



Welsh Bridge

Welsh Bridge Union

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Editorial

It is some two years since the well received new style WBU newsletter lost its competent editor, Carol Butler. Since then there has been no direct contact between our members and their governing body the Welsh Bridge Union. Not all members have computers to read our website and of those who do a significant number do not log on a regular basis. So events go unremarked and future events do not get into the diary. Because no new editor has been forthcoming I have volunteered to produce this very basic news sheet as a stop gap. I warn you that I have no skill set in this field, merely a loyalty to the WBU and I deeply regret this absence of communication. So please forgive the shortcomings of style and content. Sadly with the limited timescale for this production there is a distinct lack of light hearted items. Should we be able to continue this initiative we need material so please send your contributions to me.

I should like to thank Carol Butler for revitalising our former Newsletter. Inevitably there were some criticisms of a new style but they were outweighed by expressions of support. Important tributes that are now well overdue now appear.

Only last week at the Council meeting Alan Stephenson announced his resignation as Chief Executive of the WBU. Effective from the AGM on 3rd June. Considerable expressions of regret were made by those present. His post will be advertised and immediate expressions of interest are invited.

The President of the Council Neville Richards has been in hospital having suffered a serious heart problem and receiving expert treatment in the Heath Hospital, Cardiff. He was welcomed back at the Council meeting on 24th April and I must thank him for offering to help me with the Desktop publishing of this newsletter, an area of which I am totally ignorant!

In the summer of 2016 Patrick Jourdain died after a short illness.

Obituaries were published in the national press notably the Daily Telegraph where he had served as Bridge correspondent for many years and where he gave Welsh Bridge the fresh air of publicity. He was also sometime Chairman of the International committee of bridge journalists. Below is what I wrote at the time:

I had also prepared a tribute to Neville Richards our then retiring C.E.O which can be read overleaf.

I hope that you will find some items of interest in this newsletter and that you enjoy all the forthcoming events in the bridge calendar; details inside!

Judith Graham-Jones. May 2018

Patrick Jourdain—A tribute

On the 1st August I wrote that "since I heard of the untimely death of Patrick Jourdain last Thursday morning I have been in shock. Because for as long as I can remember during my involvement with Welsh Bridge since 1998, he was always there. And had been since the early Sixties; In competitions over the whole spectrum from Club through to representing Wales at international level 70 times over six decades; as a press mogul giving Welsh Bridge the free air of publicity. Teaching bridge, supporting and encouraging our Junior Internationals..He found time to serve on Council and committees. His great experience and commitment was given unstintingly and his generosity was legendary.

He will be greatly missed."

Judith Graham-Jones, Immediate Past President. 1st August 2016.



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Patrick Jourdain

I was lucky enough to be Non playing Captain for a number of teams Patrick played on including his last event at the Europeans in Budapest. He was an outstanding team player and well loved by so many. The European Bridge League has recently introduced "a stars of the past" section and at the EBL Officers Seminar in Belfast in early February both Neville (Richards) and myself independently nominated Patrick for inclusion and not surprisingly there was overwhelming support, so his name should soon appear alongside Terence Reese, Rixi Markus and Sandra Landy.

Alan Stephenson CEO



Neville Richards—A tribute



I first met Neville when he came for interview in April 2007. He took up his post in July 2007 after a handover from the existing Chief Executive, Linda Greenland. I had just become President in May of that year and so we worked together during his introductory period and I got to know him well. Now after 10 years he has announced his retirement. Originally he had contemplated a stay of 5 years but he gradually became more involved, and the years flew by.

While Neville followed his job description he made a number of additional initiatives such as sourcing many items from playing cards to team shirts for the international players; he struck profitable deals with equipment manufacturers and printers for our publications.

For some years he has organised our premier competition, the Llangollen Swiss teams. Stored our card tables and moved them to events. Particularly in this respect he has been supported and assisted by his wife, Margaret and we appreciate her work too. Neville has also managed the International competitions and represented WBU on Bridge Great Britain committee.

