AJ754					

Hand 8 EW Vul - Scoring: Teams

	West	North	East	South	Marks
♠ AJ9642					
♥ 43	-	Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣ = 10, 4♣ = 9, 3♠ = 8, 2♠ = 7, others 5
♦ K	2♦	Dbl ¹	Pass	?	
♣ AQJ5					¹ take out

The Fatal Discard

by Paul Gagne

While playing in the Year-End Congress in Blackpool, I picked up the following hand

♠ AKQJ9, ♥ AQ64, ♦ A5, ♣ A6

Our system treats this hand as a 2NT opener (23+, forcing to game), so I duly opened 2NT. We play puppet 5-card Stayman, transfers and so on; my partner, however, ignored these systemic tools and jumped to 6NT, leaving me no option but to pass.

My left-hand opponent, hereafter called LHO, led the jack of hearts, which I took to be top of a sequence. Dummy went down with :-

♠ 64
♥ K83
♦ QJ4
♣ KJ954

After the red mist of anger had receded from my brain at the outstandingly well bid auction, I settled down to try to make 13 tricks for a decent Pairs score. I could count 12 tricks - 5 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs - or so I thought.

Winning the lead in my hand with the ♥Q, I decided to test the spades to make sure there were 5 tricks. Unfortunately, LHO showed out on the second round, discarding the ♣7 (the Fatal Discard). I sat for a while and thought – yes, it does happen occasionally - trying to find the safest route to the twelfth trick. Diamonds could not produce more than two tricks, and the discard seemed to show that the club finesse would be wrong.

So what now, a squeeze or a throw-in play? I cashed two more spades, watching the discards carefully. Two small diamonds appeared on my left. On the ♣A, LHO discarded a small heart, and all was revealed: LHO had 11 red cards and RHO 10 black.

The position was now:

♠ 9	♠ none
♥ A 6 4	♥ K 8
♦ A 5	♦ Q J 4
♣ 6	♣ K J



Now was the time to set up the second diamond trick. Could RHO have a singleton king?

I played the ace, but no such luck. The second diamond was taken by LHO as expected. Having nothing but red cards, he returned a diamond. It was at this point that RHO began to feel the pinch: it was a simple matter of playing off ♥K, followed by a heart to the ace, and RHO was left with no safe discard. 12 tricks made. My partner then smiled sweetly at me and said “Well done. I made the right bid, didn't I!” (red mists rose again).

The moral behind this tale is: avoid the Fatal Discard. If the ♣7 had not been discarded on a spade, I could not have got the count right, and the red mists would probably have enveloped me for a lot longer.

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

Don't forget the May Bank Holiday Congress: 1st – 3rd May 2005

County Hall, Cwmbran

Saturday and Sunday: Swiss Teams
Monday: Swiss Pairs

Contact Linda Greenland, 31 Deri Road, Cardiff, CF23 5AH, ☎029 2025 5162 deri31@ntlworld.com

Miscellany

Porthcawl Congress Pics



John Glubb and Tim Ryan, winners of the Red Dragon Championship Pairs, with Marie Topp



Jim Kinge and Gwyneth Dew, half of the winners of the Open Teams, with WBU Chairman Marie Topp

Welsh Cup 2004

Adrian Thomas, Jill Casey, Peter Goodman and Paul Denning, Welsh Cup winners 2004



Anagram Anthology: No. 2



Mike Hirst = I RISK THEM

Gilly Clench = CYCLING HELL

Noelle Bond = OLDEN NOBLE (or LONE BLONDE if she prefers)

Uproar at National Competition

By Noelle Bond

There was uproar at a recent National competition of the WBU when former NTO, Lxxxx Wxxxxxxx, instead of getting on her hobby horse was actually got onto by two hobby horses. The hobby horses, who refused to give their names, were interviewed later, stating that their protest was against always being labelled £9.99 and £12.99.



