

EDITORIAL

2007 AGM

The AGM will be held at Wilstead Village Hall on Thursday 10th May. 7.00 pm start, with a simultaneous pairs to follow.

As far as one can tell at the time of writing all the members of the county committee are likely to stand for re-election, with the exception of Niall Perry. Certainly a need for some new blood at committee member level, which is currently one short.

The county chairman Ron Davis, has lead the county well for the last three years, and following a quiet relatively uneventful year, looks set to continue for another term.

Lets briefly examine the county activities during the last year:

Plus points:

- (a) The new website, well done to Louise Smith and her helpers.
- (b) County competitions reasonably well attended and organised.
- (c) Good support for county teams.
- (d) A general upsurge in county affairs.

Negative points:

- (a) A declining membership.
- (b) Declining league and cup entries.
- (c) Still no commitment by the county to get involved in recruiting new members via teaching courses, or regular events for new players.
- (d) Declining revenue as membership drops and as One Day Green Point event attendance declines.

A half full glass as opposed to half empty?

January 2007 Bulletin

My apologies to BBA readers for my failure to produce a January bulletin. A busy month and little material from the membership is my poor excuse. I would appreciate more input from the membership, articles, praise or otherwise, whatever, it helps make the job more interesting and easier.

Brian Keable (Editor)

Membership News

Full Members: since the last bulletin - Dr Michael Foxon (Cranfield); Kishore Jani, Val Jarrett and Gillian Kerr (Luton); Ms Jeanne-Marie Membre (Bedford).

Dual Members: Robert Slater (Letchworth); and renewing Jackie Davies (St Albans)

Bridge for All Members: Mrs D Haskins, & Mr T Thatcher (Dunstable); Mrs C Hopkinson, & Mr J C Tennant (Leighton Buzzard); & Mrs M Wright (Hemel Hempstead).

E mail Addresses: Please inform Louise Smith (la.smith9@ntlworld.com) of any change to your email addresses if you wish to be informed or reminded of coming events. Thanks to all for information received during the year.

Christopher Parkin (Treasurer and Membership Secretary, chparkin@msn.com)
☎ 01582 664705

Bedfordshire Website

www.bedsbridge.co.uk/

Webmaster: Louise Smith
(la.smith9@ntlworld.com)

Hands for the June Bidding Competition

Hand 1: Dealer West Love All, Pairs.

West: ♠AK62♥AJT3-♦T753♣Q

W	N	E	S
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? Playing a weak no trump and four card majors, (a) Do you open? (b) If yes what do you open?

Hand 2: Dealer North Love All, Pairs.

West: ♠QT♥AK2♦AKQ9765♣2

N	E	S	W
---	---	---	---

1C	P	1S	2D
----	---	----	----

P	3D	3H	?
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Do you bid? What do you bid? Why?

Hand 3 Dealer North NS Love All, Pairs.

North: ♠AT2♥KQJT54♦KJ♣J6

N	E	S	W
---	---	---	---

1H	P	1NT	P
----	---	-----	---

? Do you bid? What do you bid?. Rank the possible bids.

Hand 4: Dealer West EW Vul, Pairs.

West: ♠6♥76♦AKJ72♣QJT74

W	N	E	S
---	---	---	---

1D	P	1S	P
----	---	----	---

2C	P	2H ¹	P
----	---	-----------------	---

3C	P	3H	P
----	---	----	---

? What do you bid now? Why?

¹ 4th Suit Forcing. Your agreement with partner is that a direct bid of 3H (rather than 2H), would have shown 6S and 5H. You have not discussed the actual sequence.

Connolly on Defence

Part II Active Defence

by Dominic Connolly

In the second part of this series I take a look at active defence. As a reminder, the five types of defence are: Forcing, Active, Passive, Cutting down on declarer's ruffs and Trump promotion. We defend about 50% of the games we play and I find it useful to run through these five categories when trying to work out a defensive strategy.

Active defence means 'getting busy', and can sometimes mean taking some risk and looking for a specific card in partner's hand. At teams scoring it can be imperative and even at match point scoring it may be an acceptable risk in the hope of beating a game at the expense of an overtrick. Active defence involves establishing tricks for the defence quickly, especially if dummy has bid or appears to have a long suit on which declarer may seek to discard losers. As such the defence chooses to make attacking leads or an attacking switch, risking losing top honours in the hope of establishing quick tricks.

Active defence can work well where declarer has shown excessive game values. Against a limit auction such as 1NT:2NT:3NT consider a passive defence as leading from an honour may present declarer with his crucial ninth trick.

North	
♠54	
♥652	
♦KQJT54	
♣A3	
West	East
♠JT987	♠A32
♥K74	♥QT98
♦3	♦A92
♣T984	♣K65
South	
♠KQ6	
♥AJ3	
♦876	
♣QJ72	

South opened a weak 1NT and North, valuing his hand with a source of tricks as a 13 count, correctly raised to game.

At both tables, West made the natural lead of the SJ to East's Ace and at the first table East woodenly continued with the S3. South won this and forced out the DA and was soon claiming 9 tricks. At the second table, East thought a little more deeply into the situation and realising that if West had led top of his sequence, and with minimal values, South's best chance was to set up dummy's diamonds. East therefore made the spectacular switch to the Club King. Whether South ducked or not, so long as there was no misdefence, it was all over. East later held up the DA until the third round, declarer's diamonds were stranded and the contract was one off.

The play above is the so-called Merrimac Coup, where the sacrifice of a sure trick for the defence leads to the defeat of the contract. It was named after the Merrimac, an American coal-carrying ship sunk in 1898 in Santiago Harbour to strand the Spanish fleet.

I also witnessed the following hand recently: (continued on the next page).

For Sale: Two Bridge Tables, cost £69 each 12+ years ago.

1) 30" X 30". Solid wood surround, baize inlaid panel on top, foldaway legs. Never used. £50.