Like everyone in a leadership position some times Neville has had to contend with criticism from members who may not have all the facts of a situation. He has taken these knocks on the chin. Much of his work is unseen and undervalued and when he goes he will be very much missed .

I am sure I am not alone in thanking Neville for his efforts over the past decade and wishing him well for a healthy and contented retirement.

Judith Graham-Jones, Immediate Past President.

1st December 2016

The Lady Milne — Gwynn Davis



The Lady Milne is the Ladies Home International Championship. Six teams compete: England; Scotland; Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland; Wales; and a second team representing whichever is the home nation for that year's renewal.

This year's Lady Milne was held In Edinburgh. Accordingly it was the Scots who fielded a second team (referred to as the SBU). Wales was represented by one very experienced pair – Maggie Pierce of the Cardiff club and Ceri, Maggie's step-daughter. There was also a pair who were half experienced and half not - my partner, Sue, and her daughter, Charlotte; and finally a pair from the West, Jennifer Wardell and Eleanor Price, who along with Charlotte were making their debut in the event. I was the NPC.

Given the Welsh team's relative inexperience it was likely that we would struggle against the strongest teams (England and Scotland, in particular) but we hoped to hold our own against the remainder. We began with a disappointing loss to Northern Ireland on Friday evening, but thereafter the whole team performed with credit, eventually finishing in 4th place. Scotland on home soil emerged triumphant, with England a close second.

One of the most pleasing Welsh performances was against England, to whom we lost narrowly. The following hand saw a valuable gain for Wales.

In the Open room Maggie Pierce declared Three No Trumps from the South hand. This was the auction at her table.

W N E S

1C P 1D

3C P P 3N

P P P

Maggie received the 10 of clubs lead and played the hand skilfully to emerge with ten tricks. The key to the hand is not to be too 'active' in opening up suits, but – as far as possible – to get the opponents to do the work for you.

Maggie took the first trick with her Ace of clubs and took the critical decision to play on hearts, leaving the defence to broach the other suits, all of which were problematic. A heart to the seven in dummy drew the Queen from East. East's diamond return went to the Jack and West's Queen. West now returned a helpful diamond to Maggie's 10. Maggie continued hearts and soon established her two heart tricks. She eventually emerged with three spade tricks (not tempted by the finesse), two hearts, two diamonds and three club winners, so making her contract with an over-

Dealer North; North/South vul

- ♠A875
- ♥K987
- ♦4
- ♣AJ84
- ♠10943
- ♥AQ62
- ♦K9652
- ♣void
- ♠Q2
- ♥104
- ♦Q8
- ♣Q1097653
- ♠KJ6
- ♥J53
- ♦AJ1073
- ♣K2



Lady Milne continued

This was the bidding when Sue and Charlotte sat East/West.

W N E S

IC ID 3NT

P P P P

Sue's ID overcall was somewhat questionable. I suppose she did not have the values to double yet felt she had a hand with which to compete. I am hardly well placed to criticise.

Accordingly, Charlotte, on lead, began with the Queen of diamonds to declarer's Ace – a friendly start from declarer's point of view. The play then continued as follows: at trick 2 declarer played the King of clubs, East showing out a low club, Charlotte contributing the 9 and declarer winning with the Jack a low spade from dummy to the Jack and Charlotte's Queen 8 of diamonds from Charlotte, ducked by Sue (the contract makes if she contributes the King), won by declarer with the 10

King of spades spade to the Ace, hoping for a 3/3 spade break, but Charlotte shows out spade exit to Sue's 10 Sue was now end-played, but found the best exit of a low heart to declarer's Jack declarer now played a heart towards dummy, but with Ace/Queen of hearts lying over declarer's King, the defence had five tricks – two spades (the Queen and the 10); two hearts (Ace and Queen); and one diamond (Sue's carefully preserved King).

Declarer was too active, but Sue had to defend sure-footedly not to gift declarer her ninth trick.

We lost that match to a strong England team by just ten IMPs. We also defeated the second Scotland team. All in all we could be proud of our 4th place finish, behind England, Scotland, and the Republic, but ahead of the SBU and Northern Ireland.