They were subsequently seen galloping down the main street of Newtown where they were both knocked down by an articulated lorry. A spokesperson for the Embroiderers' Guild, another hobby, said that the two were in a stable condition.

SWANSEA BRIDGE CLUB

Charity event, 11th- 12th June 2005

In support of the Ty Hafan Children's Hospice

Saturday 11th: Open Pairs 2.00 and 7.00

Sunday 12th: Swiss Teams 1.00 (6 x 8 boards)

Contact Diana Panners, 01792 297081

International Round-up



Camrose Series

The Scores in the first round of the Camrose held in East Kilbride on 7th-9th January were:

Northern Ireland	73
Republic of Ireland	72
Scotland	63
England	54
Wales	36

Wales - Tim Rees and Fil Kurbalija, Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn, Mike Tedd and John Salisbury (NPC Paul Denning) - played the two Irish teams.

We play Scotland and England in the next match on 4th – 6th March in Ballymena. The team will be Tim Rees and Fil Kurbalija, Gary and Dafydd Jones, Paul Denning and Pat Shields (NPC Mike Tedd). *Human interest factoid: the one and only time Denning and Shields have played Camrose bridge together was in 1978 when they were both still Juniors.*

Members are now able to watch the Camrose live over the internet using free software available from bridgebase.com. At one stage in the last session we had a combined 1300 spectators for the two matches. The timetable is on the WBU website at www.wbu.org, and results will be posted there as they happen.

Junior Camrose

The 2005 Junior Camrose took place at The Rest, Porthcawl, on 29th and 30th January. The Welsh Under-25 team was Jake Dunn and Alan Jones, Jonny Sharp and Catherine Evans, with Adam Dunn as NPC. For the Under-20s, James Backer played with Claire Evans, Rhys Milne-Jones with Michael Brown, and Patrick Jourdain acted as NPC.

Both events were won by England, in the case of the Peggy Bayer by a substantial margin. The Junior Camrose, however, produced a nail-biting finish with England on 128 needing no more than a draw against Wales in the last match to beat Scotland (sitting out on 143) on the head-to-head result. If England

failed, the Republic of Ireland on 118 had a stiffer task to equal Scotland's score, needing a maximum 25 against Northern Ireland to win on the head-to-head. In the event, however, England secured a 24-6 win to leave the other teams chasing the remaining places.

Many thanks to those who came to support the teams, and particularly to those who helped to organise, or worked on the day.

Bienvenidos, Jugadores

Colin Haldenby (H297) asked us to print the following for the interest of WBU members who visit our club in Spain while on holiday (apparently there are quite a few).

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB in southern Spain welcomes WBU members and friends to its Duplicate Sessions: Mondays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 2.30 and Fridays at 4pm; special events at weekends. The Club is now in new premises at Avenida Castilla Perez, 1 (side entrance next to Cafeteria Royal). ☎ Colin on 0034 958 827855 or 0034 617 534 342 or email colinhaldenby@hotmail.com.

12th Olympiad, Istanbul 2004

The World Olympiad is contested by 72 of the top bridge-playing countries in the world. Each country was placed into one of four groups; the target was to finish in the top four of the group to qualify for the knockout stage.

Normally each country sends a team of six, but it proved difficult to find a suitable pair to replace a late withdrawal, and after careful consideration a team of 4 was sent.

The original format had three short days of 40 boards and four long days of 60 boards. The organisers chose, however, to compress the play into six long days (= 340 boards), which was certainly unfavourable for the few countries fielding teams of four. Play started at 10am and finished at about 8:30pm, it is unlikely that the experiment of a four man team will be repeated by Wales in the near future.

There were notable successes over the stronger teams. Wins against France, Sweden, Spain, Indonesia and Greece were amongst the ten matches won, while losses to Botswana and Czech Republic were the low points of the event for the Welsh team.

This hand, reported by Peter Goodman, comes from the 17-13 win against European silver medallists Sweden. East is squeezed at trick one!