2) Twin of above but some damage in transit, some of the wood surround chipped, baize loose (but just needs re tacking to the wood surround). A little TLC will bring it back to life. Never used £25.

Both available for £65

Contact Mike Sim 01234-783253 Email: simbo@bridgeplayer.net

North	
♠K7	
♥QJ6	
♦QJT765	
♣AJ	
West	East
♠T8643	♠A953
♥98	♥T75
♦A2	♦K98
♣9763	♣K84
South	
♠QJ	
♥AK432	
♦43	
♣QT52	

South

1H

2H

Unwilling to make a high card reverse with minimum values, South re-bid 2H and was raised to game.

North

2D

4H

West, being a subscriber to doubleton honour leads looked no further than his DA lead, and with barely a second thought continued with his second diamond to his partner's King. East obediently returned his third diamond for his partner to ruff. Unfortunately, declarer plonked the ace of trumps on that, drew trumps ending in dummy and discarded his two spade losers and a club on the established diamonds, then played CA and CJ and claimed his game. Even if East had cashed his SA before leading a third diamond, declarer could instead have discarded three losing clubs on the established diamonds.

Leading dummy's long or bid suit is usually unwise as it does declarer's work for him in establishing his long suit but the situation was still recoverable at trick 2 if West had thought a little more deeply into the situation and made an active switch to a club. His trumps are not good enough to play for a trump promotion and it could be his last opportunity to put a club through dummy's vulnerable AJ. On a club switch, the defence must prevail and the defence will come to four tricks.

Editor:

Dominic is shortly (May) moving to Sydney, Australia, to further his career as a top man in the banking world. The county membership wishes him well in the coming years, we have enjoyed his enthusiasm for the game and his avid contributions to the bulletin via the Bidding competition. Dominic hopes to complete his series of articles on Defence prior to his departure, and I look forward to publishing them. Good luck Dominic to you and your family, down below.

Amphill Bridge Club

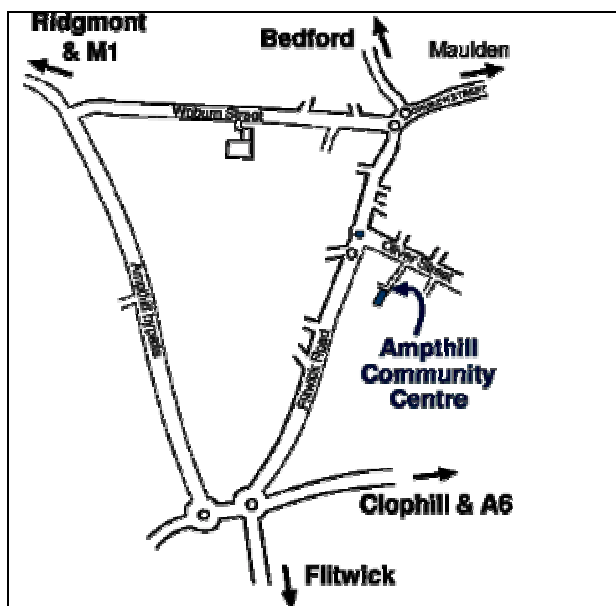
Open Evening Wednesday 9th May

You and/or any of your friends are invited to come along to see what it is like to play Bridge with us. Perhaps you and/or your friends play Bridge to a reasonable standard but have not felt able to try the game at a club. Now is your chance!

There will be no fee for the evening.
You can come without a Partner.
Only simple bidding systems will be used.

Amphill Bridge club uses the Social centre in Houghton Close, off Oliver Street. You can come without any prior arrangement, preferably arriving between 7:10 and 7:20. We start play at 7:30pm. For more information call Mike Field, on 01525-633 029 or visit

www.bligh.org.uk/amphill/openevening.htm



What would you bid? Answers to September 2006 Competition

The Panel

Back down to four panellists. New member Victor Silverstone making a major contribution based on his vast knowledge of top play and the styles of top players.

Thanks to those who have taken part, including the competitors, four this month, Dominic, David, Kathleen and Niall. Come on Bedfordshire lets have more contributions, or the bailiffs may have to come in.

Hand 1

Hand 1: Dealer West EW Vul Teams

East: ♠A6♥QJ32-♦Q643♣A85

W	N	E	S
1D	P	1H	P
1NT ¹	P	2C ²	P
2NT ³	P	3D ⁴	P
3H ⁵	P	? What do you do now?	

The auction is now game forcing.

¹ 15-18 ² Checkback ³ 2NT 17-18

⁴ Natural ⁵ 3 card support.

Keith Bennett: 3NT

3NT: Although we could have slam on, I don't have a clear bid that sets diamonds and shows my fairly limited interest. 4D seems too forward going, and if partner cooperates (eg 4S) I play subsequent 4NT bids as RKCB - which would be an overbid.

Alan Kay: 3NT

3NT. If I cue bid now I think it will accept that hearts are agreed but after bidding 3NT my 3D should be a mild slam try in D which is what I am, worth and if partner goes on I will certainly cooperate further.

Peter Lee: 3NT

3NT. This auction clearly implies that I still have

reasonable slam interest in diamonds - else I would have bid 3NT last time - so I prefer to let partner use his intelligence. With a perfect Kxx K10x AKJxx Kx where 6D is cold he will obviously bid on, and with a dismal KJx Axx AJxx KJx where 3NT is best he clearly won't. With something like Kxx K10x AKJx Kxx he might not, but we need a 3-2 diamond break and no heart ruff then anyway. Though I might do more with a partner who would think 3NT was terminal.

