



Newsletter

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Welcome to the new Newsletter
- What is the future for Bridge?
- Two Discard systems reviewed
- Is Bridge good for you?
- MiniBridge reviewed
- Quizzes and crosswords

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Hello and welcome...

.... to your new look Welsh Bridge Union Newsletter and from the editorial team.



Carol and Keith

We are based in Cardiff and play in various clubs around our home. We are both qualified Bridge Teachers. Keith's background is in IT and Carol was a primary school teacher for over 30 years – a winning combination for teaching bridge! We run several classes for all levels of bridge players from beginners to experienced players.

We have found that

not all newcomers to bridge aspire to playing at club level – they like the social element mixed with friendly competition. The emphasis is always on friendly. Recently, we organised a Christmas dinner and were staggered when 86 attended!

For several years we have run a weekend away in which we play bridge in a social setting. These have proved so popular that many put their names forward at the end of the weekend for the next one!

All our events take quite a lot of organising, but when we see the results

and receive such positive feedback, it is all worthwhile.

Sadly, some bridge clubs are not so friendly to improving players. We pride ourselves on the fact that our classes are welcoming to all and are run in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere.

Our aim is to make the Newsletter YOUR Newsletter

and, therefore, we welcome contributions and comments from you all. The success of the newsletter depends on you.



From the President

In anticipation of the New Year I wish all my bridge playing friends and colleagues in Wales a prosperous 2016 with good health and good “most of the time “ bridge.

So what better moment to introduce our New Newsletter. In response to the well aired desires of many members for a tangible contact with the Union, the Management Committee has decided to trial a revamped Newsletter. This is a test piece to gauge reaction, invite suggestions for amendments, additions, deletions and other comments so that production on a regular basis can go ahead.

We have been most fortunate that Keith and Carol Butler have volunteered to edit the Newsletter and we thank and wel-

come them. But they need your help! That is material for publication - anecdotes, quizzes, crosswords, unusual hands, letters to the Editor, all laced with plenty of humour.

We invite your reaction to this copy. Please send your comments to the Editor at

butlerkeith@hotmail.co.uk

The Management Committee also needs your reaction to even more serious issues. In particular the alarming decline of interest in Competition/Tournament bridge. With fewer entries to National Competitions and the Welsh and Cambria Cups, we need to know the reason why, as it appears not to be solely a reflection of the overall picture of

a decrease in the number of players in affiliated Clubs.

I observe that Club players are not overly interested in reading and reacting to notices inviting their comments on a variety of bridge issues. Seriously we do need your in-put, preferably via your Area Representatives on the Management Committee so that we can experiment with some new ideas.

Judith Graham-Jones

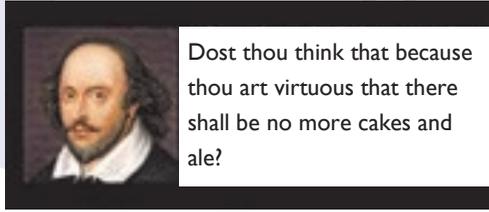
*For this to
work we
need your
help!*

Cakes and Ale

Are we missing a trick?

We are all aware that social bridge either played in non affiliated clubs or at home is in the ascendancy, whilst some of our clubs are in decline. I spend quite a lot of my time browsing the internet for content concerning duplicate bridge.

There is, I believe, a growing acceptance that duplicate bridge does not have to be reserved for those who take the game so seriously that they have to play ever more complex systems and do not know how to smile - let alone be polite - and act as if we are not permitted to view a session of bridge as being a social occasion. Yet how sad it is that there are still those who would have us believe that duplicate bridge is a battle to be



Dost thou think that because thou art virtuous that there shall be no more cakes and ale?

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cannot be much of a standard.

won at all costs, for whilst we do not encounter complex systems and antisocial behaviour at club level in Mid Wales our members take their bridge just as seriously and enjoy it just as much - if not more. It is a truism that " simple bidding systems make for level playing fields."

A regular partner is needed to do well in bridge, unlike chess and Go which are individual games. This also makes it unrewarding to play online with strangers as partners. In addition, any success is shared by two and there usually isn't much success to begin with.

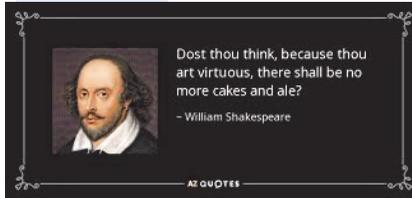
There is also the view that to permit the game to be played socially, pleasantly and simply, means the bridge itself

How ludicrous that is. Whatever the overall standard at my local clubs is, some of our members are able to play against and sometimes beat those who readily deride them. But more importantly, who decided that players have to be "good" to be permitted to play duplicate bridge. And what constitutes "good"?

Horror stories?

One only has to listen to beginners and what they have heard about duplicate bridge being a nightmare and how they will never set foot in a duplicate bridge club, to understand just how rudeness, gamesmanship and intimidation have contributed to preventing the game

Cakes and Ale—Are we missing a trick?



Can we learn from Children in Need?

occupying the place it should rightfully hold among bridge players generally.

Following the Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs in November I scanned the results as usual to see which clubs had entered and how I and my partner had fared. I was surprised to find that a club in a small village just over the border in Herefordshire had a very good turnout when compared with similar clubs in Wales. I made contact with the organisers and learned that their sessions were during the day and hot food was provided at £2.00 per meal. Players were asked to arrive

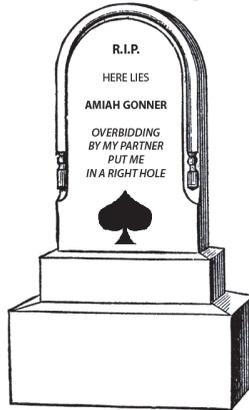
between 11.00 and 11.20am with play starting at 11.30 and finishing at about 15.15.