Vul: EW	Dunn)
Dlr: North	♠ K x x x	
	♥ J 10 x	
	♦ A J x	
	♣ x x x	
♠ A x x x x x x		♠ void
♥ x x x	◻	♥ A Q x x x
♦ x x		♦ K 10 x x
♣ 10		♣ K x x x
	♠ Q J	
	♥ K x	
	♦ Q x x x	
	♣ A Q J x	
	Goodman	

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	Dbf	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT		

Following a revealing auction, West led a small spade and east contributed the ♦10 (probably a heart signal). He had to keep his long heart to have any chance of defeating the contract and couldn't afford to throw a club with ease. Since West couldn't overcall 2♠ on the first round of the auction, East could be expected to have both minor-suit kings and the ♥A, and with luck the ♥Q as well. Once South lost the lead, East or West would switch to a heart and declarer would be an entry short to repeat the club finesse.

In an attempt to create two entries to dummy while simultaneously setting up the long diamond, South ventured the ♦Q. If East won and switched to the a small heart, declarer would rise with the king, cross to a top diamond and take the club finesse.

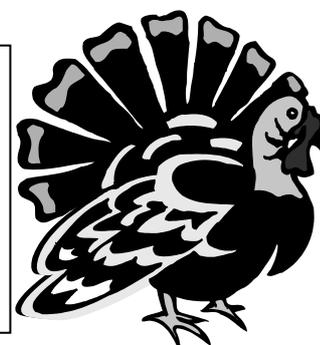
Another ♦, a second club club finesse and the master diamond would squeeze east out of his setting trick, allowing declarer to end-play him with a heart. If on the other hand East were to exit with ace and another heart, South would simply unblock the king and gain a third entry to dummy to pick up all the clubs.

East countered, however, by smoothly ducking the diamond, removing the vital entry of the ♦J. Declarer played the ♣Q, taken by East, and a heart was returned, but South was able to rise with the ♥K, cash four clubs and end-play East with his last heart to lead into the ♦AJ for the 9th trick: One ♠, one ♥, 3♦ and 4♣.

Wales held on. despite a strong Swedish come-back, to achieve rare back-to-back wins over Sweden in the last two major international events. But luck did not always favour us. High-flying Pakistan had a bidding misunderstanding to stay out of a 33-point 6♠ which foundered when trumps broke 4-1; the Czech Republic bid a slam knowing they were missing two aces, but the defence could not easily cash the two tricks and the slam made; Lithuania also bid a slam with two top losers that made on the lead; and to cap it all, South Africa bid and made 7♠ with a trump suit of AKJx opposite 10xxx and a side suit of AQxxxxx opposite Jxxx. All this enemy luck cost Wales dear.

So are we good enough ? In terms of technical skill and experience wise we can compete, our judgement is good but could improve a lot. But we don't bowl over the weaker teams, yet.

Team: Tim Rees, Filip Kurbalija, Adam Dunn, Peter Goodman. (Coach and 1-match stand-in Jake Dunn, incidentally the only player to finish the tournament unbeaten).



In the Women's event, Wales was represented by Jill Casey, Diane Kurbalija, Ann Hirst, Gilly Clench, Irene Thomas and Mary Moore (NPC Linda Greenland)



Killarney: May 2004, by Simon Gottschalk

The Irish road sign on the way to Killarney said “DO NOT PASS”. “How appropriate”, I thought, as

in my opinion, many bridge players pass too often.

The following hand from the teams event where we were playing 5-board matches (the fewer the boards played in a teams match, the more I believe you should adopt a Pairs approach) was an interesting example:-

Board 1	♠ J 10		
Vul: None	♥ Q 7		
Dlr: North	♦ K J 6 4 3		
	♣ K 8 7 2		
♠ A K 8 6 4		♠ 7 5	
♥ K 10 9 8 6	◼	♥ 3 2	
♦ 8		♦ Q 10 5	
♣ Q J		♣ A 10 9 6 5 3	
	♠ Q 9 3 2		
	♥ A J 5 4		
	♦ A 9 7 2		
	♣ 4		

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

On this hand, every one could have opened the bidding: North with a mini-no-trump or a Rule-of-19 1♦; partner with 3♣ and South in the safe 3rd seat with 1♦. Clearly no one else had seen the signs, so I was left to make a normal 1♠ opening.