Victor Silverstone: 3S

3 spades – we know partner's numbers- By cueing 3 spades and following with 4 clubs over the probable 3NT we will prompt partner into indicating something about his quality and particularly the quality of his diamond suit which could range from Jxxx to AKxxx. As an aside in most of my partnerships over 2C I play that 3NT shows a maximum with 5 good diamonds and 3 hearts. This was gleefully known as Rose in the circles in which the late Great Irving Rose (of TGR fame) moved. I always assumed that this was a rare contribution to bidding theory from Rose who really had little time for systems but was always being bullied into playing a variety of artificial methods. An alternative suggestion is that it is called Rose because once he actually remembered it.

Moderator: 3NT gets the votes and top marks, but note the 3S cue from Victor, a classy way of making a starting a serious slam try for diamonds.

Hand 2

Keith Bennett: 3D

Hand 2: Dealer North LA Teams

West: ♠J2♥QJ643-♦AJT653♣

W	N	E	S
	P	1C	?

Do you bid? What do you bid?

Note 2NT (red suits) is systemically not available.

3D, opposite a passed hand I'll pre-empt. Second choice would be to hope to bid 2NT on the next round. I don't mind 1D, 2D or even 1H as alternatives.

Alan Kay: 1D

1D. I would certainly bid 2NT here if it was available so I am bidding 1D and if the auction returns to me with the opponents bidding the black suits I will show my Hearts by bidding the appropriate level of NTs even 4NT as this hand could be a good save if partner has a fit for my

suits.

Peter Lee: 1H

1H. Would have preferred to bid an unusual 2NT of course. If I bid 1D and it goes 1S No 4S back to me 4NT might imply a 5-6 shape but is far too unilateral at love all. A heart fit is the best chance of doing well so I go for that .

Victor Silverstone: 1H

1 heart- you pays your money and.....

Moderator: Everyone wants to bid. What they bid is a matter of style (or maybe religion). A 1H bid just edges out 1D, but next Sunday it might be the other way round.

Hand 3

Hand 3 Dealer North NS Vul Teams

West: ♠Q42♥J5♦92♣KJT543

W N E S

1NT X

? Do you bid? What do you bid?

Use your favourite method.

Keith Bennett: 3C

3C - my favourite method is pre-empting, too much defence for a psyche.

Alan Kay: 3C

3C. I normally play that redouble shows a single suit for rescue and other bids show various 2-suiters .I think that my Club suit is sufficiently good enough to

bid at the 3 level to make it as awkward as possible for the opponents.

Peter Lee: XX

XX. On my methods this is how one removes with a single suiter, partner having to bid 2C. I will compete to 3C. If 2C is a natural weak take out I would bid that. I could pass hoping for +180 or more but I might lose 500 for nothing. (Note I have assumed a 12-14 NT).

Victor Silverstone: Pass

Pass – prepared to look stupid or not. I am assuming a level match against equally matched teams or early in a match against a weaker team. If our team were in a decent lead I would run all the way to 2 clubs.

Moderator: Keith & Alan go for the aggressive 3C pre-empt, trying to hurt the opponents a little.

Peter goes for the systemic removal to 2 clubs via a redouble and Victor plays a tactical game, looking for an early swing in the match. For my money, within my favourite partnership, we would bid 2NT (Rubensohl) – transfer to 3C, getting some pre-emption and the hand played by the 1NT opener, so that the doubler is on lead.

Hand 4

Hand 4: Dealer West EW Vul Teams

West: ♠K98743♥J93♦7♣QJ9

W N E S

1NT P P

? Do you bid? What do you bid?

Keith Bennett: 2S

2S - I didn't hear South announce their NT, even so I'm not selling out to 1NT. A sound weak two fine for an overcall of 1NT, and since I am protecting I can have slightly less. We play 2NT as invitational in response which

will help to ensure we don't get too high.

Alan Kay: Pass

Pass. I try to bid over the opponents 1NT if at all possible and partner is marked with some values but I do not think that my hand is good enough at this vulnerability and form of scoring - even so I would bid 2S with these values if my spade suit was better eg KQJxxx with little else.

Peter Lee: Pass

Pass. I have often thought that there ought to be a convention here equivalent to a Multi so that I could make it clear I had 6 spades and was weak. In the absence of that, partner is too likely to raise or bid 2NT on the occasions we are making 2S. We are virtually never making game here, and if I bid on hands like these partner will never go for game when I have a real hand.

Victor Silverstone: Pass

Pass – prepared to look stupid or not.

There are 2 dangers in bidding (1) you may be about to concede a number to contest a part score and (2) often when you can make 2 spades you will be declaring 3 or 4 spades. That's the half empty cup. The half full cup is that we are lay-down for game or can make a spade partial when they are making 1NT.

I always think of Barnet Shenkin when 1NT is followed by 2 passes. Consequently on marginal positions like this, I would, in practice, sometimes bid attempting to judge (at which Barnet was invariably right) that RHO had shown no interest in the proceedings. On paper I have to reveal my true colours and take the cowardly option.

Moderator: The field divides into two, the aggressive and the cautious, or maybe the young versus the old. On this occasion, the on paper passers win the day. At the table, the aggressive 2S bid lead to 4S, giving Bedfordshire the winning imps in an ECL match.

Panel	Hand 1	Marks	Hand 2	Marks	Hand 3	Marks	Hand 4	Marks	Score
Alan Kay	3NT	10	1D	9	3C	10	Pass	10	39
Peter Lee	3NT	10	1H	10	XX	8	Pass	10	38
Keith Bennett	3NT	10	3D	8	3C	10	2S	8	36
Victor Silverstone	3S	8	1H	10	Pass	8	Pass	10	36

Competitors Comments

Hand 1

Dominic Connolly: 3NT, You need 11 tricks for 5D, 3NT only 9. The spades may be right-sided for NT, clubs may be 4-4. I don't believe the chances for slam justify trying.

David Woulds: 3S, may as well get in an advanced cue bid and save some bidding space. If partner now bids 3NT I will follow with 4D and partner should now recognise 3S as a cue.

