



# Newsletter

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Special points of interest:

- Letters to the editor
- What is wrong with Bridge in Wales?
- Slam bidding—Cue bidding
- Unease and Disquiet
- Director, please!
- Camrose report

## Inside this issue:

What you said	2
A Bridge Glossary	7
What is wrong	8
No Fear Bridge	11
The AGM	13
Cue bidding to slam	14
Caption competition	16
EWBA Congress	17
Bridge the gap	21
Andy's 'andy 'int	22
Unease and Disquiet	23
For Directors	25
Camrose	35

## Hello and welcome...

..... to the second edition of the Newsletter.

We have been so pleased with the positive feedback received after the publication of the inaugural one.

You will see the letters and comments throughout this issue. We also had verbal feedback and all comments were most encouraging. Indeed, we only had one negative email.

This too has been published for balance.

Our aim is still to make the Newsletter contain something for all – which is quite difficult as there is such a variety and level of Bridge players.

I hope you will find something of interest to you.

The success of this publication rests entirely in the hands of you, the reader. So **please** send us your articles, ideas, news etc. and let us know what we are doing right – or, indeed wrong! I'm particularly interested in news from clubs – tell us what's happening where you play.

Could you please use Gill Sans Mt Font 9 or 10 point and Word rather than PDF please.

Tables of hand diagrams and bidding don't copy over into Desktop Publishing very well and we would prefer images rather than table, please.

Carol Butler

email: [carolbutler26@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolbutler26@hotmail.co.uk)



Carol and Keith

## What you said about Edition 1

Congratulations on the WBU newsletter which is very good with lots of interest and diversity of content.  
B Spriggs



I think as a News Letter it is fantastic and you have both done a wonderful job. My only concern is that it may be too much all in one go and will people lose interest? Other than that- First class first issue. Well done .  
Vincent

Well done for the newsletter - what a lot of work! I shall read it all with interest.  
Many thanks  
Sonia

Great newsletter, congratulations.  
Ginny Jenkins

In all walks of life, there are those who do and there are those who complain. Bridge in Wales at all levels relies on a lot of people giving up large amounts of their own time to ensure events happen and people enjoy their game. All these people can do is their best, but often all they cop is criticism and negativity, which is discouraging.

Name with held at author's request.

Dear Carol and Keith,

Thanks for the mention of Cardiff's Llanishen Fach Primary School Minibridge group launched by Maggie Pierce and myself. The key ingredient in its continuing survival was finding a teacher at the school who had been through bridge classes and was willing to look after the club once we had given the initial two hours of tuition. We are also pleased that Keith is now on hand to help. But a follow-up at their Secondary School is needed.

Maggie and I have taught more than a hundred school children in the Cardiff area to play mini-bridge but at the other schools there was no teacher at the school to take over after the launch. However, the Powerpoint presentations I have used are freely available to anyone teaching mini-bridge in school and a couple have applied for them. The WBU also has material schools can use.

As a Trustee of the Educational Trust for British Bridge I was able to give a substantial cheque to the WBU to cover the cost of recent efforts. Sophie Cunningham's success in getting bridge accepted into the main curriculum at Evenlode in Penarth is particularly noteworthy. It also needs to be followed up when they leave the Primary School.

Although we are all aware of the problems for national tournaments in Wales it is not all gloom. For example, I belong to Cardiff, which is currently doing well. The single bridge room at Penylan now hosts more than eighty tables of bridge a week. And half of these are novices. Cardiff may have only four weekly sessions of "traditional" club players but there also are six novice sessions a week looked after by experienced members. The sixty students to whom I give tuition range in age from 22 to 90!

At grass roots level bridge is often doing well. It is with National tournaments that it faces a problem. The WBU is reaping the consequence of many years of failing to bring young talented players into the game. As I write the English Bridge Union is fielding a team in the Under 20s Home Internationals who are mostly under 16, whilst the WBU did not have four players under 20 to represent the country.

We must find the young players of talent who will not only revive the national tournament scene but also provide the Welsh Bridge Union in the future with the opportunity to field teams that will be as successful as the current, but ageing, group.

WBU members can be proud that their teams selected to represent Wales in recent years have won the Camrose (after sixty years without success, but recently one win and two close seconds), the Teltscher Trophy for Seniors, the Lady Milne for Women, and gold at the Commonwealth Nations Championship. But Wales has yet to make any mark in the Juniors. We wish Keith and others every success in tackling this particular problem.

Yours,  
Patrick Jourdain

I am hoping to start a Saturday MiniBridge Club to provide an opportunity for those who leave primary as well as an opportunity for the existing primary school players. **Volunteers needed!**

Keith Butler

## What you said about Edition 1

**Wow! What a breath of fresh air.**



David Stevens passed on his copy of the new WBU Newsletter as, although I am still a member I think, I am not currently playing in an affiliated club. Bob and I are just too busy running a learning group as well as doing everything we can, alongside other committee members, to ensure that Beaumaris Duplicate Bridge Club continues to thrive. The lead article and the piece written by Neville mirror my own experiences and reflect my views. It is wonderful to know that we are not alone.

Beaumaris is a small coastal town in Anglesey with approximately 2000 inhabitants. About 12 years ago our local fledgling duplicate club was destined to close so I decided to see if I could bring it back to life.

Obviously new players were needed and the only way was for someone to teach. With extensive training and organisational experience I wondered could I do it? A good average club player, I had no illusions about my bridge abilities; I was never going to storm my way to the top of the bridge world and I never wanted to. I contacted the EBU and they gave me every encouragement saying that the best teachers were likely to be those who could get back to basics and had the patience to encourage absolute beginners.

Ten years have passed and they have, without doubt, been some of the most rewarding of my life. Pupils have become friends and, in some cases, friends have become pupils. None of it would have been possible without the able support of my husband Bob who has willingly accepted responsibility in so many areas where I might have floundered; treasurer, scorer, computer operator.

Now there are five opportunities for people to play bridge in Beaumaris. A Standard duplicate evening session where we enjoy a good standard of bridge playing between seven to ten tables. A morning session of 'gentle' duplicate, around six tables. A 'practice' group meets on another morning where players of all levels meet to improve their knowledge or partnership skills; six to eight tables. There are two smaller clubs where Chicago and Rubber bridge can be enjoyed.

All are clubs where the emphasis is not on winning at all costs but instead provide an environment where people can relax and enjoy the experience. They are almost exclusively supported by people who have retired and perhaps this is the nub of the problem for the conventional evening clubs. Many players will have

had more than enough stress during their working lives and will seek to avoid it now they are free to choose what they do.

In the past many people learned to play when they were young and the keen ones played in the evening during their working life. Retired people still need to feel stretched; they welcome opportunities to meet like minded players in a convivial atmosphere but many of them prefer to spend their evenings at home particularly if, like in Anglesey, they don't necessarily live close by.

Good luck with the newsletter and thank you for your dedication.

### **Gay Young**

Congratulations Keith and Carol!

We have never met, but I have just put down your WBU newsletter, Issue 1, having read it cover to cover.

Well done and how refreshing!

I associated myself with many of your views.

Pleased to read about the attempt to spread the game through schools. It could be a gamechanger for the future of Bridge, in the long term,

My wife and I liked the style and layout of the newsletter, (except the Who's who page. we couldn't match any name to any face! Were we supposed to know them?)

Recognise how difficult it is to sustain a newsletter like this without support, as on behalf of the Gwent Bridge Academy I put a monthly news article in the South Wales Argus newspaper, and that is tough enough!

On that subject I will bring up at our next Committee meeting the idea of submitting an article on our club for your consideration.

Your comments on how rudeness and gamesmanship can be intimidating, and put off newcomers or social players, is a subject I feel strongly about too.

It is due to the failure of some people to understand, recognise, or perhaps care that times are changing, and there is a need and demand for a more friendly, pleasant, environment.

Oh by the way, you have also helped answer other questions I have asked at our Club Committee!

Who are the WBU? What do they do? Do we have to be Members? Are they value for money?

Well if this new style Newsletter is the sort of thing they do, and the direction they intend to go, good luck to you, and more power to your elbow.

Regards

**Steve and Ann Delahaye**

## What you said about Edition 1

Thanks to you and Carol for reviving the newsletter - I thought it was a shame when it was discontinued. It has been greeted with interest in Bridgend, and I have agreed to act as a conduit for comments on condition that the messenger is not shot! I have had no comments as yet.