Partner, after failing to pre-empt in second seat, was probably thinking more about the black-and-white of the local ale than about his own long black suit when he passed at his second opportunity. So it was that I found myself with a thorny problem. It would have been dull to end up with a negative score when I could have passed the hand out, but

that was clearly what was likely to happen if I passed over 3♦. My options were, however, limited: a competitive “do something sensible partner” double risked landing us in the wrong suit if partner’s shape was 2-3-3-5; or worse still, 470 away if partner chose to pass (3♦ fails on perfect defence, but the right lead or switch of a heart is hard to find if hearts have not been bid). I eventually bid 3♥, and before you think I’d already had too much of the local ale myself, let me explain.

What possible distribution can East have? We can guess from the opposition bidding that East has three diamonds. With three or more spades, East might possibly have bid 2♠ over 2♦, but will certainly support spades now. The only hand type where 3♥ goes horribly wrong is where East has two spades, two hearts, 3 diamonds, and 6 clubs. If you can be confident that holding a reasonable 6-card suit East would either have pre-empted on the first round or bid 3♣ or 2NT (Lebensohl-style) over 2♦, then you can bid 3♥ with a fair degree of confidence that your side has a major suit fit.

As it turned out, partner did indeed have six clubs, so it was back to the black-and-white. I hope that in future my partners will obey the Irish rules of the road.



Magical Madeira

PESTANA BAY HOTEL, nr FUNCHAL

Choice of distinctly different holidays at this superb hotel. Spectacularly situated on one of the island's beachfront sites, Praia Formosa, this four star hotel offers mainly sea view twin bedrooms with balconies.

21st-28th November 2005 7-night holiday specially for **improvers** with bridge under the friendly direction of **Andrew Kambites**. Cost from **£535.00**.

8th-22nd May 2005 This is a 14-night holiday with **Graham Hedley** for the more experienced player. Cost will be from **£889.00** depending on airport.

Vilamoura, Algarve

HOTEL ATLANTIS - Jan 26th-9th Feb 2005

This year's Vilamoura holiday was fully booked but, such is its popularity we'll be back there again in 2006 so don't leave it too long before booking. Alternatively, why not consider joining us in **September 2005** at the same venue? Our continuing partnership with Saga has ensured the cost of this high season holiday is great value and includes **full board** and a whole host of extras.

S'Algar, Menorca

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 7th-21st October 2005

The Hotel S'Algar is so popular with bridge players that we're going back to Menorca for the 34th time in 2005. Bridge licensed by WBU. Master points at all sessions plus generous prizes. Choice of apartments or hotel rooms. Director **Graham Hedley**. Price from **£889.00** includes air travel; airport taxes; transfers from airport to resort; full board; full bridge programme; prizes; special events. **£90.00** single occupancy supplement.

UK Bridge Breaks at Thistle Hotels

GRASMERE Six Nights: 7th-13th March 2005

Perfectly placed to enjoy the splendid local walking. Choice of bedroom styles: 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

A distinguished 4-star hotel situated in the heart of the city with 182 en-suite bedrooms designed for maximum comfort. Cost per person half board **£149.00** for two nights plus four sessions of bridge. Director **Andrew Kambites**.

Better Bridge with Andrew Kambites Improvers Level 1

LA QUINTA HOTEL, MENORCA - 15th-22nd April 2005

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

The price, based on flying from Gatwick is **£515.00*** which includes half board, all tuition, materials and bridge fees, flights and transfers. *Subject to single supplement.