Catherine Spalding

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Catherine Spalding after a long illness bravely fought.

Cath gave unstintingly of her time to Bridge for many, many years. She supported all events whether it was a Heat, Congress or a Final (when she qualified) you could depend on one, two or three Spaldings to be there.

She was the voice of reason and humour at NWBA Council meetings and a delegate to the WBU. She and David made the long journey from Bangor to the Llanerch Inn in all kinds of weather several times a year.

Cath directed at Ynys Mon Bridge Club for many years. She was once described by a visitor as a Regimental Sergeant Major and please could she be loaned out to chivvy members at the visitor's club!

Cath was an expert needlewoman and an inspiring teacher of embroidery, patchwork, beadwork and other needlecrafts. Many of her students joined family, friends and members of Bridge clubs at a lovely, moving and at times funny, service. It is only at times like these that one learns what amazing lives have been led and Cath was no exception. In her working life she had been a high ranking civil servant. During the Cold War, if the worst had happened she was instructed to head for the nearest nuclear bunker and help organise a Regional seat of Government.

Cath will be missed by us all.

Our sympathies are with her husband David and son Mark.

Morag Clare

Working on this newsletter during the appalling weather of the first days of May, farmer and loyal WBU player Beryl Warner telephoned me with this telling remark "When the birds are flying backwards I know not to go outside"



WBU Playing Cards sponsored by BRIDGE OVERSEAS now available
Contact Neville for details.

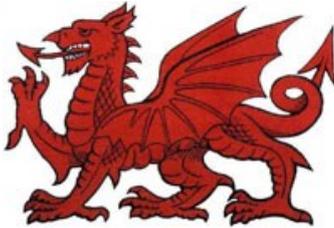


Electronic Scoring using low cost android tablets now available. Complete with a full suite of Open Source software, with no license fees, for scoring and upload to the WBU database.

Courtesy of John and Mirna Goacher the authors of Bridge Solver and BridgeScore. Already in use at 25 Bridge Clubs. Contact Neville for more details



The Red Dragon
Leads the way!



Website

<https://welshbridgeunion.org>

Full WBU calendar
and much more



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

Peter Hand

Peter gave me generous, expert and unbiased support during my time as CEO.

We shared a common bond with our love of music by Bob Dylan, Neil Young and the Travelling Wilburys.

He was a strong supporter of the WBU and I still miss him today.

Neville

All Our Yesterdays! From a 1988 Newsletter

In June 1988 Wales won the Lady Milne at the Mill Hotel, Sudbury, Suffolk in convincing style, winning all their matches. The team were Jill Casey, Anne Hirst, Diane Kurbalija, Maggie Pierce, Jessie Newton & Jean Newton.

All Our Yesterdays! From a 1998 Newsletter

Like all bridge players I am superstitious about changing anything & that even includes my dog. He is 28, with one eye, 3 legs and half an ear bitten off in a fight some years ago. As I was taking him for a walk, I happened to kick an old bottle. At once a genie appeared and offered me 3 wishes.

Great I thought, Can you give my dog back his youth & good looks? The genie pondered and thought that was pushing it a bit – how about something else?

Could I have a stack of cash to go to bridge congresses? Not a problem – Done!

Could my three boys go to college? Not a problem – Done!

Could I win the next five major bridge events I entered, and get more gold points than Tony Ratcliff? Well, said the genie – show me your dog again!

Sheila Shea

Bridge anecdote 'STOP' - David Stevens

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.....



Peter Hand

The WBU lost another of its major personalities when Peter Hand died after a long illness in the late summer of 2016.

Peter was committed to Welsh Bridge. He was President in 1996-97; National Tournament Officer from 2005 to 2007; on the Laws & Ethics Committee up to 2015 and on the Selection Committee.

He had been both Chairman and Treasurer of the NWBA.

With his wife, Jean, he represented the Seniors in the European Championships in Pau in 2008 and in Ostend in 2010.

His widow, Jean who received many expressions of sympathy on her deep loss, has continued his legacy by serving as National Tournament Organiser from 2010 until the present time.