My own first reaction is that it is well produced and appears to be aimed at the ordinary social player, which is a good thing, as I think such payers have felt the WBU has had little to offer them in the past. I think balancing between the social players (the vast majority) and the competitive experts is always difficult. Since we started beginners' classes here and introduced improvers to the club, some of the experts have said we are bending over backwards for the social players. This is fair comment, up to a point, as, if we don't bridge will die out, as one of your articles neatly pointed out. On the other hand, we need the experts as well as they help to raise standards as most of them are prepared to give advice when asked for it, and it is their interests to have better players to practice against. Anyway, I'm sure you will be able to get a good balance in the newsletter and include something for the tournament players as well. I suppose Tony Howarth's article is a good example of one which will be of more interest to such players.

All the best

**Steve Burgoyne**

I was delighted to see the Newsletter resurrected, but disappointed by the relentless sniping at supposedly unfriendly clubs where expert players lie in wait preparing to devour innocent novices. Why these caricatures? We need as many thriving bridge clubs as possible, and players new to the game will make up their own minds as to which suits them best. For example, some young players enjoy tough competition and are excited at the prospect of national representation in a way that late starters, generally speaking, are not. Bridge is a difficult game, and to play it well takes years of application, best begun when young. One thing we should never do is cultivate the impression that elite players are unfriendly, or unwelcoming. I know such things are said, and in years past there may have been some truth in that. But no longer! Any players who care to visit my own club - Cardiff - will find a warm welcome on both novice and more experienced nights. So, whilst I was pleased to see the Newsletter re-appear, it was disturbing to encounter such pervading anti-elitist sentiment. That is not merited, and can only do harm to the future development of the game in Wales. There is no shame in aspiring to be a good player, and we must do everything we can to help those who have this as their goal, as well as encouraging novices across the board. One of the joys of bridge is that it can be played at so many different levels, so I would ask you not to foster this sense of 'them and us' - we're all in this together.

**Gwynn Davis**

Hello Carol

I thought I would write to you about the new newsletter.

I am not a member of WBU but saw a pile sitting on the table at the Bridge CLUB and thought I'd like to read it so I did a TAKE OUT! I intended to return it at my next GAME.

However, I enjoyed reading it so much that I hadn't the HEART to return it. I confessed my sin to the Chairman who said I could keep it. I almost PASSED OUT. He's a DIAMOND geezer.

I enjoyed page after page and identified with so much that was written.

Cakes and Ale..... Oh yes..... How true!

Pages 7,8 and 9 very interesting

Also liked the crossword , Quiz, Tale of two Bridge Clubs and all about the drive to get MiniBridge into schools.

I will now REDOUBLE my efforts and join WBU and look forward to your next newsletter.

Congratulations on producing a very good read. Please RELAY this to all your TEAM.

I BID you good day.

**Susan Cleaver**

I picked up a copy of the newsletter at the Mid Glam club last Wednesday afternoon and have read it cover to cover. Just wanted to give some positive feedback.

I thoroughly enjoyed the read- format and content was varied and not too complicated. I am a regular club player but do not play in competitions and have not seen previous news letters.

Would like to see more topics similar to the discard article.

Look forward to the next issue.

Am going to have a look at the online quizzes next.

**Hugh Williams**

## What is wrong with bridge in Wales? by David Stevenson

Having read your interesting Newsletter there are several things about the future of Welsh bridge that worry me. Of course social bridge based on coffee mornings and so forth is on the rise as against evening bridge, but that is due to the fact that the average age of bridge players is rising, and fewer are working, and fewer want to go out at night. People who want to play social bridge often do not have friends who do, so they need suitable clubs to join. Rather than bemoan dropping numbers in clubs, more clubs should be providing morning or afternoon sessions with refreshments. We have to move with the times.

There are comments about fancy systems putting people off. Having played so-called fancy systems for years I do not find that puts less experienced opponents off at all, although the attitude of some people who play such systems does put people off. I remember alerting a transfer opening in a small Welsh club playing against two late middle-aged ladies. After RHO asked, before I could say a word, LHO said to her “Of course ID shows hearts, dear, that is quite obvious!”. No-one in that club was worried about our methods!

Of course some clubs do have people who claim less experienced players are put off by systems. The actual truth is that some medium or better players are always looking for excuses as to why they do not do better, and systems is one such excuse (along with “the cards were all North-South”, and “the director was always rushing us”). Unfortunately they persuade inexperienced players that their excuses have merit, so then they believe that something is wrong.

I mentioned attitude and that is the main problem in clubs, apart from losing players due to age and slow play. Some players, very rarely the best or the worst, but in-between, have a very unfortunate attitude, calling the director over trivia, moaning about others’ success, using gamesmanship tactics to put people off, telling opponents their bidding is wrong or illegal, and often being very rude. They never welcome people to their table and treat them as the enemy. Those players are the biggest problem in clubs.

A secondary problem is slow play. Except for the slow players themselves, people hate it, but directors rarely penalise, suggesting that penalties loses players. When the directors don’t penalise the clubs lose players who get frustrated by the slow play.

Why are the numbers in tournaments dropping? Some of the reasons are the same. Over the last few years I have suffered (with my partner and team-mates) from an opponent quoting a regulation that did not exist which gave them an advantage, from players winning master point trophies by putting in several years’ master-

points all at once, from an opponent who threatened me with physical abuse, from top class opponents who tried gamesmanship by telling everyone in a loud voice several times that we should not be playing what we were (despite the director having ruled it legal) and a friend of mine having an opponent being very rude about his physical appearance with the director at the table. If my circle has five such occasions, imagine how many things are happening to other tournament players!

On these five occasions the directors, the organisers and the Laws & Ethics Committee declined to take any action. If you want tournaments to survive you need bad behaviour and gamesmanship and rule bending to be dealt with, not tolerated by the Welsh Bridge Union. You want directors who apply disciplinary penalties, an unbiased strong Laws & Ethics Committee who do not tolerate bad behaviour and ban people for it, and organisers to show interest in players who break the regulations.

Latterly Welsh tournaments have been run worse than previously. There was a shocking example last year with the director completely out of her depth. What happened when I told a friend of mine about it? I was told I had no right to complain! The Welsh calendar is available much later than the English one, it is more difficult to find out about events, and they are often run poorly. Perhaps I should make clear that this is by no means all of them: some are excellently run and directed. But we need all of them to be, not just some.

Another problem with tournaments is that decisions about how they are run are based on the needs and desires of the better players. You would have thought it would come as no surprise that the tournaments lose numbers as the less experienced players stop playing in events no longer designed for them, but apparently it comes as a shock! For tournaments to flourish the needs of the average and lesser players as far as times, master points, numbers, venues and so forth should be paramount, not the wishes of a small circle of good players.

For Welsh bridge to survive it needs to be better run, it needs people to stop tolerating bad behaviour, rule bending and slow play, and it needs to consider what players want and not run it solely for the few. Let us have friendly clubs and competitions, at times and in places where people want them, and perhaps we can get more people playing.

**The WBU reply is overleaf .....**

## The WBU response to David's letter

*In his letter David Stevenson gives brief mention to Laws & Ethics and, as Chairman, I have been asked to reply.*

*The WBU's code of Good Behaviour is on its website under WBU Publications. Players at all levels should make themselves familiar with it. L&E has approved this code and can recommend amendments.*

*The great bulk of disagreements about Behaviour at the table are dealt with either by the Tournament Director or by the organising body for the event. It is rare for them to reach L&E. When one does, if L&E feels an L&E member might be perceived by either party to be biased in ruling on the case, a substitute is found. That has happened several times in recent years.*

*For those cases that have come to L&E and a complaint is upheld, action, sometimes severe, has been taken. These have ranged from banning a candidate from representing Wales in this year's Europeans, banning a player from a national event the year after the offence at that event, a public reprimand for an Area Official for an injudicious e-mail, an effective three-month probation for a club player, down to the cases deemed minor where a warning letter was sent.*

*Yours, Patrick Jourdain, Chairman L&E, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

## No Fear Bridge—East Wales

Dipping their toes in competitive bridge, many for the first time, were the 19 pairs who entered the recent East Wales Bridge Association Restricted Pairs.