Improvers Level 2

HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 22nd - 29th April 2005

This week provides a perfect opportunity to improve all aspects of your game under the expert guidance and tuition of one of bridge's more flamboyant yet respected teachers. **Andrew Kambites**, who is just one of three fully qualified EBUTA teachers on hand, has devised a programme to appeal to all who wish to improve their game.

The inclusive cost of this holiday is just **£475.00*** from Gatwick and includes full board, all bridge fees, transfers and airport duties. *Subject to single supplement.

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

MAKE A SAVING Put into practice what you've learned - combine these two holidays for just **£877.00**.

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

On the edge of Cheltenham just one mile from junction 11 of the M5. All 122 en-suite bedrooms include satellite TV plus tea and coffee making facilities. Cost per person half board **£339.00** for five nights. Director **Andrew Kambites**.

CARDIFF New Year Breaks 2005/6

Three Nights: Fri 30 Dec - Mon 2 Jan. Four Nights: Mon 2 - Fri 6 Jan. Seven Nights: Fri 30 Dec - Fri 6 Jan.

What a choice! Three nights over New Year, four nights following or combine the two for a week-long break at this restored Victorian hotel in the heart of Cardiff. Details and prices on our website. Director **Graham Hedley**.

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

4 The Lyons, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5HF

Tel: 01834 876900, 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 CFS prize competition by logging on to our web site at www.bridge-holidays.com.

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Master Point of View

Noelle Bond

Ed's note: Noelle wrote this for the September 2004 Newsletter, which never saw a printing-press. Any anachronisms must hence be attributed to the Newsletter, not to the Hon. MP Secretary.

When preparing for the last Newsletter, I was in the middle of the Year End rush with boxes of points everywhere. Now I'm in the middle of the holiday season, just a few letters to attend to and everything very quiet. Perhaps it's a case of "Quiet, too quiet", as they always say in old movies just before the Indians attack, for on several days recently I have had no mail at all. This is so odd that I can't help wondering if my post dropped through some other letterbox. If you sent points in a while ago and haven't heard from me, give me a call to check. Or, even quicker, look on the WBU website.

That reminds me, more and more people are getting computers so I think it's time I gave the instructions again. Here we go.....

Connect your computer to the Internet then tell it to go to www.wbu.org.uk (the WBU website). When you're connected you'll see a red menu on the left hand side. Click on "Members". About halfway down a new page you will see this: "Those members with a Master point claim in to Noelle that hasn't been returned can find out what is happening here". Just click on the "here" at the end of that very long sentence. Looking down the next page, after some notes from me at the top, you will see a list of members in alpha-numerical order (I only give WBU numbers, so if you've forgotten yours look on your record card). You can see when I received points or posted them back, or why they might be waiting. If you cannot find yourself in the list, you can contact me via my email.

Days without post haven't been the only things confusing me lately. For one thing, I had a member's own SAE returned to me as address unknown! This must be like finding you have suddenly ceased to exist. Then I received a completely empty envelope, with cute Post Office comment "If you think anything is missing...". It should have been obvious something was. The envelope looked as if a large animal had bitten off the end. Mike and Emily, our granddaughter, decided it must have had very large jaws, but couldn't agree what it was (too big for a dog, too small for a lion). Some days later a card informed me letters with excess postage were awaiting collection. I drove to the post office, paid the penalties, and collected two packages, muttering to myself about people not putting on enough stamps. When I got home, I found that one contained the contents of the bitten envelope. I was not amused. The next day I drove back to the post office, showed the envelope and its contents and demanded "What are you going to do about it?". "I'd better give you your money back," the official said meekly (I didn't think I was that frightening). I was not completely pacified even then. I think I should have charged mileage.

Enough complaining, time for praise. Two very honest members contacted me to say they had been credited with more green points than they deserved. One had been

gifted with points for an event he hadn't even played in. Now that's the easy way to get promotion.