Interesting homemade soups and baps were available and the menu for each session is published on their website. Tea / Coffee, squashes and biscuits are available throughout the day.

Daytime socially orientated clubs, particularly those with learning groups, seem to be bucking the trend of declining participation and may be the bedrock of duplicate bridge in the future. The WBU should embrace rather than ignore them.

Neville Richards and from the writings of the late Ken Latty

*Thank you,
Partner.
Where is the
hand that you
were bidding?*



Learning Groups are popular

Following on the WBU's initiative (see <https://welshbridgeunion.org/bridge-tuition/>) three new learning groups have been formed.

Welcome to Barrivale_LG, Cardiff Bridge Tutors LG, and Mid Glamorgan LG.

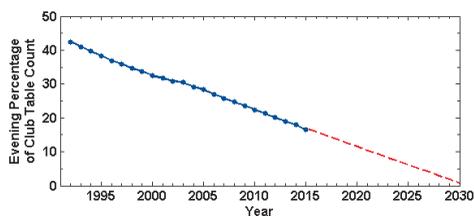
Learning groups have access to the WBU education materials; Teachers' notes, presentation materials, hands that reflect the topic being taught, and quizzes.

They are also able to issue Masterpoints free of charge for supervised sessions of 12-16 boards.

Students love collecting Masterpoints. They give an independent record of achievement from the governing body of the game very early on. It inspires confidence and a continuing sense of achievement. Because they are playing in their own protected environment they can achieve the early ranks quite quickly.

*Learning
Groups
bring increased
WBU
membership.*

Fall and Decline?



Is Bridge dying?

What prevents people joining Club play?

How can it be made more attractive?

Source : Matthew Kidd June 2015

The graph shows the steady decline of evening (Club) Bridge in N America. The red line indicates that by 2030 the evening game will be no more.

It sparked a debate where one conclusion was *“The history of Bridge shows that the more complicated the bidding systems. The less interest people have in learning the game and as a corollary , the simpler the systems the greater the interest!*

Are there lessons for Wales?

Afternoon Bridge?

Teach simple systems?

Make Clubs more welcoming?

No Fear sessions?

Attract younger people?

Starting out

I was terrified!

I hoped that I would have less than 6 points because then I knew what to do!

No Trumpitis?

I hoped that I would never have a balanced hand with 12-14 points because I would have to open INT.

If I did my partner might use Stayman and Transfers and could I really remember what I had to do?

Make a plan!

Even worse they might pass so that I would have to play it! I tried my best to get my partner to play the contract.

If that failed I tried

(and failed) to make a plan. So much to remember!

Don't block: Finesse: Work suits, What did the lead mean, How will they break, count!!!!!!

Now after finding my feet in our No Fear session I am ready to play my part in the Club.

Didn't we have a lovely time!

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Hard at work but all play ...

Luckily our club organizes a weekend away. We arrive on a Friday afternoon and meet for drinks before dinner, and then the first Bridge session. The results are all ready for us to discuss over breakfast the next

morning. Saturday morning is the second session followed by an excellent lunch before we go off sight seeing in the afternoon. Saturday evening's Bridge session is followed by a party. Sunday morn-

ing completes the play. Results are quickly gathered and prizes awarded

Bridge, partying and prizes, what could be better?

I like McKenney

Using McKenney, your discard asks for your partner to lead one of the other two suits. Discarding a "high" card asks for the higher of the two and a low card for

the lower.

The partnership agrees which cards are "neutral" (Say the 5 and 6) meaning "I have no preference". I like McKenney because I can choose from

two suits in order to signal, perhaps protecting a long suit.

You may have to discard a high(ish) card but no system is perfect!

Which system of discards do you prefer?

Revolving,

Dodds, HELD

Let us know

what you use

and why.

I like Odd and Evens

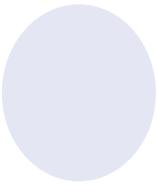
Odd cards ask for that suit and even specify the suit. Low even asks for the lower of the other two suits and high asks for the higher.

Neutral cards are a

problem as all cards are either odd or even but we get round this by saying that a low odd card is more encouraging than a higher one (eg the 3♦ is more encouraging than

the 7♦).

You may find that you do not have the right card in a suit (eg with J-8-7-5-2 you only have a low even card and so cannot ask for the higher ranking suit.



The Bridge Tonic

If I look around the Bridge Clubs where I play, then I have to admit that the vast majority are over 50, in fact over 60 and one who is proud to announce that she is over 90!

If I look at my Bridge classes then the age group is typically those who have just retired.

So it appears that, although we would like it to be different, Bridge players tend to be in their senior years.

Bridge players love their game with a passion so why might they be so committed to a game?

Perhaps the secret lies in the game's mix of stimulating the mind in a social setting. When I play Bridge I certainly concentrate harder and for longer than at any other time (OK, some nights are better than others!) and I meet more people socially than at any other time during the day.

During play I will meet and talk to at least 26 other people; where else can you do that?

Is this important?

Studies show that social issues have an enormous impact on the quality of life and both the physical and mental health of senior citizens.

As we grow older some of the issues that we have to face are:

Illness.

The loss of a spouse or partner.

The feeling of inadequacy as we lose our role defined by work.

The isolation as our families become increasingly engaged in their adult lives.

Boredom from retirement and the lack of routine activities.