The winners with a fantastic 68% were Mary Morse and Phil Ansell. Entering the event for the second year Mary and Phil were one of only two pairs who bid the 6<sup>th</sup> hand. The event saw regular club players from Gwent, Pencoed, Barry and Cardiff came together to compete for the trophy. They were joined this year by two or three keen beginners/improvers who decided this would be their first, but hopefully not their last event. Whether it was the competition itself or the free chocolate biscuits that was the draw the event was played as ever in a friendly relaxed manner and enjoyed by all.

Liz Atkinson

Dear Keith and Carol,

Congratulations on your new look Newsletter. Does the job for me. Some bridge publications fall down on their one sided content eg The EBU magazine seems to be geared solely to the high and mighty international elite of the UK and not the ordinary punters. Thankfully Mr Bridge stepped in and published a monthly tome the rank and file badly needed.

My only request for your publication is --Can you publish in LARGER font after all as you have already stated the majority of players these days are of the very old variety who need a bit more assistance in their advancing years.

Slan go foil

Bill Loughlin

Llanfairfechan Club

**Go raibh maith agat, Bill.**

**We sympathise with the need for a larger font but have to strike a balance between the font size and the costs of printing.**

**We have published your letter in 12 point, which I hope illustrates just how many pages the newsletter would run too if the whole publication was in this font size.**

## What you said about Edition 1

Dear Carol and Keith

An excellent news letter in style, tone and content. Well done and much appreciated.

It is a massive piece of work, but please keep it coming even if that is 2 or 3 times a year.

I shall try to come up with an (interesting) input.

The ACBL 'decline' chart on page 6 is surely a reflection of could happen in the UK!!! Unthinkable but possible - sadly.

Just for the record, the bridge club in Beaumaris is bucking the current trend thanks to the huge effort put in by both Gayda and Bob Young and their committed committee.

again, many thanks - a good read

Kind regards David

Dear Carol,

First of all, thank you and well done for getting the newsletter out again.

The WBU has felt very far away since the newsletter, and the WBU points rating system stopped being available as a paper version.

I was particularly interested in the Mini Bridge as I have a grandson living in Glasgow who loves playing cards, and I think might well enjoy this. I'd be grateful if you could arrange the WBU to send me 'How to play mini-bridge booklet'.

You ask for comments - I felt that the newsletter was a bit long, and repetitious - it doesn't need to be 32 pages long - that's a lot to fill. I would like to see challenging hands to bid, and maybe advice from some of the top players as to how to bid them. It's always interesting to see how they differ. I would also like to see the results from the congresses and on-going competitions like the gold cups, and the WBU SIMS in the newsletter.

Theresa Goss

### Diary Dates



WBU Swiss Pairs Llandudno July 2nd-3rd

Mid Wales Congress Llandrindod Wells July 9th -10th

WBU/EWBA Green Point Weekend Newport August 6th -7th

Welsh Foursome Newport September 3rd - 4th

NWBA Green Point Swiss Pairs Northport October 8th - 9th

The **Annual General Meeting** of the W.B.U is held on the morning of the final day of the Perry Shield and the Spickett Bowl inter- area competition. Traditionally, this competition rotates around the four areas and is hosted by the area of the retiring President.

There have been suggestions made that the A.G.M. be held on a separate date from the competition, as should a matter of importance need to be discussed and voted upon then attendance at the AGM is not representative of all members, as constitutionally there is no Proxy vote allowed. Should this latter point be reconsidered?

All individual members of the Union (honorary life members, members and direct members) are entitled to be present at the Annual General Meeting and shall have one vote each. The President of the Union shall have an additional, casting, vote if necessary.

Twenty-five members of the Union are needed to form a quorum at the Annual General Meeting. In recent years recorded attendance has been as low as thirty and not above sixty. With those figures including Council and Management Committee members plus members of the teams and non playing captains who have to be at the venue anyway, it will be seen that these meetings cannot be said to properly reflect the views of the total WBU membership

Whilst there is formal business (agreeing reports and conducting some elections etc) to deal with, the meetings are as relaxed and friendly as possible. The atmosphere has not generally been aggressive or overly procedural.. Members are encouraged to take an active part in discussions.

**Area Secretaries :-**

EWBA - Bill Parkinson - 01633 667844 - <http://www.bridgewebs.com/eastwales/>

MWBA - Rita Lawrence - 01597 810645 - <http://mwba.welshbridgeunion.club/>

NWBA - Morag Clare - 01492 512254 - <http://www.bridgewebs.com/nwba/>

WWBA - Jennifer Wardell - 01267 230561 - <http://wwba.org.uk/>

## Why are there so many methods to bid to slam?

Quantitative, Gerber, Blackwood, Key-card Blackwood, Roman Key-card Blackwood, Exclusion Blackwood and Cue bidding to name a few.

When there are many conventions trying to achieve the same purpose, it shows that no single method is perfect.

Gerber is frowned upon by the better players as it precludes methods such as Splinter bids and Cue bids. It is however loved by many club players who quote “It keeps it low”.

Blackwood has a weakness that voids, singletons and weak side suits (two cards and no Ace or King) leave you exposed. Your void opposite your partner’s single Ace is a waste of a control.

There is a Bridge adage “Why is it that experts *avoid* the use of Blackwood, and novices use Blackwood with a *void*?” which illustrates the point.

Slams are founded on either rock crushing points or distribution which will mean voids, singletons and doubletons. We can see why something other than Blackwood evolved.

In order to continue, we need to move away from just thinking of Aces and Kings (as per Gerber and Blackwood) to the idea of controls. A void may be worth an “Ace” or a singleton a “King” if you know which suits they are in.

Cue bidding evolved to address these circumstances allowing you to identify the suits in which controls were held. However, you have to assume that the partnership holds the Ace and King of trumps (not always so!)

Key-card and Roman Key-card evolved so that the King and then the Queen of trumps could be identified.

As with all conventions you need to find a partner willing and able to play the convention. Equally I have found that the greater the accuracy of the convention then the greater the complexity and the higher the risk of misunderstanding.

Therefore I like cue bidding as I think it’s the best compromise for me.

What is a cue bid?

After a trump suit is agreed, any bid at a “high” level is a cue bid. Cue bidding is a method of partners “telling” each other which controls they hold. Remember a control may be a void or later a singleton not just Aces and Kings.

The Cue bid sequence is commenced by showing the “cheapest” control held. The sequence continues until either the slam is bid or the trump suit is bid to indicate an end to the Cue bid sequence. This is why it must be assumed that the Ace and King of trumps are held.

It is best described by example:

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

West with 17 HCP opens 1♥.

East has 11 HCP and 8 losers. Initially wary of the 4333 shape, they then decide that, as it is well supported with intermediates, they will make an invitational 3♥.

West has only 4 losers and knowing that the partnership hold more than 8 trumps deducts a loser. This makes the grand slam a possibility.

With a void, they cue bid - 4♣ telling East that they either have the Ace or a void in ♣.

East can control ♦ and so replies 4♦. West doesn't mention the trump suit – bidding the trump suit calls a halt to the slam attempt and so bids their next control 4♠.

East's only second round control is K♠ and so bids 5♠.

At this point West knows that they have first and second round control in ♣ - the void. First and second round control in ♦, ♥ and ♠.

What more do they need? They bid 7♥.

## Why are there so many methods to bid to slam?

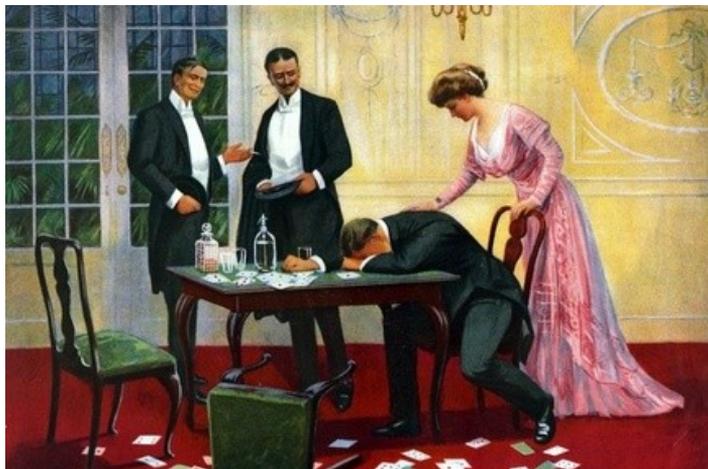
So I like Cue bidding. It tends to keep the bidding low (for those Gerber addicts).

The observant of you will have noticed that it is assumed that you hold the Ace & King of trumps. This is obviously not always the case. So you may use a NT bid (4 or 5 level) to ask for trump controls.