Kathleen Gilbert: 3NT, Partner knows that I have 5 black cards at most. He can remove to 5D if advisable.

Niall Perry: 3NT – poor intermediates make slam a dubious proposition.

Hand 2

Dominic Connolly: 1D, I like to bid my longest suit generally. If you overcall 1H partner will never believe you have longer diamonds. I expect to bid again. I bid a lot with 6-5s. Even more than usual.

David Woulds: 1D, and hope to be able to bid hearts twice later. If I bid hearts first, partner will never believe I have 6 diamonds

Kathleen Gilbert: Pass, bidding diamonds may prevent finding a heart fit. Partner or opponents may bid and I can always show diamonds later if there is no better action available.

Niall Perry: 1H, and will contemplate bidding diamonds later if opps get together in spades

Hand 3

Dominic Connolly: Pass, I could retreat to the safety of the eight card club suit by transferring to clubs via whatever method, but at the moment I have the advantage after my partner opened 1NT, I know our combined values, the guy on my left has no idea what is going on. If they cash 7 heart tricks they may have missed a heart game. It's a risk I'm prepared to take.

Moderator: 8 card club suit? Perhaps one of us should visit an optician?

David Woulds: XX, systemic promising a 5+ card suit forcing a 2C relay from partner. Passing the X shows a willingness to play 1NT X'd. Whenever I Pass with this type of hand, the X'er has a running suit and we're writing down -200/500 instead of +90/110.

Kathleen Gilbert: Pass, (and hold my breath).

Niall Perry: XX. Redouble is a transfer to 2C in our methods...can't afford to go -500 at teams. I would pass at pairs.

Hand 4

Dominic Connolly: Pass, We could quite easily be missing something but my spade suit is not good enough and if I bid partner will expect more. I pay out to the weak NT if we are missing out on an easy game but that is why we like the weak NT I guess.

David Woulds: 2S, Yes I bid, either 2S direct or whatever relay bid that allows me to play in 2 spades. Partner is marked with at least 10hcp and if he makes any kind of invitational bid in a rounded suit, I will bid game as I have good shape and intermediates.

Kathleen Gilbert: 2S, Partner should have 9 HCPs minimum, hopefully a few more. A bit risky at this vulnerability, but I don't fancy defending on the inevitable D lead.

Niall Perry: Pass, I pass at teams (not pairs) – the suit quality is too poor...give partner a share of

Competitors	Hand 1	Marks	Hand 2	Marks	Hand 3	Marks	Hand 4	Marks	Total
Dominic Connolly	3NTn	10	1D	9	P	8	P	10	37
Niall Perry	3NT	10	1H	10	XX	8	P	8	36
David Woulds	3NT	10	1D	9	XX	8	P	8	35
Kathleen Gilbert	3NT	10	Pass	5	P	8	2S	8	31

the remaining points and a not-unsuitable hand such as Qx, Axx, KJxxx, xxx and -200 is still likely.

2006 Tollemache Qualifier

Bedfordshire had its best outing at the 2006 Tollemache Qualifier for several years. The team consisted of David Harris & John Williams, Ron Davis & Iain Roberts, Rita Keable & Monica Lucy, Alan Shillitoe and Greg Ward, John Neville and Mike Bale.

Nine teams set out on the journey with two teams to qualify for the final. The matches were played in two halves. After six half matches Bedfordshire were undefeated and lead their group. After eight matches, still only one defeat, against lowly Herefordshire, but Bedfordshire were still in a qualifying spot. The team had accumulated 110 victory points, thirty above average, a score that would normally ensure qualification. The last two matches on Saturday evening saw the completion of matches against Herefordshire and Suffolk. The match against Hereford slipped away, 6-16 turned into 3-17, but the score was held, the Suffolk match improved from 15-5 to 18-2.. The team retired to bed, with high hopes for the Sunday session.

On the Sunday, the match against Cumbria was held at 15-5, East Wales were beaten 19-1 (previously 17-3). A slight slip against Leicestershire and 16-4 turned into 15-5. Still on track.

Now a crucial match against Hertfordshire who were climbing steadily after an initial poor start by their standards. The match was flat and Bedfordshire retained their 17-3 lead. Now

Nottinghamshire, starting at a 10-10 draw, turned into a 16-4 victory.

One match to go, Bedfordshire neck and neck with Hertfordshire and Middlesex. How would they perform against Middlesex, could they retain their 14-7 lead, against the toughest, most experienced squad in the section. It was not to be. The match was turned around by Middlesex effectively on one board and 14-6 became 7-13.

Bedfordshire retained their starting score of 110 VP's, would they qualify?. Alas no. Hertfordshire had 113, and damn and blast, Middlesex had slipped past in second place with 111 VP's.

So near and yet so far. What an unlucky day for Bedfordshire, to turn in a magnificent performance, and still not qualify, with a score that would have been sufficient to win Qualifying groups C or D.

One thing will come out of this setback. The players now know they have the ability and endurance to do well at this level. Provided Bedfordshire can field their best pairs in the Tollemache, there is no reason why they cannot do well..

Tollemache Qualifier Group B

		Her	Mid	Bed	Cum	Suf	Eas	Her	Lei	Not	Total
1st Q	Hertfordshire	X	9	3	9	17	18	20	20	17	113
2nd Q	Middlesex	11	x	13	16	4	15	20	16	16	111
3rd	Bedfordshire	17	7	x	15	18	19	3	15	16	110
4th	Cumbria	11	4	5	x	3	19	8	14	16	80
5th	Suffolk	3	16	2	17	x	9	13	14	5	79
6th	East Wales	2	5	1	1	11	x	16	18	14	68
7th	Herefordshire	0	0	17	12	7	4	X	11	10	61
8th	Leicestershire	0	4	5	6	6	2	9	x	20	52
9th	Nottinghamshire	3	4	4	4	15	6	10	0	x	46

BBA Competitions

28th September 2006 - Interclub Teams of 4

A close call, Bedford A, just scraping past Clifton. An excellent third for the Brickhill team in third place. A fine turnout with seven clubs field on or more teams. Hello Ampthill, Cranfield, Emberton and Olney, are you still there?