Comparable Calls—Law 23

One of the major changes with the new Laws (2017) is the Comparable Call Law 23. This is primarily referenced from the 'Insufficient Bid' and 'Call Out Of Rotation Laws', in an attempt to give a more natural equitable score, rather than the more contrived result in the previous Laws, due to enforced 'passes' etc. Players at a reasonable level do need some knowledge of this Law, in as much that the Director may ask a player 'Do you have a comparable call available? If practical the Director should talk to the player away from the table, and determine the meaning of the illegal call. The player should then consider his own possible comparable calls. The Director shouldn't prime the player; he should allow the player to come to his own decision. Directors have been given some rudimentary guidelines on what is a Comparable Call, but this article primarily focuses on what the player needs to know. It should be noted that whilst this Law has good intent—if the illegal call doesn't provide any substantial information other than what is subsequently conveyed by the legal replacement call, the replacement call is deemed to be a Comparable Call' - the interpretation can be very subjective.

The new Law has three components. When a call is *withdrawn* (due to it being 'insufficient' or 'Out Of Rotation'), it then needs to be *replaced*. One of the replacement options is a Comparable Call. A replacement call is comparable if: a) it is a subset of the withdrawn call; OR b) it has the same or similar meaning to the withdrawn call; OR c) has the same purpose as the withdrawn call (Law 23).

Subset

Unfortunately this is a mathematical term, but not all players have a mathematical background. It means that if we consider all the calls to which the withdrawn-call applies, we then ask if the replacement-call is included within all those original calls? As an analogy if the original 'set' was 'all the birds in the world', then 'sparrows' or 'robins' etc. would be a subset of the original 'set'.

So as a bridge example: with South the dealer, West opens 1♠ out-of-turn (not accepted by North), the bid is cancelled, and the auction reverts to South, who opens INT. West can bid a Comparable 'Landy 2♠', showing spades and hearts, i.e. a hand which originally opens 1♠ would include all hands with 4/5 spades and 4/5 hearts. He is allowed to add extra definition to the original call (in the above, he's adding the fact that he also has hearts together with spades), so what damage has been done? – none. He is not allowed to take anything away from the original call. Usually if the replacement call has the same strength as the withdrawn call and it has an 'AND' in defining the suits (spades AND hearts), then it is comparable. But the other way round is not true, so for example if a player opens a Lucas 2♥ (weak, hearts +minor), and this call has to be withdrawn, a subsequent weak jump overcall of 2♥ (single suit), would probably not be comparable (the 'AND' is in the withdrawn call) - there are many hands outside the set of 'hearts +minor' which can show just hearts.

Same or Similar Meaning

This is the contentious part of the Law, simply because people interpret 'similar' in different ways. We have to consider three criteria – suits, strength, length

Suits – if the replacement call shows fewer suits than the withdrawn call it is not comparable (as per 'subset').

Strength – I would suggest that more than a possible 2-point difference would make the replacement call not comparable (simplified). Example: with East the dealer, West 'passes'. This is cancelled (not accepted), and East opens 1♠. If West now bids any limit bid with less than opening values (2♠, 4♠, INT) this would be deemed comparable. However a replacement bid of 3♠ would not be comparable.

Length – a difference of 1 would probably allow the calls to be comparable. Example: playing 4-card majors, with East the dealer; West opens 1♥ (not accepted). East now bids 1♥, South 1♠, West 2♠

showing 3+card heart support with game values –Comparable. However playing 5-card majors, this would probably not be considered comparable (possibly harsh, and some Directors would allow).

c) Same Purpose

This is a new concept in the Laws. Example: North – 2NT, East – pass; South – 2♣. This would not be allowed under (b) since the point range is significantly different. However they do have the same purpose (tell me about your majors). Certainly playing ordinary Stayman this would be allowed. Playing 5-card Stayman over the 2NT is a little more dubious, but Directors are encouraged to be liberal, so this would probably still be allowed.

Please note that if a call is deemed comparable, all information is authorised, so any slight differences in meaning can be used by offender's partner (but the Director does still have a possible adjustment under Law 23C).