Would you reach the same result using Blackwood? Possibly, but only because it is the Ace  $\heartsuit$  that is held. The point is that it wasn't known. If East holds the  $A\clubsuit$  rather than  $A\heartsuit$  then only the small slam will be possible.

When you enter a slam bid attempt you are forgoing the certainty of game for the possibility of a slam. Slam bidding conventions are designed to keep you out of "bad" slams.

Keith Butler



**Would you like to supply a caption to this picture?**

**Entries to Carol, please.**

**Winners to be announced in the next edition.**

The EWBA ([www.ewba.org.uk](http://www.ewba.org.uk)) 2 day Swiss Teams congress is one of the most enjoyable on the WBU calendar. The venue of the Lysaght Institute in Newport is excellent for bridge congresses, and from the number of bridge players eating breakfast in Morrisons (next door) at 10:30hrs on the Saturday morning, the rather limited food and drink arrangements on-site can be easily circumvented.

Apart from a strong contingent of Welsh players, there were many from further afield. The eventual winners of the Commins Trophy and the £520 first prize were “visitors” John Dakin, Eddie Lucioni, Mark Hooper and Janet Smith. The highest placed Welsh team was Tony Ratcliff, Julian Pottage, John Salisbury and Mike Tedd who finished in joint fourth position.

Bidding grand slams is usually fairly straightforward but a surprising number of pairs struggled with this hand on Sundays second session. (2 pairs reached 7H gaining +13imps, 23 played in 6H, 6 played in 4H, the other 7 didn't play in Hearts at all.

**Board 13**      **North**  
**Dealer N**      ♠ A  
**Game All.**    ♥ AKQJ4  
                   ♦ AJT  
                   ♣ AKT5

**West**  
 ♠ JT76  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ KQ873  
 ♣ J86

**East**  
 ♠ Q42  
 ♥ 96  
 ♦ 96542  
 ♣ Q42

**South**  
 ♠ K9853  
 ♥ T8732  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ 973

<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>
2C	2D (i)
2H (ii)	3H (iii)
3S (iv)	4D (v)
4S (vi)	5D (vii)

North holding a 26 count with 3 losers will open with the strongest bid their system has. We will look first at sequences where an Acol 2C opening showing a game forcing hand or 23/24+ balanced starts the auction. We will also assume that the opponents pass throughout (although that may not have been the case at some tables where West may double the 2D bid to suggest a lead and East may decide to raise in D to take bidding space away from NS!).

## The EWBA February Congress 2016

- negative or relay bid leaving room for partner to describe his hand further.
- natural and forcing (although some may play this as a Kokish relay so more on this later).
- After partner shows a <sup>a</sup> suit this hand now becomes very strong. 8 losers and the extra length in the trump suit opposite partner's minimum loser count of 5 suggest slam is a near certainty. There is no need to rush the bidding and 3H is stronger than 4H (which would be bid with absolutely nothing).
- Hearts are now agreed as the trump suit and partner is non-minimum. With only a 3 loser hand a small slam is a certainty. This is a cue bid showing first or second round control of the spade suit and keeping the bidding low to allow partner to show a feature.
- Denies a control in clubs but shows a first or second round control in D .
- Another cue bid showing another control in S, but more importantly also shows control in the Club suit – remember that partner has denied any. Without C control N would sign-off in 4H.
- Shows first and second round control in D, so North can guess that S holds a D void.
- The potential loser in ♣ is the only unknown. But S has bid 3H and not 4H, so there is an expectation of a working card held in either ♣ or S and the certainty of a discard on D Ace!

But is there a better sequence than this? Well yes there is!

North	South
2C	2D
2H	3S (i)
4C (ii)	4D (iii)
4S (iv)	5D (v)
7H (vi)	

- This is a “fit jump” showing primary support for H (xxxx or better) with some trick taking potential in S. Remember that S cannot hold a “good” spade suit as he bid 2D on the first round as opposed to a 2S positive.

- The 3S fit jump bid is great news so N shows the ♣ control.
- Shows a first or second round control in D.
- Another cue bid showing control in «. (remember H are the agreed trump suit)
- Shows first and second round control in ©, so North can guess that South holds a D void.
- The only unknown here are the club losers. But we have potential discards on partner's spades and the certainty of a discard on D Ace! The worst case scenario is that South holds 4 small clubs, but even then we still have play possibilities.

Some pairs will be using a strong 2D bid, but you can see that there is now far less room to explore for a slam.

North	South
2D 2H (i)	
3H (ii)	3S (iii)
3NT(iv)	4H (v)
4S (vi)	5D (vii)
7H (viii)	

- a negative or relay bid leaving room for partner to describe his hand further).
- natural and forcing
- Although we are going to play in H, a direct 4H bid would be very weak, so we show our spade feature first.
- We can count 9 top tricks and if partner's values are in spades they may not be working well.
- This is stronger than a direct 4H bid.
- Cue bid
- Cue bid

Not 100% sure about club position but lots of chances for the grand slam.

### **How do we cater for everyone and bridge the gap between good, average and weak players?**

Purists may say that the game is only worth playing if one is playing against the best players. It is a serious game for serious players. They are there to hone their skills along with the “crème de la crème” of bridge players. But, surely, at Club level this cannot happen. If such players wish to play “the best” they need to play at Congress level and not try to establish this among, what is essentially, a relatively small number at their respective clubs’.

The same goes for average to weak players, clubs cannot and should not cater just for them. Within clubs we can have a variety of sessions which cater for all types of players. Most bridge players are there to enjoy the game, at whatever level but the key word is **enjoyment**.

Most clubs are not large enough to run completely separate sessions for varying degrees of player standard. There may be the opportunity to run the odd event to cater for particular skill levels but essentially there has to be a compromise between all.

As far as the advanced players are concerned, they would find it difficult to survive without the average to weak players, who are the grass roots of any bridge club, and provide them with the +50% scores. Picture the scenario if only “better” players were allowed to play, the scoring system for anyone getting above 50% means that someone has to get below 50% ipso facto you would end up with another division of skill levels.

The average bridge players would survive quite easily without the elite of the game as they would continue to play for fun and to socialise. The premier players would do well to bear this in mind when they are condescending or disparaging to lesser players.

The EBU has a National Grading Scheme of individuals whereby if a club has a predominance of good players it is ranked higher. If it has a predominance of weaker players then it is ranked lower. I believe that this just encourages the negativity shown towards weaker and new players. In fact, in my opinion, this type of ranking system should be actively discouraged. (See EBU website NGS Grades and Bands)

**The time has come to grab the nettle and address this vitally important issue.**

**Perhaps we need to have an educational programme throughout Wales with WBU representatives encouraging and, maybe, visiting all clubs rolling out a Programme of Change.**

**It is very difficult to change attitudes but learning and education is the answer.  
Learning can Bridge the gap.**

Julie Lea

## Andy's 'Andy 'Int

In each edition of the WBU newsletter I intend to offer a handy hint to beginner's. (NB experienced players are allowed to read it as well!).

Before offering any advice let me tell you my golden rule for beginners :

Laws are meant to be adhered to,  
Rules are meant to be broken!

For every hint I give you, you will find an example of when it doesn't work! That's Bridge!  
Bridge is not an exact science but by sticking to some of the basic rules the majority of the time it will work out better for you than breaking them every time!

So to today's rule:

**When running a long suit play the high cards from your short hand first to avoid blocking the suit.**

Let's imagine you hold A, K, 9, 8,7,2 of a suit in your hand and you have Q, J,5 of the suit visible in dummy. Even if the suit breaks 4-0 with the opposition you will make all the tricks providing you don't block the suit by playing A, K first and then lead to your Q. Unless you have another entry to your hand you can never cash the remaining 3 winners. So cash your Q, J first then play the 5 to A, K and the rest.

You will be surprised how often beginners (and sometimes more experienced players) fail to follow this simple rule.

Andrew Mountain

Enjoy your Bridge,

Andymynydd.

### We wanted to publish complaints to provide balance.



We believe that there were two letters.

One was sent to the Chief Executive & published on page 26 and the other to us, which we publish on page 22 .....



Dear Carol

I am writing in response to the latest Newsletter with which I felt more than a certain amount of unease and disquiet. I appreciate that you are not personally responsible for all the articles and have therefore written to the President regarding certain items which I regard as at best unfortunate, unhelpful and divisive.