Pos	Club	Players	Imps
1	Bedford A	Monica Lucy, Peter Coles, Rita & Brian Keable	59
2	Clifton	Miriam Jones, Phil Titchner, Alan & Saroj Ellis	58
3	Brickhill	Paul Habershon, Pamela Smith, Padma Dalvi, Mary Rider	50
4	Clifton	Pat Barnett, Tony Slater, Bernard & Margaret Eddleston	8
5	Wardown	David Harris, Jon Williams, Angela & Richard Chester	6
6	MK A	David & Anne Gilling, Phil Gee, Bob Brown	-4
7	MK B	Stewart Pye, Chris Challinor, Tim Sharrock & Bernard O'Connor	-14
8=	PM Bridge	Nora Gifford & Pat Skelton, Ann Pillinger & Peter Mohan	-20
8=	Bedford B	J Hurst & Liz Talbot, Dominic Connolly & David Woulds	-20
10	Brickhill	Margaret Jones & Sylvester Francescon, Sue & Brian Ford	-28
11	L Buzzard	Maureen Westley & Roger Gaudoin, Peter & Judi Malpass	-45
12	Bedford C	Les Calver & Terry Pearce, Steve Gibbs & John Hulatt	-50

29th October 2006 - Bedfordshire Swiss Pairs

A major success for Maggie Willis and Mike Vogel who in their last match, comprehensively dismantled the hopes of Alan Oddie and Jon Williams to pick up first place and lots of blackies. Barbara and Brian Taylor slipped into second place, after the favourites slid backwards.

Pos	Players	VPs		
1	Mike Vogel & Maggie Willis	102	10=	Brian & Maureen Stairs 58
2	Barbara & Brian Taylor	84	12	Liz Talbot & Les Calver 57
3	Alan Oddie & Jon Williams	81	13=	Ron Davis & Roger Edmonds 55
4	Janet & Derek Marsh	74		William Marsden & Linda Tigwell 55
5	Colin O'Hara & Peter Scott	71	15	Angela & Richard Chester 54
6=	George Goddard & Chris Parkin	67	16	Rita & Brian Keable 50
6=	Margaret Jones & Jane Nutt	67	17=	Peter & Mary Hutton 41
8	David & Anne Gilling	63	17=	Val & Mike Lawson 41
9	Alan & Saroj Ellis	62	19	Ann Pillinger & Peter Mohan 35
10=	Tim & Erika Sharrock	58	20	Louise Smith & Steve Gibbs 25

8th November -Mixed Pairs

A good turnout (twenty three pairs) and a surging performance from Ron Davis and Lynne Emmett to slip the field by some four percent. A good result for Margaret Jones and Alf Hitchcock in second place.

Pos	Players	%		
1	Lynne Emmett & Ron Davis	66.59	6	Anne & David Gilling 59.10
2	Margaret Jones & Alf Hitchcock	61.96	7	Brian & Barbara Taylor 57.95
3	Monica Lucy & Peter Coles	60.95	8	John Hurst & Liz Talbot 55.09
4	John Neville & Jackie Davies	60.15	9	Pat Barnett & Tony Slater 52.94
5	Chris Parkin & Louise Smith	59.73	10	Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard 52.02
			11	Alan & Saroj Ellis 51.48

11th January 2007 - Interclub Teams of 8

A splendid win for Bedford A who won convincingly and will now represent Bedfordshire in the Garden Cities Inter-county teams of eight competition. An excellent turnout with six of the counties clubs turning out one or more teams. A surprise second place for MK B, who held off the challenge from their supposedly stronger A squad.

Pos	Club	Players	VPs
1	Bedford A	Brian & Barbara Taylor, Brian & Maureen Stairs, Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard, Monica Lucy & Peter Coles	76
2	Milton Keynes B	Stewart Pye & Christopher Challinor Tim Sharrock & Bernard O'Connor, Derek & Janet Marsh, Alan & Sheila Caves	51
3	Milton Keynes A	Anne & David Gilling , Bob Brown , Phil Gee, Ron Davis & Lynne Emmett, Alan Oddie & Iain Roberts	37
4	Bedford B	Liz Talbot, John Hurst, Barry Holmes , Niall Perry, Gina Dunn & Bryden Keenan, Terry Pearce, Kathleen Gilbert	12
5	Clifton	Alan & Saroj Ellis , Eric & Wendy Audsley, Paddy Atkin, Margaret Chapman, Helen Robinson. Robinson, C. Redrup	8
6	Wardown	Dick Bond & Roly Wale, Bill Stanley & Barry Parkin, Bert Shiebert & Peter Scott, Richard & Angela Chester	-4
7	Amphill	Pat Skelton & Nora Gifford, Allie Stokes & Derek Walker, Paul Bower & Rita Keable, Brian Keable & Maggie Willis	-62
8	PM Bridge	Peter Mohan & Ann Pillinger, Cath Morant & Sue Fearon, Paul Habershon & Pamela Smith, Padma Dalvi & Mary Rider	-118

2nd February 2007-One Star Pairs Final

Pos	Players	%
1	Anthony Dyer & Eric Mason	65.10
2=	Colin O'Hara & Peter Scott	52.60
2=	Tony Drakard & Peter Dredge	52.60
4	Val Jarrett & Valerie Eaton	51.56
5=	Rosemary Cook & Jean Mckinney	50.00
5=	Keith Rickson & Trevor Lusty	50.00
7	Brian & Sue Ford	48.44
8	Padma Dalvi & Pamela Smith	46.35
9	Trevor & Marilyn Tucker	45.31
10	Jen Laycock & Veronica Brown	38.02

Another win for Tony Dyer and Eric Mason, who seem to be making this event their speciality. Good to see several newcomers playing in the final, though I'm pretty sure that quite a few qualifiers failed to turn out for the final.