We are in the early days of the new Law, so there is still work-in-progress and things will undoubtedly evolve. It is hoped that in the future a more uniform interpretation can be achieved (probably defined by the EBU or EBL), but we are somewhat away from that. Meanwhile Directors are encouraged to be liberal and flexible but there may be many different opinions, so be prepared.

Tony Haworth

There is a new section on the WBU website dedicated to 'Directing'. This includes a 'Monthly Ruling', where some of the more tricky rulings are discussed. Also there is a Director's Query blog section – players or Directors can submit their ruling queries, and it will be answered or commented on by one of the senior WBU Directors.



Mind-Booster: Bridge



To be sure you have a "full deck" later in life, play bridge.

Despite all the medications doctors prescribe, the best way to save your brain as you get older is to use it. That's why so many seniors are taking college classes. A less-expensive way is to play bridge. According to a study by the University of California at Berkeley, bridge also measurably strengthens the immune system. Select whichever way is best for you, but keep thinking.

A course for Tournament Directors and players wanting to better acquaint themselves with the Laws will be run by Sarah Amos at Haverfordwest Bridge Club on 23rd-24th June, starting at 12.15pm on both days. Cost: £25. For details please contact Judith Graham-Jones on 01437 765275, or e-mail jjones274@btinternet.com

Dates for your diaries.

25th – 28th May, Celtic Congress in Fishguard This relatively new event provides an enjoyable atmosphere in a comfortable hotel set in attractive surroundings within the Pembrokeshire National Park. Details from Jennifer Wardell [e-mail : jennifer@jendwar.plus.com Tel. 01267 230561

2nd-3rd June: Perry & Spickett Inter Area competition with WBU AGM on Sunday 3rd June at The Grand Pavilion in Llandrindod Wells.

14th 15th July Mid Wales Congress at The Grand Pavilion in Llandrindod Wells.

4th-5th August WBU/EWBA Green pointed weekend, Lysaght Institute, Newport.

3rd- 7th September WBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

7th October NWBA Swiss Pairs, Holiday Inn, Wrexham

24th – 25th November Llangollen Swiss Teams Congress, Bryn Howell Hotel.

Details of all these events can be found on the WBU website.

Some Recent Results

Winners of: Welsh Foursomes

Diane & Filip Kurbalija, Peter Goodman & Jeremy Dhondy

Mixed Pairs Championship:

Anne-Marie Zangouras & Gareth Jones

Open Pairs Championship:

Mia Deschepper & Mike Pownall

Webber Cup:

Patrick Murphy & Mark Roderick, Tony Disley & Yuan Shen

“Views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not those of the Welsh Bridge Union.”

“With many thanks to our contributors and special thanks to Neville Richards who has done all the work of Desktop publishing of this edition.

Please send your contributions for the next Newsletter to me, Judith Graham-Jones at jjones274@btinternet.com and PLEASE is there anyone out there who would edit our Newsletter, or assist in some way?”

The Junior Camrose

The Junior Camrose home international event was played in Coventry on [February 16-18th Wales was represented by Sarah Greener, Stephen Loat, Jason He and Jonny Richards. The non playing captain Paddy Murphy has submitted a most comprehensive report from which we show the following interesting hand.

After 1D by South West bid 4C which conventionally a Heart pre-empt North passes and East bid 4H which was passed to North who bid 4S east bid 5H and Sarah sitting doubled for +1700



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

To sum up the event Paddy said ” The mission for the last day was to win 2 matches which was achieved. Overall we won 4 matches and drew one and in the matches we lost we were not beaten too heavily. The team played a very creditable game over the three days and it was a pleasure to captain them.

Sarah Greener says “I have really enjoyed all of the Junior Camroses that I have played. It is such an amazing opportunity to make new friends. I always learn so much at the competitions. At Coventry we played Speed Bridge at night with a partner from another country – really good fun. Junior Camrose is one of my favourite weekends of the year and hopefully I will be able to play in many more”

* Because of constraints on space an article on the Camrose will now appear in the next edition—Editor