I assume the Chief Executive does speak for the WBU? That both his article and some of the others seem to be embracing a future of social daytime bridge was somewhat alarming. If non-affiliated bridge clubs and bridge sessions are the future 'bedrock' of bridge there will be no WBU. The majority of social bridge players are not interested in competitive bridge, they are not interested in WBU knockout cups and competitions and are not entering bridge congresses. They do not need a national organisation and are not about to fund one. Your readers should be aware that the WBU is largely funded by competitive bridge players. Membership subscriptions alone do not provide the level of income needed to run the organisation; it is master points, entry fees from national events and those terrible, unpleasant congresses that are the main source of income for the WBU. I believe the latest East Wales Bridge Congress netted the WBU £815. The sustained attack on tournament players contained in some of the articles is both unpleasant and inaccurate.

I always assumed that the Newsletter, was to inform, entertain and celebrate the success of its members, not to sow division and discord. After reading parts of the Newsletter I certainly wondered if the WBU had a future; it certainly seems intent on 'biting the hand that feeds it'.

I have no problem with daytime social bridge and non-affiliated activities. I have friends who since retirement have taken up social bridge, a couple have been on your bridge holidays and thoroughly enjoyed them. That's great, I have no problem with that. It is not however what I particularly want to read about in the Newsletter. The Newsletter is for, and should be about WBU members and WBU events. There was at times a conflict of interest in the Newsletter, with more than a hint of advertising for Cardiff Bridge Tutors. You will not agree or like me for saying so but that was my view. The article on 'Club X'— and 'Club Y' was also inappropriate. A veiled dig at another local club is out of order.

Like most tournament players I'm also a member of the EBU and receive their newsletter and magazine. It has a very different look and feel.

I appreciate that it is very difficult to get volunteers, and so it is with some reluctance that I criticise your efforts and those of your contributors; but some of the articles made me feel very uneasy.

Please stick to the non-controversial, entertaining and informative articles.

Regards Liz Atkinson



## Wake up and run?

Hi Keith

I thought I would write to commend you on the first edition of the WBU Newsletter. I particularly enjoyed the article by Neville Richards , with which I totally agree. I have been playing bridge in Wales now for ten years , after many happy years playing in Manchester. Neville's article is a real wakeup call for those responsible for looking after bridge in Wales. My personal experience to date of WBU people/events has been , unfortunately , very negative. I attended one competitive event , some years ago now in Builth , where the rudeness and aggression of participants/organisers was such as to make me resolve never to attend a competitive WBU event ever again! (and I have kept to my resolution!) Although things may have improved recently , I also found that many of those entrusted with safeguarding and developing the game we love, were more concerned with promoting their own bridge profiles through collecting master points , using other players as mere cannon fodder in their ruthless quest for self promotion. WBU should be working closely with schools , colleges and community centres to bring new people into the game (particularly younger people ) If things continue as they are, I cannot see that bridge will exist in Wales in 25 years time !

On a happier note , I can tell you that , together with a friend and bridge colleague , we are currently running a course of lessons for beginners and improvers at Carmarthen Bridge Club , here in West Wales . We have nearly twenty participants across the two groups. I was unaware that , as teachers, we were entitled to have access to teaching materials from WBU . I would be grateful to receive these. Currently I am using my own materials , put together from teaching bridge over a lengthy period on cruise ships.

Another comment on the first edition is that I doubt the value of publishing the mugshots of those featured on pages 20 and 21 ? (Should the caption be --- if you spot any one of these at a bridge table --- run a mile?)

Mike Cohen

*Mike originally asked that we did not publish his letter but later felt that we should stand up for what we believe in.*

**The teaching materials are free to those who attend the WBU training course.**

**The course concentrates on how to use the materials to best advantage and highlights other tips, techniques and tools to make lessons more appealing.**

The newly recruited club Director was having a fairly easy time at his first attempt at directing, until.....

(East/West – weak no-trump)

Board 16 Dlr W; EW Vul

♠ A84

♥ K75

♦ K10653

♣ Q9

♠ 963

♥ A92

♦ 74

♣ AJ865

West: 1♠ East: 2♣

West : (announcing): *Stayman*

South: ...but you [West] didn't bid INT...

*Director!*

### **How can I help?**

*West: It would appear that I've mistakenly opened 1♠ when I obviously intended to open INT. When my partner bid 2♣ I still didn't realise my error until South drew my attention to it. Can I change my 1♠ bid to INT, you can see that it was obviously unintended?*

***Director: It may well have been unintended, but once your partner has called it is too late to change even an unintended bid.***

***Furthermore there are issues of Unauthorised Information. You [West], have been alerted to the fact that you have mis-bid , but you must continue to bid as if you had originally opened INT. Also your partner East, must also continue to bid assuming that you had genuinely opened 1♠. North/South - please call me back at the end of the hand if you are not happy with opponent's actions.***

How did our Director do?

Well – two decisions out of three correct, but the wrong one is critical.

First he is correct in that West cannot change his bid – too late once partner has subsequently called (Law 25A1).

## WHO ASKED?

...but after that ...

1. If in fact *East* had alerted his partner to the fact that he hadn't actually opened 1NT, then the Director's ruling was totally correct.

West would be in receipt of Unauthorised Information (UI), i.e. the fact that he has mis-bid. He cannot be allowed to realise his error until the auction becomes silly, whereby in the natural course of events West would then look down at his bidding cards and realise his mistake. It can be very difficult for a Director to determine when that point arises.

East would also be in receipt of UI, i.e. his partner didn't intend to open 1♠, but he is not allowed to know that, and must continue to assume that West has opened 1♠.

So for both East and West, they must continue to bid as if nothing untoward has happened. West must continue on the pretext that he himself has actually opened 1NT, and treat the 2♣ bid as Stayman, to which he should reply 2♦. East must treat this 2♦ bid as a natural suit reply to his 2♣ (suit) response. He should then probably bid a preference bid of 2♠. West would then ethically have to pass this bid, on the assumption that partner's alleged Stayman bid was based on a weakish 5-spade – 4-heart hand. They will play in 2♠ (maybe doubled by opponents) and if the auction does in fact progress 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠, the result would stand (for a probable poor score). If in fact East or West deviated significantly from this auction, the Director would probably still adjust to 2♠, and also consider a disciplinary penalty to East/West (they would have used UI when told not to do so).

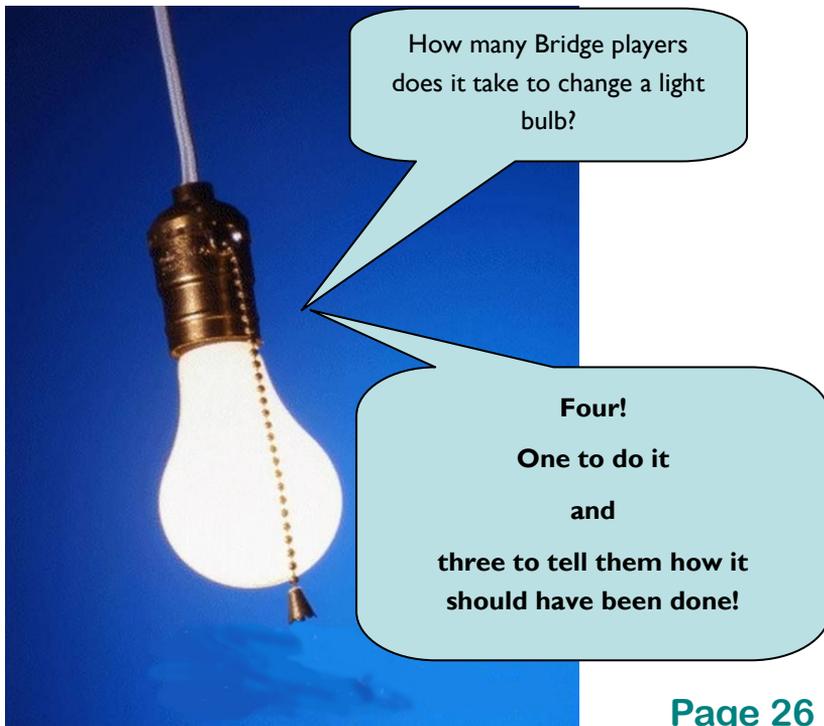
2. The situation is different if, as in the actual case, *South* (the *opponent*), drew West's attention to the fact that West had mis-bid. The very peculiarly worded Law 16A2 allows a player to legally make use of 'traits of opponents'. This includes the opponents drawing attention to a player's infraction (usually verbally). So in this actual case, *East* is still under the obligation to bid as if partner has opened 1♠; but now West can bid with no constraints – he can legally bid as if the 2♣ is (obviously) not Stayman. He is also allowed to know that East will continue to have to bid on the premise that he has opened 1♠. So if the Director had in fact given the correct ruling, West's subsequent bids become impossible to predict – over the 2♣ bid he could bid 2♦, 2NT, or pass – none of these being sound, and as long as East does continue to bid as if his partner had a genuine spade suit all is acceptable and the result would stand (I think I would probably bid 2NT and take my chances on partner not being obliged to bid 4♣ with delayed spade support).