1st March 2007-Ladies Pairs

Pos	Players	%
1	Val Lawson & Jackie Davies	62.08
2	Pat Skelton & Anne Stark	60.42
3	Rita Keable & Monica Lucy	55.00
4=	Kathleen Gilbert & Maggie Willis	54.17
4=	Freda Cranfield & Maris Sheppard	54.17
6	Anne Gilling & Sheila Caves	52.08
7	Padma Dalvi & Mary Rider	51.25

A fine win for Val Lawson and dual member Jackie Davis, pulling away from Pat Skelton and Anne Stark. Seven percent behind pre event favourites Monica Lucy and Rita Keable, lead the chasing pack, but to no avail, the leaders had slipped the field.

1st March 2007-Men's Pairs

Pos	Players	%
1	Stewart Pye & Christopher Challinor	60.74
2	John Neville & Mike Bale	59.04
3	Chris Parkin & Mike Sim	55.93
4	John Andrews & Tim Sharrock	54.37
5	David Dickson & Harry Cook	53.19
6	Paul Bower & Roger Gaudoin	50.15

Stewart Pye and Chris Challinor from Milton Keynes took the Men's pairs comfortably from Mike Bale and John Neville, with several favourites scattered in their wake. Twelve pairs took part.

29th March 2007-Seniors' Pairs

Pos	Players	%
1	Bert Shiebert & Peter Scott	61.74
2	Alan & Saroj Ellis	58.90
3	Rita & Brian Keable	58.14
4	Maureen & Brian Stairs	57.69
5	David & Anne Gilling	56.63
6	Frank & Anne Stark	55.11
7	Chris Parkin & Mike Lawson	54.36
8	Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard	53.32
9	Bernard & Margaret Eddleston	53.22
10	David Willett & Liz Talbot	52.80
11	Howard Watson & Harry Cook	51.57
12	Pamela Smith & Paul Habershon	50.35

A second successive win for old timer Bert Shiebert and young Peter Scott, Anne & Frank Stark winning the veterans prize yet again (three in a row!). Twenty five pairs took part.

15th April County Pairs

Twenty three pairs sat down for the County Pairs semi-final, with fourteen pairs to qualify for the final. The finalists would carry forward fifty percent of their score and the non qualifiers were invited to play in the county plate. The events were well organised and run by director Ian Mitchell, and Bridgemate technology was in place to ensure prompt and accurate scoring.

15th April County Pairs Semi-final

The semi-final saw many times champions David Harris and Jon Williams, destroy the field and

Pos	Players	%
1	David Harris & Jon Williams	67.05
2	Freda Cranfield & Mike Sutcliffe	62.95
3	Rita & Brian Keable	61.84
4	Maureen & Brian Stairs	60.36
5	Stewart Pye & Chris Challinor	59.94
6	David & Anne Gilling	52.90
7	Angela & Richard Chester	52.50
8	Colin O'Hara & Peter Scott	51.82
9	Ron Davis & Alan Oddie	50.10
10=	Bill Stanley & Bert Shiebert	49.83
10=	Nadia Walsh & Philip Adderley	49.83
12	Tim & Erika Sharrock	49.55
13	Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard	48.50
14	Mike Sim & Chris Parkin	47.81

leap into a mighty 4 per cent lead from Freda Cranfield and Mike Sutcliffe, with three other pairs in close attendance. Could the now favourites be caught. It seemed unlikely. Last years winners Alan Oddie and Ron Davis were well back ninth position, in with fifty percent. Could they find some adrenaline, magic, or plain ordinary luck and make a comeback?

15th April County Plate

Pos	Players	%
1	Val Lawson & Ian Wilson	61.98
2	Maureen Westley & Roger Gaudoin	60.12
3	Penny & Stephen Bligh	58.33
4	Les Calver & Terry Pearce	50.60
5	Jeanne-Marie Membre & Jenny Cox	49.40
6	Paul Bower & Graham Amos	48.96
7	John Andrews & Bernard O'Connor	48.21
8	Val Jarrett & Valerie Eaton	47.62
9	Margaret Jones & Alfred Hitchcock	42.86
10	Alan & Sheila Caves	40.48
11	Patricia Ellis & Margaret Brown	38.69

Most of the non qualifiers from the semi-final, stayed to play in the Plate, plus two new pairs. Val Lawson and Ian Wilson rose to the top of the hill, closely followed by Maureen Westley & Roger Gaudoin, Penny & Stephen Bligh. The rest of the field trailed some distance behind.

15th April County Pairs Final

Pos	Players	%
1	Ron Davis & Alan Oddie	67.95
2	Bill Stanley & Bert Shiebert	59.94
3	Angela & Richard Chester	55.45
4	Anne & David Gilling	51.92
5	David Harris & Jon Williams	51.28
6=	Nadia Walsh & Philip Adderley	50.32
6=	Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard	50.32
8	Colin O'Hara & Peter Scott	49.68
9	Maureen & Brian Stairs	47.44
10	Rita & Brian Keable	47.12
11	Erika & Tim Sharrock	44.87
12	Stewart Pye & Chris Challinor	43.59
13	Chris Parkin & Mike Sim	41.67
4	Mike Sutcliffe & Freda Cranfield	38.46

A turn around. The semi-final leaders Harris and Williams had a bad session by their high standards and most of the leading pair also went down hill. After a shaky stand Oddie and Davis final got their act together and amassed a near sixty eight percent session to leave the rest of the field standing. Would this score be enough to cancel out the big carry forward inherited by Harris and Williams.?