In a recent letter I read "I think I'm enclosing an SAE". "Oh good," I thought, "Someone else with that uncertain feeling". Later I found I'd shifted the "I think" from the end of one sentence to the beginning of the next. How foolish. I was reminded of the old "I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast".

A competitive person (aren't we all) went for the new record for the number of stamps on a letter, managing fifteen, but no prize because my address was incorrect. Amazing the letter didn't go to Singapore or somewhere. It included several jokes, I liked his remark that after building-work at home, things were so confused he couldn't find anything, not even his wife.

Thinking of competitive persons, I played recently against a man who is renowned for shouting at his partner. When he found his own partner had no failings, he took to criticising my partner and me for our mistakes (not our best day). Shouldn't he have just been glad we made some?

I've had another letter with its tomato stamp transformed into a face with sticky shapes. Only this time it was a fearsome Viking, with horned helmet, so I'm wondering if I've done anything wrong. Actually, I can't have done as I was recently referred to as "a saint" (polish my halo), but then later as "the points woman" (should that be "points' woman"?) to bring me down to earth.

Here's a story I was sent, edited slightly (for length not content). Terry Dolan, playing in a small village hall and getting overexcited, took his wife to a vulnerable six hearts. They were instantly doubled. He put down his dummy, then, glad to escape, went to answer a knock on the hall door. A woman who had obviously just been shopping at the local off-licence stood there. She asked "Can you help me, I'm locked out". As Terry wrote "Being dummy in both senses, I agreed". Her house was nearby. She wanted Terry to climb the five foot high wall at the back, let himself into the house via the back door, which she had the key for, then open the front door for her. It was only after struggling over the wall in the darkness that Terry wondered if she had a dog. Her "It's quite friendly" wasn't reassuring. And then he saw almost every light in the house on, windows wide open on a March night, and heard music blaring. He decided he'd stumbled into a family quarrel. Not wanting to be either bitten by the dog or punched by an irate husband (feeling doubly vulnerable again? - Noelle) after "two puffs on my inhaler" he climbed back over the wall. He handed back the key with apologies and returned to face his wife at the bridge table. "Where have you been?" she asked; "I was two off and they can't even make five spades". Oops!

Usually dummy doesn't have so much excitement, but I wish he'd used his next turn as dummy to find out what happened next.