*Bridge has a
valuable role
to play in
keeping us
healthy.*

Playing Bridge can address these issues as shown by Stanford University <http://bewell.stanford.edu/features/social-ties-good-health>

The study shows that **we gain great value from the social contact of playing Bridge.**

Another study by Berkeley University showed that there are significant health benefits from learning to play bridge. <http://www.berkeley.edu/news/berkeleyan/2000/11/15/bridge.htm>

Back in 2000, Professor Marian Diamond showed that playing bridge boosts the immune system.

Bridge requires concentration and while you are playing your brain is kept active and stimulated. It seems that this boosts your immune system.

Like muscles, your brain needs to be used to keep it functioning well. Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert. It requires you to use maths, strategy and concentration. There is an old saying “use it or lose it” – playing bridge helps you to “use it”.

It isn't just senior citizens who benefit, in 2006 Dr. Christopher Shaw, a researcher from Carlinville, ILL, found that children who play bridge perform significantly better on standardized tests than their non-bridge playing counterparts — increasing scores across all five core subjects areas with an astounding 39.11% increase in science.

Separate studies have shown that playing Bridge is good for you. The social contact and the chance to use our brain has been shown to be good for our physical and mental health. One study showed that playing Bridge boosts the immune system and may help to ward off colds and flu.

So why not help people to take the Bridge Tonic?

Perhaps we should think more of making Bridge clubs friendly and welcoming places, where people can meet and chat, as well as play cards.

Bridge is

good for

young and

old



Thank you, Bridge

Beth joined our Beginners' Class a few years ago. These are Beth's own words:

'My husband and I had been married for 49 years and, when he died, I was lost without him. I sat in my house on my own for 12 months until I decided to get a hobby. I joined "Beginners" Bridge and that was the start of my new life.

I have made so many new friends through bridge and everyone is so friendly. The number of people I meet when out shopping who stop to say hello is wonderful and I now have an active social life outside of Bridge – going out for meals and trips to the theatre and so on.

I now go to two or three bridge classes a week and play socially in

friends' houses. I also enjoy the annual weekends

I honestly don't know how life would be for me without bridge and am so glad I decided to take the plunge. I love it, my family and friends always ask me how it's going, and are thrilled that I'm enjoying life once again.

Membership

falling?

Around the Clubs

We would like to make a regular feature of news from around the clubs in Wales.

Somewhere in Wales—A tale of two clubs

Club X

We want our club members to enjoy a "good" game.

We don't encourage people to join until they can play at a satisfactory level.

Our membership is falling.

Club Y

We want our members to enjoy their game.

We encourage Improvers to play at Club level via a "No Fear" session. Experienced players also play but are asked to tone down their competitive bids.

Our membership has increased.

Electronic scoring

There was a time when electronic scoring could only be afforded by the larger clubs.

The new Bridgetab solution, from Jannersten, brings electronic scoring within the budget of even small clubs.

You don't need an Internet connection and may either use any old router (most of us have a spare one by now) or for about £15 from PC World you could buy a TP Link TL-WR702N



The pocket sized TP Link TL-WR702N

This would be fine for connecting up to 8 scoring tablets. More than that might need a slightly more expensive router.

The TP Link connects via USB to any Windows PC or laptop.

I use a 10 year old Windows XP notebook and Pairs

Bridgemate

Bridgemates are available in two versions: Bridgemate I & II. Bridgemate Is are usually refurbished

models.

They both use a dedicated wireless server attached via USB to your scoring computer.

The screen is smaller and monochrome.

See <http://www.bridgemate.co.uk/>

A five unit system costs £950

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Scorer (still

available from Neville) . The only outlay would be around £35 for a scoring tablet and a licence fee of £6 per table per year . All other software is free!

I have found the Sumvision tablet, illustrated above, to be robust and reliable. It has survived a number of unintentional “drop tests” and one drenching by a coffee spill!

I am approaching my third year of use and have had up to twenty tables running. I previously used Bridgemates.

Readily affordable, easily set up, intuitive to use and the large colour display is welcomed by all.

Support is available from here in Wales.

See www.bridgetab.co.uk

Or email info@bridgetab.co.uk



Education, education, education What is MiniBridge?

MiniBridge is a simplified form of Bridge.

It is designed to show newcomers declarer and defensive playing techniques without the burden of learning detailed bridge bidding.

The game was first introduced in France and the Netherlands in the 1990s.

How it is played:

Deal the cards and sort your hand into suits.

Count your high-card points.

Each player announces their total points starting with the dealer.

The partnership with the higher points between them will become the declaring side and the other partnership is the defending side.

Of the declaring side, the player with the higher points will become the declarer, while his/her partner becomes the dummy.

The dummy then lays down his cards and the declarer plays both hands.

Declarer then decides which suit are trumps and how many tricks (out of 13) he can make altogether.

Where is it played in Wales?

We only know of Llanishen Fach, Cardiff
Christ College, Brecon.

Where is it played elsewhere?

England

Scotland

France

Netherlands

In Scotland

Between 8 and 14 school teams normally contest the final in Stirling, hoping to win the title and trophy. Perhaps the competitive element seems more important to the accompanying teachers/parents than it is to the children themselves, who genuinely believe that taking part is more important than winning!

This year's competition (2015) saw a quantum leap in the number of competing teams. The Championship Final eventually had to be split into two locations with a Northern & Southern heat featuring no fewer than 131 pupils from schools across Scotland. And this is merely the tip of the iceberg - an indication that offering children the chance to play MiniBridge soon creates its own demand.

Well! England does it, Scotland does it but we in Wales don't do enough of it.

What is it?

Playing MiniBridge in schools!