15th April Consolidated County Pairs Result

Pos	Players	%
1	Ron Davis & Alan Oddie	62.31
2	Bill Stanley & Bert Shiebert	56.74
3	David Harris & Jon Williams	56.26
4	Angela & Richard Chester	54.52
5	Anne & David Gilling	52.23
6	Rita & Brian Keable	51.76
7	Maureen & Brian Stairs	51.52
8	Colin O'Hara & Peter Scott	50.35
9	Nadia Walsh & Philip Adderley	50.17
10	Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard	49.75
11	Stewart Pye & Chris Challinor	48.75
12	Erika & Tim Sharrock	46.35
13	Mike Sutcliffe & Freda Cranfield	46.20
14	Chris Parkin & Mike Sim	43.61

Indeed it was more than enough!. Well done to Alan Oddie and Ron Davis, retaining their title in a resounding manner. A big performance from old timer Bert Shiebert & Bill Stanley to take second place away from of David Harris & John Williams. All three pairs will be invited to represent the county in the EBU Corwen trophy in June. Two consistent sessions from the Chester's in fourth slot.

Eastern Counties League 2006-2007

Norfolk Home 15th October 2006

A good result for the county, with all three teams winning.

Team	IMPs	In	Out	VPs	Players
A	18	93	75	13	Rita Keable, Monica Lucy, Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Alan Oddie, Jon Williams, Ron Davis & Brian Keable
B	27	148	121	14	Chris Parkin & Mike Vogel, Julie & Steve Abley, Angela & Richard Chester, Brian & Maureen Stairs
C	30	111	81	15	Val Lawson, Ian Wilson, Bill Marsden, Linda Tigwell, Les Calver & Terry Pearce, Anne & David Gilling,

Suffolk Away 12th November 2006

A poor day for the county, a narrow win for the A, a defeat for a weakened B, and no C team.

A	8	97	89	11	Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Angela & Richard Chester, Monica Lucy, Maggie Willis, Ron Davis, John Neville.
B	-40	75	115	4	Terry Pearce, Les Calver, Anne, David Gilling, Barry Holmes, Niall Perry, Bill Marsden, Linda Tigwell.

Cambs & Hunts 3rd December 2006

Marginally better this time out, only a draw for the A, but an up to strength B had a good win, with the C team drawing despite taking an early lead.

A	1	103	102	10	Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Ron Davis, Jon Williams, Monica Lucy, Rita Keable, Angela & Richard Chester.
B	53	117	64	17	Maureen & Brian Stairs, Barbara & Brian Taylor, Chris Parkin, Mike Vogel, John Neville, Mike Bale.
C	0	54	54	10	Les Calver, Terry Pearce, Niall Perry, Barry Holmes, Bill Marsden, Linda Tigwell, Val Lawson, Ian Wilson.

Northants Home 7th January 2007

A bad start to the new year, the A took a mighty hit from a strong Northants, who also turned out a powerful B team, holding Bedfordshire to a losing draw. The C team stuttered to another defeat.

A	-99	34	133	0	Alan Oddie, Jon Williams, Ron Davis, John Neville, Julie & Steve Abley, Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward.
B	-2	89	91	10	Mike Vogel, Maggie Willis, Angela & Richard Chester, Brian & Maureen Stairs, Barbara & Brian Taylor.
C	-19	58	77	7	Steve Gibbs, Louise Smith, Bill Marsden, Linda Tigwell, Les Calver, Terry Pearce, Anne & David Gilling.

Cambridge University Away 18th February 2007

Bedfordshire put out only two teams The A was much weakened by many of the squad going to the Harrogate Congress and the B team lost two pairs due too overseas holidays. A strange looking A team found themselves playing against a Cambridge University team much strengthened by the availability of four graduates who were in town, to attend the annual University Bridge club dinner.

Normally this might have caused Bedfordshire little problem, but for once “the wringers” were playing on Saturday afternoon, before the party, not hung over on a Sunday after the fest. Luckily the B team had picked Colin O’Hara and Peter Scott, making their debut at county level, and together the B managed a winning draw against some bona fide students.

A	-69	40	109	1	Richard & Angela Chester, John Neville, Mike Bale, Brian Keable, Maggie Willis, Mike Vogel, Chris Parkin.
B	1	101	100	10	Justin Bell, Graham Robertson, Steve Gibbs, Louise Smith, Colin O'Hara, Peter Scott, Les Calver, Terry Pearce.

Eastern Counties League Tables 2006-2007

	A Team	B Team	C Team
County	VP's	VP's	VP's
Bedfordshire	52	69	69*
Cambs & Hunts	87	82	93
Camb Univ	41	20	39*
Essex	49	49	70
Hertfordshire	77	88	85
Norfolk	82	58	67
Northants	106	105	86
Suffolk	66	79	51

A moderate season for Bedfordshire. The A team never really put on any pace, and had big losses against Northants and Cambridge University. The B never quite got going and the C team had a habit of running away after the starting gun fired, and then never being able to hold on to good leads at the tape. For those interested, in seeing more detail of all the ECL results go

to: <http://www.essexbridge.co.uk/page98.htm>. Note: * denotes an adjusted score for matches not played.

Ron Davis retires as County Captain

After 5 year as county captain Ron Davis has decided to hand on the baton to Alan Oddie. Ron has done much for the county team (and the county) over the last few years, and we all thank him for his efforts. Some of us may have been critical of some of his earlier selections, but by and large the recent policy decision to mainly select known partnerships has worked well.. Being captain of Bedfordshire is not easy, we have good players but few in number and often the captains job is not about putting out the best team, but getting twenty four bums on seats on match day.

Eastern Counties League 2007-2008

Alan Oddie—new County captain

Alan Oddie has been appointed county captain, replacing Ron Davis. Alan has asked for the following announcement to be made to all current county players plus aspiring players:

“I would like to see our results in county matches improve, and to this end I want to encourage some people who have not played in county matches very often in the past to do so a bit more frequently. This may mean that some pairs who have played regularly for in the past will not be selected quite so often, and I hope that anyone falling into that category will bear with me. If any one would like to be considered for selection in county matches please let me know.”