Noelle@glanmor45.freeserve.co.uk

Noelle

List of Promotions for each Rank: 24th April 2004 to 31st January 2005

Club Master		David Nicholls	WS	Jean Cufley	NT
Harry Delaney	GA	Mearl Owen	OH	Regina Evans	PW
Miriam Handren	GA	Elen Pierce	S	Judith Owen	BV
Mary Harries	R	Brian Summerfield	BRE	Tony Pinder	PV
Nova Husbands	MER	R Mike Thomas	Y	Angela Roberts	WS
Jennifer King	AG	Win Thomasson	AG	Paul Smith	BRE
David Tyman	CAS			William O Williams	WS
Barbara Dawes	SU	County Master		Advanced Master	
David Everett	Y	Iris Alp	CRI	Picton Davies	L
Gillian Greensides	S	Carol Antonelli	LD	Stroma Davies	PV
Vivien Mitchell	MON	Vivien Bennett	MB	Jean Hughes	P
David Wainwright	S	Mary Blackwell	VOG	Kath Jenkins	VOG
		Peter Blackwell	VOG	Neil Jenkins	VOG
Local Master		Christine Bowman	PV	Neil Jenkins	VOG
Joan Boothe	S	Derek Earle	MER	Averil Jones	PC
Sheridan Bradley	T	Chris Evans	S	Arthur Orme	M
Betty Dawson	D	Barbara James	PN	Doris Powell	GA
Colin Easterbrook	VOG	Ellen Owen	CBY	Alun Richards	MB
Llewellyn Evans	Y	Mike Reed	CAR	Derek Taylor	PN
John Freeman	GA	Lilian Richards	MB	Jennifer Wardell	CAR
Vernon George	MER	Maria Richardson	S	Dorothy Williams	S
Maura Gough	WS	Paul Richardson	GA	Marie Cawley	MB
Frances Hadjipetrou	WS	Allan Robins	MG	Jayne Greatrex	PN
Vera Harmston	GA	Penney Saunders	R	Peter Milewski	H
Mary Harris	S	George Williams	CB	Bob Smith	D
Robert Hellier	GA	Connie Wilson	WS	Gregory Williams	PC
Jean James	C	Sara Bartlett	OH		
Sylvia John	S	Barbara Burden	MG	One Star Master	
Anne Johns	PN	K Allan James	RH	Roger Cradick	SU
Allan Mabley	GA	Emma Knagg	C	Geoff Griffiths	L
Bernard Martin	R	Eric Knagg	C	Theresa Pollard	OH
Anne McDermott	GA	Jean Martin	MB	Mary Price	LD
Kim Morgan	L	Margo Robinson	F	Audrey Tinkler	P
Celia Reed	CAR	Michael Rowland	CN	Sally Davies	AA
Paddy Tamsett	MER	Margaret Ryan	GA	Neville Fonseka	S
Patricia Townsend	Y			Audrey Hall	PN
Christine Cleaver	R	Master		Eric Hitchings	GA
Mary Llewelfryn Davies	A	Harry Ashton	CRI	Joan MacDougall	R
Eira Donovan	BV	Rita Ashton	CRI	Fay Melville	PN
Gwynant Edwards	A	Betty Brookes	A	Olwen Mitchell	GA
Roy Emmott	GA	Barbara Buckland	L	Tommy Moore	BV
David Garside	L	Ken Edwards	MG	Roger Plant	P
Maureen Graham	GA	Hugh Green	ROF	Les J Thomas	S
Miriam Handren	VOG	Iris Jarman	NT	Jennifer Wardell	CAR
Janet Heath	MG	Alan Jones	BV	Malcolm Young	MON
John W Jones	BRE	Eric Joseph	R		
Alan Lightbody	PN	J Barrymore Lee	CAS	Two Star Master	
Ann Maslin	A	Peter Milewski	H	Margaret Doig	LD
Julie Milewski	H	Helen Cottam	ROF	Judith Graham-Jones	H

Edna John	P
Stan Newman	WS
Amy Owen	VOG
Timothy Perkins	MB
Justine Petters	LD
Marcia Rogers	MB
Keith Stonehouse	S
Jean Tonkin	S
Lawrie Buckland	MB
Monica Dewsberry	MG
Marie Hartland	P
Dorothy Loxton	C
Jim Morton	WS
Una Thomas	WS
Sharon Winter	C

Three Star Master

Joan Davies	S
Muriel Fraser	MB
Barney Hunter	MER
Allan Lewis	MG
Frank Long	PV
Anne Raw-Rees	A
Ron Thompson	G
Kate Craven	MB
Sid Craven	MB
Barbara Ellis	S
Barrie Jenkins	PC
Graham Norris	VOG
Marion Stephenson	VOG

Four Star Master

Christopher Bradshaw	MER
Sheila Clarke	S
Pat Cogbill	BR
Graham Fifield	S
Robert Havard	A
Lena Morgan	S
Hazel Trew	S
Mildred Trigg-Knight	P
Alan Ashton	CBY
John Cottam	ROF
George Ellis	S
Allan Lewis	MG
Bob Miller	CAS
Terry Reilly	VOG
Richard Stedman	WS
Alan B Williams	P

Five Star Master

Chris Bickel	MB
Rose Brannon	PN
Iorwerth Davies	PD
Jean Parry	MB
Graham Ball	CBY
Anne Thomas	GA