Members of Llanishen Fach Primary School Bridge Club, Ms Julie Morgan AM and Mr Huw Lewis minister for education and skills.

We had questions asked in the Assembly

Julie Morgan

I thank the Minister for that response. Llanishen Fach Primary School in my constituency is providing a very popular after-school bridge club, which, of course, is excellent for promoting numeracy, problem solving and developing mental maths skills. The Welsh Bridge Union has been in touch to say it's keen to promote bridge as an activity in other schools and it's offering to work with schools, doing structured courses with all the materials needed to deliver this. Is this something that the Minister would welcome and would encourage in other schools in Cardiff and in Wales?

Huw Lewis

Well, of course, I would. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I am pleased that Llanishen Fach has chosen an innovative approach, really, to addressing those crucial skills and engaging young people in an innovative way. Improving literacy and numeracy skills do remain, of course, key educational priorities, and I'm pleased that schools are prepared to experiment and use engaging approaches such as, in this case, bridge, to develop those skills. That's all to the good. Every school, I would hope, pays attention to the potential that after-school clubs and school clubs in general can have in engaging young people in all sorts of agendas relevant to their education and, indeed, with an eye to broadening those young people's view of the world and their education in general.

*Bridge is really fun and it helps me with my maths.
Bethan*

I love bridge! It's fun and it tests you, it's way better when you have friends to play it with. Rebecca

*In the future we would love to play minibrige with other teams or schools.
The main reason we love bridge is because it's a fun game to play with our friends and is something we can teach others and do in our free-time. We are glad that Mr Barrett has set up a club for us. Ruby and Rachel*

The WBU wants to set up a national training day for teachers

We have written to Huw Lewis suggesting a national one day conference where we teach teachers how to teach MiniBridge.

We have prepared a full set of teaching materials, student notes, quizzes and resources (cards and scoring sheets).

What educational benefits does MiniBridge have?

Maths

- Patterns and sequences
- Working with unknown numbers (basic algebra)
- Probability and certainty

Thinking Skills

- Working memory
- Focus and concentration
- Handle key data
- Apply strategic reasoning
- Problem solving
- Deductive and inferential logic

English Language and Communication

- Justify actions
- Contribute effectively to group discussion
- Ask relevant questions
- Listen and respond appropriately to others
- Challenge others appropriately
- Explain a problem or a solution to a problem

Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning

- Negotiate
- Respect others' boundaries
- Take turns
- Show patience and tolerance
- Handle pressure
- Cope with winning and losing
- Comply with rules
- Trust partner's decisions and actions
- Cope with competition
- Sit still and allow others time and space
- Cooperate with a partner
- Resolve conflict with partner or opponents

Or

you can

play on

your X Box

Future plans for MiniBridge

Inter schools competitions
Sims events
National congress
International visits



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*Inter school and
SIMS type events
National congress
International
visits*



Teach your grandchildren to play MiniBridge

Remember those lovely winter evenings playing cards with grandparents? Why not teach your grandchildren to play MiniBridge? The WBU can

provide you with a “How to play Mini-Bridge” booklet and we even have some very attractive crib cards. MiniBridge develops playing skills

both Declarer and Defending play.



Bridge Teacher's conference

We are hoping to call a national conference for all those either teaching or interested in becoming a teacher.

We are planning to show alternative

teaching styles; to demonstrate how the WBU materials may be used; to show how Mini-Bridge may be used; to demonstrate a lesson being prepared; and to hold an open

seminar on how Bridge teaching might be taken forward in Wales.

Interested parties please contact Keith or Carol.



LAW'S PARODY – ONE BID, TWO MEANINGS

The four team mates had retired to the bar to score their matches in the club championship teams:

...Board 2 plus 400; and plus 50; that's plus 10 imps. Board 3: minus 980; and minus 100; that's minus 14 imps.

How did you manage to go off in the slam?

We weren't in a slam, we played in 2♣ two off.

What! – how did you play in a 2-1 club fit when you have a cold 6♥ on?

Well, what happened was.....

East: 1♠

South: 2♣

Director: How can I help you?

West: My partner has opened the bidding out of turn; it was actually South's turn to open, but he has called and so accepted partner's bid out of turn.

Director: Well unfortunately, you (South) have accepted the bid out of turn by calling 2♣, so your bid now stands.

South: Surely that can't be right – I'm being penalised

for opponent's error.

Director: I'll show you the book – Law 29A says 'Following a call out of rotation offender's LHO may elect to call thereby forfeiting the right to any rectification'. If it was acceptable for your bid to be withdrawn, then the law would say so. You should have seen the 1♠ from your opponent, and called me before your bid.

South: Well I don't think its fair but I have to accept your ruling.

North, then taking the 2♣ to be a simple overcall, obviously passed.

Correct or not?

Common sense tells you that there must be something wrong – but where?

The best way to look at the situation, is first to consider what would happen if South had called the Director before bidding 2♣.

The Director would now first use Law 29 ('Procedure After A Call Out Of Rotation'); South can accept the 1♠ bid and 'over-call' 2♣ - auction continues; or if he doesn't accept, then Law 31 applies - the 1♠ bid is cancelled and South can now 'open' 2♣ (West would be silenced

throughout the auction), so both meanings can be legally applied.

However in trying to apply Law 29 in a situation where South has bid before the Director is summoned, leads to the non-sensical situation above. South's 2♣ bid cannot be withdrawn, and he has been deemed to therefore have accepted the 1♠ bid, but is legally accepting only with an over-call meaning. He does not have the option of making his own call (2♣) as if in rotation.

