



Bedfordshire Bridge Association

BULLETIN



No.235

April 2011



Game-On with the Essex County side



Checking the team score during the
Essex ECL match

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Editorial:

Welcome to April's Bulletin. I hope you will find some of the features informative, educational and interesting. The quiz opposite is challenging and a second declarer play hand is also included on page 18. Your views are very important but are conspicuous by their absence in this issue (no letters received). If you would like your views or opinions expressed in these pages, or to advertise your services, don't be shy in writing. Better to write than to let some burning issue upset you without doing anything about it. Share it with others or get it off your chest! I hope to receive a few more of your letters next time.

"When I take a 50-50
finesse, I expect it to
come off 8 or 9 times
out of 10."



The Hideous Hog

Declarer Play Quiz

♠ K10986

NORTH

♥ 842

♦ QJ

♣ 532

3NT by South
West opened 3♦
and leads ♠5



♠ AJ

♥ AKQJ

SOUTH

♦ A10

♣ QJ1098

South plays 3NT after West, as dealer, opened a pre-emptive 3♦. Lead is the ♠5 to the 6 from dummy and 7 from East. How will you play the hand to make against any distribution and defence as if your life depended on it?

Answer on Page 20

ASK OUR EXPERTS

As mentioned in the following Chairman's Report, we have top-class players in Bedfordshire who can compete at national level. If you have a query on bidding, defence or declarer play for which you would like our experts' opinion, why not write in (anonymously if you prefer) and we shall contact them for their guidance. You can be sure that if you require help on the subject, so too will many others! Responses may be published in future issues for everyone's benefit. Ed



Acting Chairman's Summary Report 2010-2011

By Christopher
Parkin

Our membership comprises members who can hold their own with the best players in other counties and in England, members who enjoy playing and get good results in national congresses and, with universal membership, an increasing number of players committed largely to club and social bridge, but who may aspire to improve their play. It must be our concern to do our best to support them all.

County Captain Ron Davis describes (Page 10) the overall successful season in the Eastern Counties League with the 'A' team coming a close second to Hertfordshire, following our win last year. Last year's success in reaching the final of the EBU inter-county championship for teams-of-four (the Tollemache) was not repeated. Opportunity continues for established partnerships in particular to come forward and be considered for selection. County events have been supported to a similar extent to last season (Pages 14/15). It was pleasing to see 45 pairs qualify for the Semi-Final of the County Pairs, but then disappointing that only 26 turned out on Sunday 20th February. Did we choose a poor date, affected by possible half-term activities for parents and grandparents? Those with fairly regular partnerships but who are less experienced should not feel apprehension at taking part, with an experienced EBU director to ensure friendly play. This is an opportunity for those who win or are runners-up, or if they are not available, those close to these positions, to play in the Corwen Trophy.

As we wish to encourage the less experienced players from clubs, it is disappointing that the presently titled *One Star Pairs* competition was poorly supported. We propose changes for next year and need suggestions from members, especially those who do not currently play in County events, to let us know what kind of event they would like organised for them. Please contact Stewart Pye (stewartpye@btinternet.com), Roger Gregory (rogermgreg@hotmail.com) or any committee member.

The County League of teams-of-four which is played in members' homes or at club venues had four divisions in 2000; now there are only two. Is this the end of the league structure after 46 years, or can you enter a team next year to be placed in the division most closely related to the strength of your team? We encourage not only those who play in, or would like to be selected for ECL matches to enter a team if they do not do so already, but also those who may be EBU and club newcomers wishing to play in a lower division. Why not enter a team from your club in the Knock Out competition?

Following uncertainties about our income at the start of the year, it is remarkable to see how well the outcome is at the end of the year, thanks largely due to the Bedford Congress and Green Point events organised respectively by Rita and Brian Keable. With regard to our finances and their deployment, our Treasurer's Report follows. It is important for the health of duplicate bridge in Bedfordshire that the clubs and the County Committee work together, and clubs are asked to nominate representatives to the committee who may either be elected at the AGM or co-opted for contributions they can make.