Alan Oddie (email rachel@medill.wanadoo.co.uk, ☎01908 583517

ECL Fixture List 2007-2008

Date	Venue	Versus
April 1 st	Home	Suffolk
Sept 9 th	Home	Essex

Oct 14 th	Home	Hertfordshire
Oct 28 th	Away	Norfolk
Dec 9 th	Away	Northants
Feb 3 rd	Away	Cambs & Hunts
Feb 17 th	Away	C University

Suffolk Home 1st April 12007

A moderate start to the new season, with good wins for a strong A team and for the C team. A very disappointing result for the B team.

A	39	110	71	16	Alan Oddie, Jon Williams, Ron Davis, Iain Roberts, Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Rita Keable, Monica Lucy
B	-22	85	105	6	Brian & Maureen Stairs, Brian & Barbara Taylor, Richard & Angela Chester, Chris Parkin, Mike Vogel
C	45	141	96	16	David & Anne Gilling, Les Calver, Terry Pearce, Alan Cooke, Maris Sheppard, Brian Keable, Niall Perry

Bedfordshire Teams of Four League and KO Cup 2006/2007

Division I	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Average
<i>Tudor Rose</i>	8	8	0	0	135	16.9
<i>Spartak Kempston</i>	7	4	0	3	91	13.0
<i>Double Shuffle</i>	8	3	0	5	70	8.8
<i>Exiles</i>	8	3	0	5	58	7.2
<i>Eagles</i>	7	1	0	6	26	3.7

Only one match to go, but the overall positions are (long) decided .Tudor Rose (Alan Oddie, Ron Davis, David Harris and Jon Williams) were long term favourites to win, and have done so in a magnificent way, winning all eight matches, with only one reasonable challenge at the beginning of the season by runners up Spartak Kempston. A poor season for Eagles and perhaps the end of the road for Exiles, who are rumoured to be retiring from the Bedfordshire league.

Division II	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Average
<i>Late Entry</i>	7	6	0	1	104	14.9
<i>Tetrad</i>	8	5	0	3	106	13.2
<i>McTitans</i>	8	4	0	4	84	10.5
<i>Cricketers</i>	6	2	0	4	32	5.3
<i>Scratch</i>	7	1	0	6	34	4.9

One vital match to go, Late Entry (Dominic Connolly, David Woulds, Angela Chester, Richard Chester) need just three victory points to take the title from Tetrad (Chris Parkin, Michael Sim, Val Lawson, Ian Wilson). Both the leading teams will lose one player next season, Dominic Connolly off to a new post in Australia, and Mike Sim retiring to South East Asia. Who will get the best farewell present?

Division III	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total	Average
<i>Tanglin</i>	6	6	0	0	94	15.7
<i>Ousels</i>	6	4	0	2	78	13.0
<i>Wrest Park</i>	6	2	0	4	43	7.2
<i>Bedford Blazers</i>	6	0	0	6	25	4.2

Tanglin(Roy Drage, Melek Drage, Gwynne Hughes, Graham Pointer, Colin O'Hara, Larry Redmond) take the title from fast improving Ousels (Mike Vogel, Justin Bell, Graeme Robertson, Michael Green, Jamie Findlay, Freda Cranfield) four Bedford schoolboys reinforced by two rather more senior students.

Knockout Cup

Round1	Round2	Semi-Final	Final
Spartak Kempston	Spartak K	Spartak K 91-15	Spartak K 116-52
Tanglin	Tanglin		
Vortex	Eagles	Ousels	
Eagles	31-50	61-92	
Ousels	Ousels		
Double Shuffle	Exiles 42-58	Exiles	Exiles
Exiles		81-40	76-51
Scratch	Scratch		
Tudor Rose	Tudor Rose		
Square Dealers	Square Dealers	Square Dealers	
McTitans	74-72	46-67	

Despite the original entry of only 11 teams, an interesting Knockout so far in the lower half of the draw, Square Dealers held off the odds on favourites Tudor Rose, to win by 22imps. Square Dealers, then went down to Exiles. In the top half of the draw, Ousels took out Division I Eagles in a surprise result, but went down in a high scoring match to Spartak Kempston. The final will be held on Saturday 28th April, between Spartak Kempston (Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Iain Roberts, Phil Gee, Rita Keable, Brian Keable) and Exiles (Michael Bale, John Neville, Tim Nash, Mark Westley, Fred Gaydon).

IAN BRYDON

Ian Brydon, a member of the Ampthill Club, passed away on September 22nd 2006, after a short illness. He was born in Canada 65 years ago, raised in Jamaica and educated in Britain, where he settled, married and raised his family.

I first met Ian in the early 1970s in the construction company for which we both worked. The game of bridge spanned our lives thereafter. We played in the same team in the Hertfordshire League for several years until our jobs moved us away around the country.

Our families grew up together, pursuing our common interests of caravanning and walking, even persuading our wives occasionally to pick up a pack of cards when the rain in the Welsh mountains was at its worst.

Later, when middle age started to spread, we sought fitness by playing squash regularly. Came the time when we were doing more damage to each other than the ball and we resigned ourselves to a less energetic pursuit – bridge.

The Ampthill clubs became the home of our partnership for the next fifteen years. The peak of our achievements came last year in the final of the County Pairs championship when we achieved 14th place...out of 14 pairs.

I don't say that we never had a cross word in those years, as Ian's positive optimism and my lack of skill landed us in some awkward places. But his good humour and his sheer love of the game, combined with a Guinness in the pub afterwards, always smoothed things over.

Ampthill Club has lost a hard working committee member; local bridge has lost a player with whom it was a pleasure to share a table, whether as partner or opponent.

Mike Brooke