Law 28B comes to the rescue – 'A call is considered to be in rotation when made by a player whose turn it was to call before rectification has been assessed for a call out of rotation by an opponent. Making such a call forfeits the right to rectification for the call out of rotation. The auction proceeds as though the opponent had not called at that turn, but Law 16D applies.

I think you'll agree that this Law is not easy to comprehend.

What Law 28B intends is that if a player attempts to take corrective action with respect to an opponent's call-out-of-rotation *before the TD is called*, then under this Law, the call he has made (2♣), is now considered to be in rotation i.e. he is bidding as if it were his turn to call (this is the situation here). The opponent's 1♠ bid is cancelled, but the normal corrective action is forfeited (i.e. Laws 29, 31 don't now apply) - West is not silenced throughout. West is still in receipt of unauthorised information – he knows his partner has an opening hand with spades, but cannot use that information – Law 16D – probably irrelevant in this scenario. (Note – South *can* make use of the unauthorised information given by East – but at his own risk).

However there is still some ambiguity. The Director needs to ask South whether a) he was merely accepting East's call out-of-turn – whereby Law 29A applies, or b) he ignored or didn't see East's call out-of-turn, and was exercising his right to open the bidding – whereby Law 28B applies (when it's your turn to call you are under no obligation to be aware of any infringement from opponents). Both possibilities are legal – with

(a) the auction just continues – he has accepted the bid (Law 29); but with (b) on application of Law 28B, South is effectively opening the bidding in rotation (yes – in the excitement of picking-up 23 points he's forgotten to 'stop' but that is not an infringement of the Law), East's wrong opening bid is withdrawn, and West cannot use any unauthorised information from his partner's call (East) – Law 16. Whatever Law is being applied, South cannot change his bid – it's just the meaning of the bid that is changed (in this case a strong 2♣ rather than a 2♠ overcall) – and his partner is entitled to know which meaning he intends.

So the two Laws work together, but Law 29A does not over-rule 28B.

It is more commonly used in a situation, say - South's turn to call, and West prematurely calls out-of-turn. South can ignore (or doesn't see) West's call out-of-turn, and Law 28B allows him to bid as he intended. In that case West's call is cancelled and the auction proceeds normally from South's call, with the proviso that East is in receipt of unauthorised information from West's call out-of-turn (and must not make use of such informa-

tion – Law 16). In that application, the Law is reasonably clear – South cannot be deprived of his turn to call by West's call out-of-turn.

In general, the situation is no different if East opens out-of-turn with a Pass, and then South bids before the Director is called. When the Director is eventually called he should find out whether South intended to open the auction or not, which leads to either removing East's Pass (restrictions on West), or not (auction proceeds as normal). For example, many players are more sound in their pre-emptive opening bids in second position. So if East passes out of turn, and South bids 3♣, North is entitled to know whether South is opening in second position (accepting the pass out-of-turn) with a 'sound' pre-empt, or opening in first position (not actually accepting the pass out-of-turn) possibly with a less sound pre-empt.

So I think that in the teams situation described, an appeal is in order – Director's error. Also the Director should have been a little more courteous in his manner of address to South

Tony
Haworth

Director, please!

Director, please!

A Bridge Agony

Aunt for those

difficult rulings

Dear Director,

Our club regularly plays Mitchell movements with an arrow switch on the last few rounds.

Recently, a table forgot to switch

and played the board. It gave a very good score to North-South when East-West should have been playing that hand.

East said that they should be awarded

the score as if they had played it, saying this was custom and practice in their other club. Would this be correct?

Director's advice

There are two aspects to a Bridge Movement - the control of the pair and board progression, and also the optimisation of player comparisons i.e. trying to ensure that pair 'x' plays approximately the same number of times in the same direction and in the opposite direction in relation to each other pair. A full Howell, in which you play every other pair, this is fully achieved (it is said to be perfectly balanced). However for convenience, many clubs prefer to run Mitchell

movements. Should you **not** introduce an arrow switch, it is a completely **unbalanced** movement - i.e. NS and EW **must** have their own separate results. One 'combined' result **can** be meaningfully achieved by arrow-switching some rounds - approximately one-eighth of the number of boards, and usually during the latter rounds. Since this is only an **approximate** balancing solution, it doesn't really matter if the odd board(s) are played the opposite way round to the scheduled movement (in fact, in doing so you can some-

times enhance the optimisation of score comparisons). However having done so, the result is 'as played' and it would be **totally wrong** to award the defenders declarer's score and vice versa. If the movement had been set-up originally with a non-arrow-switch, the pairs would have complied without any question. It's just that in this case, the movement has effectively been amended later. However the scorer must remember to ensure that the intended arrow-switch is reversed when scoring the particular *board(s)*.

Y Cyfarwyddwr

Quiz West is Dealer: None Vulnerable use ACOL Volume 1, Issue

Q1	West	North	East	South
	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass

What should West bid now?

Q2	♠ A J ♥ K Q ♦ Q 7 4 3 ♣ J 9 6 5 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S
N	E					
W	S					

What should West open?

Q3	♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ 8 ♦ 10 7 5 3 ♣ A J 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	West Pass ?	North 1♥	East 1NT	South Pass
N	E									
W	S									

What should West bid now?

Q4	♠ 6 ♥ K Q J 10 8 5 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 10 7 5	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	West 3♥ ?	North Pass	East 4♥	South 4♠
N	E									
W	S									

What should West bid now?

Quiz Answers below

Q4 Pass - When you have made a pre-empt bid you have described your hand. West has nothing more to say. They don't know the strength of East's support so leave it to East to decide what to do.

Q2 Acol tells us to open 1♣. If Partner replies it may well be in a major. West would not be able to reverse with 2♦ and would have to rebid 2♣. Perhaps a 1NT opening is a better bid here.