(When defending, North/South can legally make use of the fact that West probably doesn't have spades – but at their own risk).

3. The Director has made a crucial error (see (2) above), and he has incorrectly constrained West on his bidding. So, whatever the outcome he would now have to own-up, and give an adjusted score to the table. Technically this should be a 'split weighed score', i.e. possible different weighted outcomes to North/South and to East/West, but this particular situation would be too messy to assess, so the pragmatic approach would be to give 60% to both pairs (at club level, – at a higher level he would make every effort to avoid the artificial 60% and try to establish likely scores).

Tony Haworth

### Light work?



## Director, please!

*Director, please!*

*A Bridge Agony*

*Aunt for those*

*difficult rulings*

After a INT opening, duly announced as "12-14", partner bid 2C which was announced as Stayman. It received a 2D response to which no comment or alert was made (should it?). After the 2NT bid, the player to the left of the 2D bidder said to his partner "I think I should call the Director as the 2D wasn't alerted. I assumed it was natural otherwise I would have bid."

Their partner responded that there was no need to call the TD as Stayman had been announced.

A diamond lead ensued and the contract failed.

## Director's advice

One of the more important changes to the alerting rules, was the introduction of 'announcements' in 2006 (operational in 2007). This primarily affects the opening INT bid, opening 2 bids, and **Stayman**. When you open INT (announceable), and partner bids 2C, you must announce it as Stayman, **so long as the 2C bid asks for 4-card majors**, and where the only responses are 2D, 2H, 2S. (If a possible response is the old fashioned 2NT, the 2C bid would not be announced but would need to be alerted).

Whether or not the 2C bidder himself promises a four card major is irrelevant, it is still announced. Any other modified Stayman 2C bid would need to be alerted rather than announced - e.g. 5-card Stayman, puppet Stayman, Gladiator, Keri etc., but most club players adopt 'standard Stayman'. Furthermore since the 2D response is well understood (as long as its meaning is the denial of a 4-card major), no alert or announcement of 2D is required. If an opponent does ask the meaning of the 2D bid, and partner subsequently leads a diamond 'further investigation would be required'!

*Y Cyfarwyddwr*

# Quiz West is to lead.

Q1

♠ A J 2  
♥ J 7  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ A 8 5 2



West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
All pass			4 ♠

What should West lead?

Q2

♠ A J 2  
♥ J 7  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ A 8 5 2



West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	2 ♠

What should West lead?

Q3

♠ K 2  
♥ J 8 4 3  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ A 9 6 4



West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
All pass			4 ♠

What should West lead?

Q4

♠ A Q 8  
♥ 8 3 2  
♦ Q J 7 2  
♣ 8 4 3



West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
All pass			4 ♠

What should West lead?

Q5

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



West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

What should West lead?

Quiz Answers — next edition!

## Waxing Lyrical

*Following a few comments at the tables I decided to write a little ditty for my Chairman's report to encourage players to think of the correct etiquette at the table. The aim was to be light hearted so that no offence could be taken!*

When at the table you sit down  
Do not do it with a frown.  
Say hello to the other pair  
And don't discuss the last hands despair

Ask the meaning of a bid  
Only on **your** turn to bid  
Declarer's partner must reply  
Declarer may not even deny

At the end of the game agree the score  
Do not discuss it with a roar  
Type in the score and check by east  
Then straight on to the next great feast!

Call the Director if you need,  
Try to play at a reasonable speed  
Be polite to all around and  
Then we'll all enjoy the round.

Kay Taylor  
Knighton Bridge Club

## Bidding Box

## Bards



**WBU Llangollen Congress**  
**The Bryn Howel Hotel**  
**December 3rd - 4th**  
<http://llangollen-congress.org.uk>

## Forgive and Forget before you forget to forgive

Be kind to your partner  
For you're a partner too  
Try to remember  
It's a TEAM of two

Be kind to your partner  
Don't seek retribution  
When they pass a hand, with few  
points  
But amazing distribution

Be kind to your partner  
Love them just like Cupid  
Even when their bidding  
Makes you both look pretty stupid

Be kind to your partner  
Although you think they're chumps  
To have a hand of thirteen Spades  
And open "Seven No Trumps"

Be kind to your partner  
Their bidding was based on logic  
Their logic was impeccable  
Just the conclusions are rather  
tragic

Be kind to your partner  
When game bid wasn't right  
And as they put down Dummy  
They say "Partner, I opened light"

Be kind to your partner  
Though you think that you're the  
stronger  
Think like that, and in the end  
You mightn't have partner for much  
longer

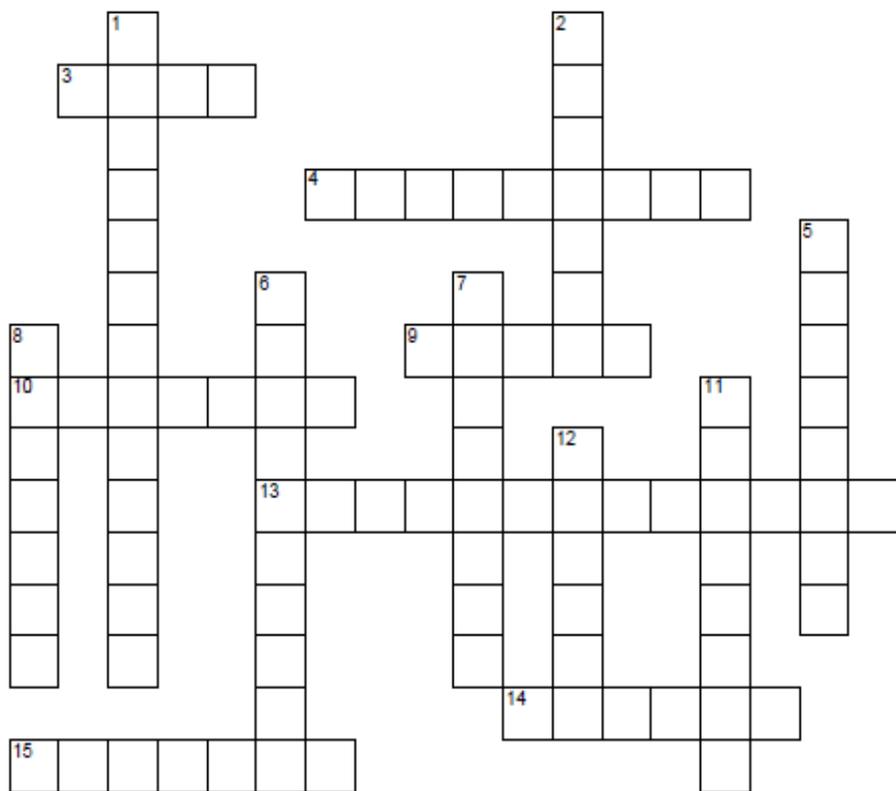
Be kind to your partner  
Excuse mistakes; be meek,  
Chances are that you'll be making  
The same mistakes next week

Be kind to your partner  
Don't criticise but praise  
Then they'll grow in confidence  
To make that game raise

**So be kind to your partner**  
**Remember that it's true**  
**That whatever you think of part-**  
**ner .....**  
**Partner thinks of you**

# Bridge over Troubled Waters

by Acolyte





## Carol's Travels



We have a new addition to our family –  
a motorhome!

We would like to travel to Bridge Clubs around  
Wales and have already had several invites.

If you would like us to visit you, please write and let us know. A short piece about  
our experiences will then be included in the next Newsletter.

We have some invitations already .....

“I know that all clubs in Mid Wales would be delighted to meet you both. Come to  
Knighton, Rhayader or Llandrindod Wells and I will see you there.”

Neville Richards

Gay Young has  
invited us to Anglesey.