Tournament Master

H John Evans	MG
Muriel Maslin	MG

Regional Master

Jane Brook	BV
Peggy Edwards	M
David Williams	W
Geoff Barnes	BR
Anne Davies	S
Ann Dolan	P
Joan Jenkins	PN
Arthur Orme	M
David Spalding	CN

Premier Regional Master

Bob Hinton	GA
Graham Jones	MG
Marilyn Runham	LD
Andrew Young	NT
Anthony Carsley	M
Helen Carsley	M
Lee Collier	H
Margaret John	L
Colin Thomas	BSC
Lavinia Thomas	BSC

National Master

Bob Alderdice	S
Chris Davies	BR
Simon Gottschalk	GA
Brian Harden	GA
Sheila Pike	LD
Kay Clement	CAR
Gwyneth Dew	GA
Hazel Heard	L
Elizabeth Hutchinson	GA
Louise Orme	M
Marie Topp	LD

Premier National Master

Mick Green	BV
Keith Jones	L
Betty Lewis	BV
Alan Screen	NT
Steve Webb	R
Frances Williams	L
Lucy Williams	CR
Betty Gardner	GA
Betty Lawrence	DM
Peter Lawrence	DM
Janet Rees	L

Life Master

Tim Barsby	R
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Senior Life Master

Bryan Edwards	W
Steve Kennewell	S



Grand Master

David Birt	C
Arwyn Evans	BR
Philip Felman	C



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

Item	Page	Details
No changes notified		

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy (Most Points Registered in One Year) as at 2nd February 2005

Liam Sheridan	123	Irene Thomas	78	Colette Davies	65
Mary Moore	111	Joan Jenkins	77	Betty Gardner	64
Filip Kurbalija	93	Patrick Jourdain	75	Mel Humphries	63
Muriel Maslin	89	Graham Norris	75	Elizabeth Hutchinson	61
Terry Evans	86	Allan Lewis	75	Trevor Towers	59
Eddie Urbanski	82	John Raymond	69	Andrew Scott	58
Jill Casey	82	Tony Ratcliff	66		

WBU Council Meeting

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

A new format for the Simultaneous Pairs event will be introduced in the Autumn of 2005. Two sets of hands will be used, both to be scored through Ecats. The first, from Sunday to Tuesday, will have preselected hands; the other, from Wednesday to Friday, will be randomly dealt. This is to avoid the problem of players encountering the same hands all week in every club. Clubs will be able to enter either or both events.

Around the Ash Bucket

Summer, autumn and most of winter have come and gone since the last Newsletter left my keyboard. Arthur Miller has died, the Prince of Wales is to marry the love of his life, and Gary Speed has retired from international football.

Life in Cornelly remains, however, much the same. We have moved on from renovating the office to creating a downstairs shower-room and scullery, and in the process Jon has acquired plumbing skills (the real plumber failed to turn up. Do they ever?), I have been drenched in water from an inadequately tightened waste pipe joint and the boxes of tiles remain where we put them, more than six months ago, on our return from the shop.

Andy, my oddly-named horse, has moved from one local farm to another, owned by one of the many distant relations of my mother. A careful filtering of the many tales of her childhood has led me to conclude that the only farm within a 10-mile radius of Bridgend that my mother has not been related to, either in her lifetime or in my grandmother's, is the

one I now live in. Mind you, she's related to someone who was related to the farmers at the Hall on the other side of the family.

One evening last month, the security light in the courtyard came on repeatedly at three-minute intervals. The cats were basking by the fire, so we knew they hadn't been within reach of the sensor. We peered through the window into the dark until, finally, the light came on again and a large rat was revealed, pouncing on a grain of corn left uneaten by the chickens (why are all our animals so incompetent?). He scurried back into the woodpile with his hoard. A minute later, the security light switched itself off, and after another two minutes the rat repeated his race to the centre of the courtyard.

We think this enterprising little fellow is still living in the barn, apparently untroubled by the four felines prowling the premises. The clue lies in the hole in the bottom of a feed sack.

I expect the fox will get him soon enough.