Q1 West should Pass or 4♦ if needed. Their bid was a Gambling 3NT showing a solid minor. East has denied any support in outside suits and has bid 4♣ - West corrects to 4♦ if needed.

Who's who



Spot these

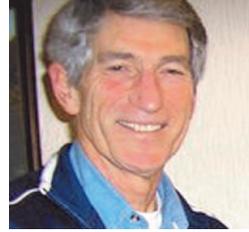


WBU

personalities



Who's who

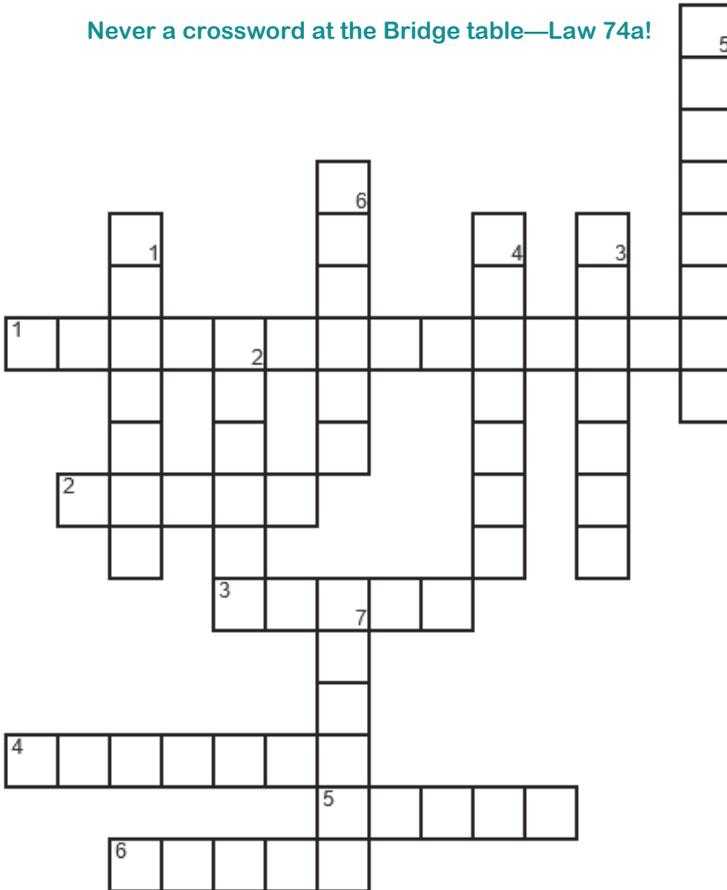


Need a clue—names are in scrambled order

Tim Rees
John Salisbury
Richard Plackett
Sheila Shea
Liam Sheridan
Gary Jones
Paddy Murphy
Jean Hand
Gwynn Davis
Patrick Shields

Paul Denning
Roger Penton
Patrick Jourdain
Tony Ratcliff
Liz Commins
Mark Roderick
Julian Potrage
David Stevenson
Filip Kurbalija
Mike Tedd

Never a crossword at the Bridge table—Law 74a!



Across

1. This hand isn't balanced
2. The switch to change direction in a Mitchell movement
3. Vital to communication
4. Sounds like this convention wants him to remain
5. To discard
6. Child's soother?

Down

1. Having none, partner?
2. Not following suit
3. Definition- impressive delicacy and skill
4. Type of Bridge that Al Capone might like
5. Usually played with Unusual No Trump
6. A bid of the opponents' suit in a competitive auction.
7. Rule of

Learning

“You pick up a hand of cards with 12 points and balanced – what’s your opening bid?” asked the woman taking the bookings. I shrugged my shoulders and said, “One No Trump I guess”. “You’re in” she replied and booked me and my three friends onto our first Bridge Evening Class. A big step from our informal meal and a few drinks with a friendly game approach of previous years, where even with our background reading we felt that some expert help was needed.

The early years.

We followed three courses, Beginners, Improvers and Advanced and then decided that prac-

tice was the best way forward. We went to every club that would have us, lambs to the slaughter. We invariably ended up at the bottom every time, much to the delight and amusement of the other players but soon learned to play reasonably quickly and got to grips with the scoring. That was twenty years ago and we have played pretty regularly from that day to this. Whilst in Gloucestershire we joined

Churchdown and Southgate Clubs but also played occasionally at Stroud and Cheltenham. We participated in a local League and spent enjoyable evenings playing Teams in people’s houses all

over the county, entertaining those Teams in our home, along with their dogs and even children on occasion. Over the years we became very involved with the running of the Clubs, I was Treasurer at Churchdown; Nev was on the Committee of both and regularly helped out with Director duties, having attended the EBU Course. Both Clubs could boast eight to ten tables and were run very effectively.

Moving to Wales.

When we moved to Wales we were very keen to continue to play but found it a bit of a culture shock. Rhayader Club was held in the Playgroup premises crammed between

Margaret relates her journey from Kitchen Bridge to Club play and shares her thoughts for the future of Bridge.

My Bridge career—Margaret Richards (con'd)

*Margaret
and Neville
move to
Wales and
find things a
little
different.*

doll's houses and the sandpit! It was organised on an individual basis, each player taking a card from the pack and being paired with the nearest denomination – a different partner every week! Llandrindod Club was slightly more formal and I was allowed to keep my regular partner. Both Clubs rarely saw more than four tables and shared a number of members. But for people new to the area it was a great way to meet friends. We helped Knighton start their own club and all three are now well run, thanks to dedicated members, and a joy to play at.

My approach to Bridge.