Next please!

*Carol and Keith  
would like to visit  
your club*



The second weekend of the Camrose, the home internationals, were held at the Metropole Hotel Llandrindrod Wells which had been the site of Wales' first and only success five years earlier. As the hosts for the final weekend Wales fielded two teams, Wales and WBU in order to have a total of six teams and avoid a sit out. This was also the case in 2011 when the WBU team had played a very significant role in the success of Wales by crucially beating England in the final match whilst Wales got the maximum against Northern Ireland to prevail by 5 VP's.

In this years' first weekend in January England won all five matches and had amassed a substantial lead, so much so that the remaining teams were realistically playing for second place. As is always the case the two teams from the home union would play first on Friday evening, with everything so close between second and fifth (Northern Ireland were some way behind) this was likely to be a critical match in deciding the minor places. After this match the two Welsh teams would be doing their best to help each other out.

Board 9 was a useful swing to the WBU when they got involved in the auction and eventually escaped to 2HX. After S erred by leading a top S, the D finesse and two ruffs enabled E to emerge with eight tricks. The regulation lead of a top H would have seen the part score defeated.

**Board 9 EW Game Dealer N**

♠76  
 ♥964  
 ♦KT7  
 ♣AK742  
  
 ♠9  
 ♥J5  
 ♦QJ964  
 ♣J9653  
  
 ♠AT532  
 ♥AT732  
 ♦A8  
 ♣T  
  
 ♠KQJ84  
 ♥KQ8  
 ♦532  
 ♣Q8

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	2S-3	E	D2	300		5	-5
2	4	1S=	E	HK		80	-5	5
3	5	2Hx=	E	SK		670	-11	11
4	2	2H-1	E	CQ	100		5	-5
5	3	2C-2	N	SA		100	11	-11
6	1	2H-1	E	CQ	100		-5	5

## Inside Story Headline

Wales recovered all of those imps +1 on the very next board (see below) when EW played in 5HX= in one room and the Wales NS judged well to take the push to 5S in the other. As is often the case with these distributional hands it wasn't clear whose hand it was so 5S escaped un-doubled.

### Board 10 Game All Dealer E

♠Q952 ♥Q62 ♦J654 ♣43	♠86 ♥AKJT973 ♦A932 ♣-
♠JT3 ♥854 ♦K7 ♣QJ962	♠AK74 ♥- ♦QT8 ♣AKT875

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	4Hx=	E	SA	790	790	5	-5
2	4	4Hx+1	E	CK	990	990	-8	8
3	5	5S-2	N	H3	200	200	12	-12
4	2	4H+1	E	CK	650	650	8	-8
5	3	5Hx=	E	CK	850	850	-12	12
6	1	4Hx+1	E	CA	990	990	-5	5

Wales gained 13 imps on board 13 when one of the WBU pairs was the only one to miss slam. The NS pair for Wales had a simple and effective auction to the best spot IS P 5D P 6D.

### Board 13 Game All Dealer N

♠AJT765 ♥2 ♦Q8 ♣AKQ3	♠KQ9843 ♥Q975 ♦T ♣T5
♠2 ♥JT8643 ♦A7 ♣J642	♠- ♥AK ♦KJ965432 ♣987

NS	EW	Cont	By	Ld	NS+	NS-	Imp	Imp
1	6	6D=	S	DA	1370	1370	0	0
2	4	6D=	S	C2	1370	1370	0	0
3	5	6D=	S	C3	1370	1370	13	-13
4	2	6D=	S	HJ	1370	1370	0	0
5	3	3NT=	S	HJ	600	600	-13	13
6	1	6D=	N	HJ	1370	1370	0	0

At half time Wales led the WBU by 24 imps. ....

## Evenlode Primary School and MiniBridge

I had previously taught mini-bridge to Year 6 children as an After School club. It was successful however when they moved to High School their interest in the game diminished and it became impractical to continue although I would have liked to continue teaching bidding in order to play the full game.

Having read the benefits of bridge to children's learning I approached my Head Teacher. I now teach in Year 5 (meaning I'd get access to the children for 2 years) and that I teach top set maths, he agreed that I should use one maths lesson a week within the timetabled curriculum to teach mini-bridge. I felt that the beauty of bridge is that it's not always the most academic who are good at the game so I encouraged my head and my non-bridge playing year group teacher to do the same in the lower maths set. The teacher (who is a close friend) reluctantly agreed and said she would learn Mini-bridge along with the children and teach it to her maths set too.

During a teams of eight event I was delighted to discover an ally and someone who was as keen to get bridge out to children as I was. In addition, the support then given – PowerPoints, hands etc was amazing. This enabled me to put the plan into action immediately without any effort by myself or my year group partner. She has been able to teach herself at home and is always one step ahead of the rest.

The Gwent Bridge Academy gave my approximately 100 packs of their old cards and an old set of wooden boards and with all the teaching material being supplied we were off.

I am in the process of adapting the PowerPoints slightly – they are now looking garish bright and childlike but the content is the same and the additions weren't necessary but the teacher in me couldn't resist

So far we have had three lessons and its early days. As we thought – bridge shouldn't be restricted to children with high academic achievement as there is already evidence that children who struggle with academia are showing some real promise. One child in particular who struggles in school is showing a natural flare and interestingly the confidence this had brought him is reflected in his sudden interest in school in general.

At this stage it is too early to see whether bridge will have a significant educational impact on the children but if nothing else it is lovely to see 4 children sitting round a table playing cards rather than staring in to the black mirror of an Ipad or tablet!

Sophie Cunningham

Evenlode is in an affluent area and is a very high achieving school.

Sophie has agreed to give us updates on progress.

It is quite difficult to decide what constitutes 'social' Bridge is and how it differs from 'competitive' Bridge. Many would say that the Bridge played in someone's living room between friends and family is generally social and lacks any competitive element. The Bridge played in clubs is considered competitive and therefore avoided by some of the less confident players. However neither is strictly true.

Many people who play with family or friends, in their own home, are very competitive; they just are not judged against a field of players. Some Bridge clubs are called 'social' clubs and play versions of Bridge – Chicago, etc - aimed at lowering the competitive element. If the hands are dealt every time there is always the element of chance that a pair will pick up a set of good hands and gain high points by winning a slam. The next deal may present four balanced hands and little chance of scoring significant points – that provides a degree of frustration in players of any level.

'Competitive' Bridge players usually play a variety of Bridge called 'Duplicate'. In Duplicate Bridge the rules minimize the element of chance and every player in the session will play the same hands thus ensuring that it is the skill rather than just luck that produces the best results. When you and your partner play a hand that is subsequently played by a dozen other pairs, the resulting range of scores represents a true picture of the relative skill of all the pairs playing that hand and 'the luck of the cards' is eliminated.

Does your chosen club play duplicate Bridge? If it does then I would argue that you are not a 'social' Bridge player. You may act in a very social manner but you are playing 'competitive' Bridge and not 'social' Bridge.

Do you try to improve your game?

Do you eagerly wait for the results of a session to be published?

Do you sometimes find fault with your partner?

**If you have answered 'yes' then you are a competitive Bridge player.**

In organised duplicate Bridge there are almost no distractions. Generally there is no loud talk, no interruptions and little interest in anything except Bridge. It is a social game because there are lots of people – there are pleasantries as people join a table but it is not party Bridge. After a session there may be lots of general talk,

discussions about the hands and occasionally a minor disagreement. Sometimes there are lessons for your partner: "Why didn't you finesse the other way and keep the dangerous hand out of the lead? If you had done, we would have been first instead of third!" etc, etc.

Duplicate Bridge players are not all alike. They may be young or old, wealthy or poor, healthy or ailing, all types, characters and temperaments. Some are brilliant and fast players, some are slower and more thoughtful, but none of this really matters at duplicate. The only thing that matters is that you and your partner make the best of the cards, whether as declarers or defenders, and how well you do compared to the others who played the same hands in your direction that particular day. NR.



## Stop!

In the 1990s I was playing at the Italian Bridge club in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. My partner, Abdullah, was a diplomat at the Turkish Embassy, a tidy bridge player, good command of English and an absolutely charming person. However, he was not too familiar with bidding boxes. I gave him a quick run down of the essentials.