I have never been a very serious player,

I like to do the best I can and feel I have had a good evening if I have played the cards to the best of my ability and not let my partner down too badly. I get frustrated when I make silly mistakes or don't take the finesse when I know I 'could've, would've, should've!'

I rarely look at the results, coming top or bottom is not of great importance to me. I rarely look at or discuss the hands with my partner after the event unless there is a particular hand that caused concern – but the scenario never repeats itself anyway. To improve my game would be a bonus but the main aim is to keep my brain active.

What is the future for Bridge?

I don't know where Bridge is heading. Most of us are getting more and more infirm and I don't much like driving at night these days, so day-time Bridge would be a good option for me personally. I generally prefer to play with people I know, in an atmosphere that is friendly and full of humour rather than with sour faces and bad manners. The occasional day out playing Bridge is not out of the question, especially if there is a nice meal in the plan but playing in a Congress for three full days is definitely not something I am going to repeat any time soon!

Margaret Richards.

Cardiff Bridge Tutors

Quizzes

Bidding

- Opening the Bidding
- Responding
- Opener's second bid
- Losing Trick Count
- Hand Evaluation
- Takeout Doubles
- Transfers and Stayman
- Slam Bidding
- Strong Twos
- Benji Weak Twos
- Preempts
- Penalty Doubles
- Sacrifices
- Fourth Seat Bids

Overcalling

- Overcalling suit bids
- Responding to Overcalls
- Responding to a Takeout Double
- Responding to a 1NT Overcall

Quizzes



You can access short notes for each quiz from the quiz page.

The quizzes are multiple choice and the questions are presented randomly each time you run the quiz. The answers are also presented randomly. You must select an answer before you can move to the next question.



Play it again, Sam!

Your link to many hands to practise your play skills

Bridgetab



We provide support for Bridgetab in the UK.

Planning and Play

- Leads to Suit
- Contracts
- Leads to NT Contracts

Gizmos and Gadgets

- Negative Doubles
- Landy
- Astro
- Flint Pender
- McKenney Discards
- Michael's Cue Bid
- Unusual NT

Even More Stuff

- Random questions

Here are a series of quizzes provided free! They were designed for Beginners and Improvers but are being used by even experienced players now. The quizzes are

used around the World. They have a big following in Ireland, in fact far more usage from there than in Wales! The quizzes are multiple-choice with friendly guid-

ance if answered incorrectly. Recently added is the "Play it again, Sam" section where you can play hands to practice your play techniques. If you have any

ideas for new quiz topics then please let Keith know. The email address is on the last page of the newsletter.

Why use Duplimated hands?

“I hate these hands, They are fixed!”

“I love these hands, they test my bidding ability!”

These are the extremes of views often heard.

The truth is that duplimated hands are com-

puter generated and are just random not fixed.

The human shuffle isn't very efficient and so there are far more balanced hands produced. Much easier to bid!

The computer generated hands will pro-

duce a much wider range of hands, some balanced but many more distributional.

It has been calculated that to achieve the same result as a computer generated deal we would need to riffle shuffle at least 7 times plus four overhand shuffles

Ok, they are more random but what other benefits are there?

One of the major benefits is that a hand summary can be posted onto your club website.

It can show the HCP for each player plus the Double Dummy Analysis of make-able contracts.

If you can persuade someone to write a bidding summary then this can appear as “The Expert View”.

The example shown is from Bridgewebs.

From version 2.19i there is an extra button added.

Play it again allows you to play through the selected hand.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface. At the top, it displays 'Dir: North Vul: None', 'Optimum NS 140', and 'A 94'. The cards are: North (♠ A J 4 3, ♥ K 10 8, ♦ J 5 3, ♣ 10 6 3) and South (♠ 8 5 2, ♥ 9 3, ♦ A 2, ♣ K J 8 7 5 2). A green box in the center shows 'NORTH 1 SOUTH'. Below the cards, there are HCP values: North 13, South 9. A 'Play it again' button is highlighted with a yellow arrow.

The Expert View shows the bidding sequence for West, North, East, and South:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♠	
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North									
Deal: 151118									
NS	EW	Bid	dy	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	1	2♥	S		9	110		10.43	3.57
7	13	4♥	N		9	50		3.57	10.43
8	2	2♥	N	♠7	10	170		13.86	0.14
9	4	3♥	N		8	50		3.57	10.43
10	6	2♠	S		9	110		10.43	3.57
11	8	4♥	N	♠A	9	50		3.57	10.43
13	12	3♥	N	♠5	8	50		3.57	10.43

Alternative duplimating machines

Volume 1, Issue 1

The Handy Dup



A hand held device that is connected to your computer. You draw cards by “swiping” them with your thumb. Slow and takes some practice, Suitable for small groups

Duplimate



Available in several forms. There are often deals to be had on refurbished models. Connected to your computer it provides a fast form of dealing.

Bridge Sorter



A robust machine that doesn't need bar coded cards. Slower than the Duplimates

PlayBridge Dealer4



With electric motor drive rather than belt this machine is fast and robust

Free play software

The Play it again features are provided by software written by John Goacher.

John provides a free Windows program, Bridge Solver Online (BSOL) and if you have an Android tablet then there is also a Bridge

Solver app available from Google play.