I opened 1 club, LHO Pass, Abdullah bid 1 heart, RHO Pass. I carefully took out the Stop card, paused and bid 2 spades. This was followed by three Passes, including Abdullah of course. I was shocked but said nothing. After I had made 6NT I asked Abdullah why he had passed. His explanation was simple - "Well, you put the Stop card on the table to tell me to stop bidding. So I did as I was told!!" We had a good laugh at the time, and many times thereafter.....

Cheers David (Stevens)

We thought we would be controversial with the first Newsletter. Firstly because it was what we believe and secondly that it would generate so many letters of complaint that we wouldn't have to write anything for the second edition!

Instead it generated an overwhelming e-post bag of supportive comments.

There was a comment that it was very different from the EBU Newsletter. Yes, quite deliberately, but also because the EBU has a headquarters in Aylesbury with full time staff.

The WBU is staffed by volunteers who give up a huge proportion of their time to try to advance the game in Wales.

There have also been many offers of articles and we **thank you** for those. Many appear in this issue.

There appears to be a feeling that there was an anti-elitist tone.

However the "Bridge for all or for the elite" article tried to take the opposite view saying that "*Our view is that for the game to be healthy it needs to have a broad base of support.*" We tried to advocate a broad base of Bridge players from which prospective elite players might emerge.

The "Club X and Club Y" received an interesting response with several clubs thinking it was them! Hmmm.....

Several people shared the sentiments expressed in Patrick Jourdain's letter regarding the lack of emerging young players. As Justin Cooper put it "there are no Young Lions". Many people have expressed opinions on how it has happened but the fact remains that there is now a gap. You can help to prevent it becoming permanent by encouraging your children and grandchildren to firstly play cards and then to play Bridge.

Carol has provided some hints on how to interest young people in playing cards. Our four year old granddaughter loves it when we produce a pack of cards!

**NB - Views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not those of the Welsh Bridge Union. Signed contributions reflect the personal opinions of the respective author. E&OE**

## INTRODUCING MINIBRIDGE TO YOUNG CHILDREN



The idea for this article came about when our 4 year old granddaughter kept asking us about our 'Bridge'. She wanted to know what this 'thing' we were doing so often was!

We explained it was a card game and introduced her to a proper pack of playing cards.

She had, of course, already been playing games like snap or happy families with picture cards, so she was familiar with matching games.

The following 'scheme' is linear and progressive – children are individuals and each child will move onto the next stage as and when they are ready.

I think aged four is probably a good starting point as it will work best if the child has some basic number recognition – when they start in primary school.

1. Using a pack of 'real' playing cards play a simple game of snap.  
Start by just matching the same colour, then move onto matching the same number cards.
2. Introduce the suit symbols and their correct names. Mention that there are four different suits. Continue with the game of snap but this time calling out 'clubs', 'diamonds' etc.
3. Next sort the picture cards into 'royal families' giving their correct names – King, Queen etc. Put each 'family' together.
4. Introduce the Ace cards and say they are the 'head of the family' and add them to the 'families'.
5. Continue playing matching games, snap or a game of your choice.
6. When the child has a rudimentary knowledge of addition, tell them that the picture cards are worth 'points'. Ace = 4 points; King = 3 etc.  
(Introduce correct bridge terminology from the beginning.)



7. For the next step, the child must be able to do some simple addition. Play with the picture cards and Aces and do some simple sums:  
How many points for 1 Queen and 1 King? How many for 2 Jacks? etc.
8. Put the 'families' together and see that they add up to 10 per family. If ready, you can explain, that's 40 altogether.
9. Explain dealing. Deal out about 7 cards – how many points have you got in your hand? The one with the most wins the cards. Keep playing until one person has won the whole pack – or until someone gets fed up!
10. Introduce sorting your cards into suits then into red/black, red/black. I suggest you keep this to about 7 cards – but you can judge the individual child's capabilities.  
I show them here the 'real' bridge hand of 13 cards – they have fun trying to hold that many!
11. Finally begin to play 'trumps' or 'whist' – explaining that the suits take turns to be the 'boss suit'!

Above all – HAVE FUN!

Carol Butler





<https://welshbridgeunion.org/>

## On a lighter side .....

### Editorial Team

Keith and  
Carol Butler

07973731539

### Is bridge a sport?

My idea of exercise is sitting  
East-West.

### Kitchen Bridge

Kitchen Bridge players have  
a great sense of rumour.

*Don't worry,*

*Partner.*

*It is such an unusual*

*bid. It only occurs*

*every 20 minutes!*



This newsletter  
needs you!

## Partnerships

A husband and wife were playing in a congress.

After the third session this was overheard...

“Each day you have played worse than the one before and  
today you are playing like it is tomorrow”

Told to me by David Hamilton

## Rule of Eleven

The number of tricks you  
make in a 6NT contract.

## Conventions You Should Know

### Red Suit (or Jacoby) Transfers

Red Suit Transfers are responses at the 2 level to 1NT opening bids. Over 1NT a bid of 2♦ shows 5 or more hearts and asks opener to bid 2♥. A bid of 2♥ shows 5 or more spades and asks opener to bid 2♠.

If Responder has a weak hand he passes the forced rebid knowing the partnership has a minimum of 7 cards in the suit and a contract of 2♥ or 2♠ is likely to play and score better than 1NT.

If Responder has intermediate values he can invite Opener by raising to 3♥ or 3♠ or if reasonably balanced by bidding 2NT. Opener can raise to game in 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠ if maximum or sign off in 2NT, 3♥ or 3♠ with a minimum hand.

With values for game Responder bids 3NT with a reasonably balanced hand leaving Opener to choose between 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠. With a 6 card or longer major he bids 4♥ or 4♠ directly. With a 2 suited hand after the forced response of 2♥ or 2♠ Responder shows his second suit at the 3 level and leaves Opener to choose the final contract.

Breaking the Transfer If Opener has a maximum hand he can break the transfer request. With 4 of the major he should bid 3♥ or 3♠. With 3 good card support and a good source of tricks in another suit he bids that suit which is forcing to at least 3♥ or 3♠. Responder will only pass a break in the transfer sequence with a very poor hand.

Using Red Suit Transfers greatly increases the chance that the opening 1NT hand will be declarer hiding any weak holdings such as AQ or Kx from the opposition and improving the chances of a cheap trick on the opening lead. Use red suit transfers over opening 2NT and 1NT overcalls with appropriate allowance for the different strength involved.



**The WBU** has a considerable resource library of lessons, Power Point slides, quizzes and much more to assist teachers of bridge.

Why not start a learning group in your area and benefit from the support that the WBU offers.

Contact Keith or Neville today for details.

<https://welshbridgeunion.org/bridge-tuition/>

## MASTER POINT RECORDS

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

All records are available for download from the WBU website.

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 .



**President - Paddy Murphy - [paddy@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:paddy@bangor.ac.uk)**

**Chief Executive - Neville Richards - [welshbridgeunion@deepvault.net](mailto:welshbridgeunion@deepvault.net)**

**National Tournament Organiser - Jean Hand - [jeanhand15cc@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhand15cc@gmail.com)**

**Treasurer - Fiona Noyce - [fiona.noyce@outlook.com](mailto:fiona.noyce@outlook.com)**

**Membership & MP Secretary - Phil Bowers - [wbu\\_mpmemsec@sixwells.net](mailto:wbu_mpmemsec@sixwells.net)**

**Chairman of Laws & Ethics - Patrick Jourdain - [pdjourdain@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjourdain@hotmail.com)**

**Chairman of Selectors - Paul Denning - [pjdbridge@talktalk.net](mailto:pjdbridge@talktalk.net)**

**Education & Club Liaison - Keith Butler - [butlerkeith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:butlerkeith@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Newsletter Editor - Carol Butler - [carolbutler26@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolbutler26@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Director Training - Tony Haworth - [thaworth@tonyh1.plus.com](mailto:thaworth@tonyh1.plus.com)**

**Chair EWBA - Geoff Evans - [g.evans4@btconnect.com](mailto:g.evans4@btconnect.com)**

**Chair MWBA - Herbie Rowley - [herbierowley@gmail.com](mailto:herbierowley@gmail.com)**

**Chair NWBA - Marie Topp - [mt@pscweb.co.uk](mailto:mt@pscweb.co.uk)**

**Chair WWBA - Gareth Jones - [igareth.jones@gmail.com](mailto:igareth.jones@gmail.com)**

Published by the Welsh Bridge Union,

Meadow View, Llanddewi, Llandrindod Wells Powys LD16SE

© WBU E&OE <https://welshbridgeunion.org>