You can find out more by visiting

www.bridgesolver.co.uk

There are links here to obtain the free software

Try this excellent

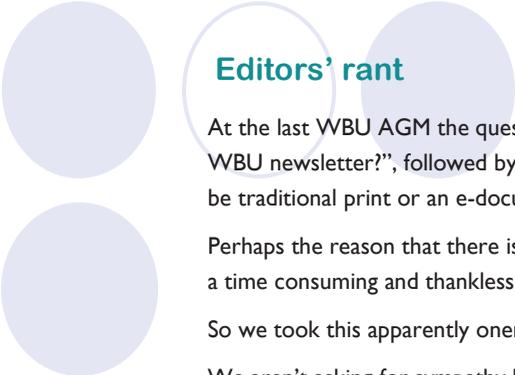
free play

software on

Windows or

Android

Page 27



Editors' rant

At the last WBU AGM the question was raised "Why isn't there a WBU newsletter?", followed by discussion as to whether it should be traditional print or an e-document.

Perhaps the reason that there isn't a newsletter is that editing it is a time consuming and thankless task.

So we took this apparently onerous task on.

We aren't asking for sympathy but feel that as we are the only people willing to do it, that we have earned the right to ride a few hobby horses.

If you don't agree then write and tell us.

If you do agree then tell us.

Without your participation this newsletter will go the way of its predecessors.

Who is Bridge for?

A strange question?

Is it for all who want to play or just those who play "well"?

If it is for those who play "well" then who defines what "well" is?

My answer would be that it is for everybody.

We have tried to show in this issue that there is a risk of club bridge dying out; that playing bridge has personal and social benefits and that a way forward may be to enhance the social aspects.

This can only be done by making clubs friendly, welcoming places.

I'm not sure that they all are.

Is Bridge different from other activities?

Volume 1, Issue 1

Yes, in a way it is.

At a basic level Bridge isn't complex—there is just an enormous amount to learn.

It then has three key skill areas to master; bidding, play and defence.

The majority of new recruits are, shall we say “mature”, and the fact is that learning new skills becomes more difficult as we age.

I remember that as I learnt something new, a previously learnt skill was forgotten.

When I came to the table it took all my effort to try to bid correctly and I lived in fear of making a mistake. No one had taught me play techniques and consequently even my vastly underbid contracts ended in disaster.

If the opposition then gave me a post mortem full of “You should haves” then my already shaky confidence wobbled even more!

It needs time , experience and support for people to improve.

Bridge for all or Bridge for the elite?



Our view is that for the game to be healthy it needs to have a broad base of support.

Clubs must welcome those new to the game and tolerate their mistakes.

They need to understand that entering club play is full of fear for new entrants.

*I know my
place!*

Perhaps the establishment of a session, often named “No Fear” bridge will help; providing a way for newcomers to enter club play. Experienced players may still have their own separate session.

And of course provide training!

“We’ll keep a welcome in the hillsides”

Somewhere in Wales there was a small bridge club with diminishing numbers caused by both member age and pompous, unfriendly management.

New players were not welcomed unless they were experienced. Those players who took their courage in both hands, even though they were shaking inside, were made to feel incompetent at worse and “fresh meat” at best. Generally, they never returned and spread the word that the club was very unfriendly. Thus, the demise of the club continued. Only the “crème de la crème” remained reinforcing their superior claim.

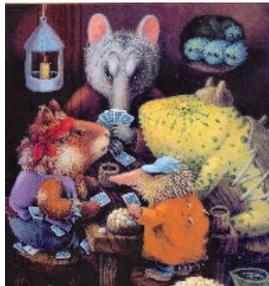
One day along came a few players who felt that this was all wrong. That Bridge was a game that all players should enjoy, no matter what their level of play. They struggled to get support from the “old guard” which never appeared. Eventually, with much perseverance and tenacity they managed to set up a small group of players both new and old and encouraged them to play in a warm, welcoming atmosphere away from the intimidating, ultra-competitive elite.

Quickly, the word spread about the fun and enjoyment to be had each week and numbers grew. Not only was there Bridge to be had but home-made cakes and refreshments, initially, supplied by those who set up the group but, then, by the group themselves who really wanted this to succeed. This became **THEIR** Bridge group.

So, the moral of this story is if you think that the world of Bridge is not for you because you have been met by unfriendliness and an “I want to win whatever the cost” approach, then, think again. There are a number of players in number of clubs who want to help and encourage you to play Bridge. If you are having difficulty finding them just contact the WBU and, particularly, Keith Butler, they are only too happy to help.

I know I was that player!!

*A player who
cannot defend
accurately should
try to be declarer*



*One advantage of
bad bidding is that
you get practice at
playing atrocious
contracts*



<https://welshbridgeunion.org/>

On a lighter side

Suggested additions to the Bidding box

Editorial Team

Keith and Carol
Butler

07973 731539

Or

07946 458992



Discard Systems from a teaching group

I was called to a table to give advice.

There had been a discard by East and South wanted to know what they might do.

I suggested that they ask West what discard systems they played.

West, the husband in a married pair playing East-West, said with undue emphasis on the first two words

“**My wife** plays the ABC system”.

South looked puzzled, I suggested they ask for a fuller definition.

West replied “**Any Bloody Card!**”

What do you think of it, so far?

This newsletter depends on you.

If you don't like the content then tell us.

If you have a topic of interest then tell us.

If you have news in your club - special birthdays, fund raisers, special events, socials—then tell us.

If you would like to write a regular article—tell us.

| butlerkeith@hotmail.co.uk carolbutler26@hotmail.co.uk

Don't worry,

Partner.

It is such an unusual

bid. It only occurs

every 20 minutes!



**This newsletter
needs you!**

MASTER POINT RECORDS

Master Point records are stored in the secure online WBU Database along with the WBU Membership records.

Registration is required and then your personal record may be viewed using the menu tab on the WBU website

Records for members of each affiliated club are sent to all Club Secretaries at regular intervals for printing and distribution as required.

All records are available for download from the WBU website.

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