The EBU 'Education Working Group' set up to develop a five-year plan to revitalise bridge playing through bridge education following the introduction of Universal Membership, reported in January and is to be discussed at a meeting with county chairmen in July. Numerous initiatives are illustrated from around the country which can provide support to those in transition from beginner to club and more competitive players. It recommends that Counties should choose a 'Learning Co-ordinator' to co-ordinate aspects of bridge learning. We need to identify one or more members working together with the Committee to undertake a few selected tasks, building on previous individual initiatives. Members who are appropriately qualified are asked to consider teaching bridge in secondary schools with relevant County and EBU support in making arrangements. Please get in touch with the Chairman directly or through any member of the Committee.

In conclusion, thanks to all the volunteers who quietly and effectively contribute their time and resources to the running of bridge in Bedfordshire.



Treasurer's Report

From Rita Keable - BBA Treasurer

Following the 2010 AGM, the BBA Committee reviewed the likely income and expenditure for 2010 - 2011. There are usually more uncertainties about the income that will be received during the year than about the anticipated expenditure. This is because we cannot be sure how well the Bedford Congress and Green Point events will be supported and income and costs vary according to venues. This year the situation had an added uncertainty in that we were unsure of the income we could expect to receive from the new Pay to Play (P2P) arrangements. This replaces the income previously received from membership subscriptions. The BBA Committee decided to take steps to reduce our outlay. This proved to be justified as the P2P contributions received are only just over half the amount paid in subscriptions for the previous year.

On the income side: for ECL matches, we reintroduced a £5 per player contribution to cover refreshments for visitors and home players (most counties make a similar or greater charge). On the expenditure side: we decided that it would be fair to the membership as a whole to ask the players who qualify for the national EBU inter-county events, the Corwen Trophy (pairs), Pachabo Cup (teams-of-four) and Garden Cities Trophy (teams-of-eight) to pay 50% of the entry fee. We also sought to minimise expenditure on the Bulletin while continuing its present format.

The BBA Committee recently reviewed whether these decisions should be sustained or modified in the light of the 2010-2011 out-turn. If competitions are self-funding, then the cost of all administration and publications can be met by the P2P fees which have been increased from 6 pence to 9 pence for 2011-12. The amounts raised by the Green Point events and the Bedford Congress are variable and unpredictable and numbers are on the decline. While they continue to make a sufficient profit, the money raised will be used to fund entries to representative events, education and any special events. As this season's events have proved profitable, we shall meet the costs of the entry fees in full for 2010-2011.

Bridge in Spain

(While we all shiver!)

From Val and Mike Lawson

The 2011 Pairs Championship was held at Denia Bridge Club in Spain during February 2011. Here is Val and Mike Lawson's story:-

The format of this event has varied over the years with limited success. For 2011, it was run over a weekend with two sessions on Saturday separated by lunch and one session on Sunday followed by dinner. Entry and the two meals were free, but nonetheless the event ran with just eight tables.

Each of the sessions was run with two sections playing a 7-round Howell. The pre-dealt boards (unusual at Denia Club) offered some interesting hands and lots to discuss in the inevitable post-mortems!



Saturday morning (Session 1)

Board 2:

With N/S vulnerable, you are the dealer in the East seat. After three passes, North opens 1NT (15-17) - the normal range here in Spain - and after a transfer sequence, South raises to 4♥. Over to you ...

Inspired by Michael Byrne's recent article in English Bridge and at favourable vulnerability, Val came in now with 4♠. After much thought, South bid 5♥ and the result was 5♥-1 for a clear top for us.

The full deal was as shown:

Board 2	♠AJ8		
Dealer E	♥A42		
NS vul	♦KQ2		
	♣J1093		
♠1054		N	♠KQ962
♥K			♥98
♦J763	W	E	♦A1095
♣KQ876		S	♣52
	♠73		
	♥QJ107653		
	♦84		
	♣A4		

Board 4:

All are vulnerable and after 3 passes to South, what would you open on the hand shown opposite?

Against us, South opened a game-forcing 2♣ and rebid Spades. N/S stopped in 4♠ making +2. Only one pair reached a slam; they began with an Acol 4NT opening and after partner showed ♠A, reached 6♠ for a clear top.

Board 4	♠A10	
Dealer W	♥Q3	
All Vul	♦K764	
	♣87543	
♠963		♠754
♥J10754	N	♥9862
♦J863	W	♦AQ102
♣9	S	♣J2
	♠KQJ82	
	♥AK	
	♦8	
	♣AKQ106	

Board 17:

Board 17	♠72	
Dealer N	♥72	
Vul: None	♦9865432	
	♣Q9	
♠A1085	N	♠QJ963
♥AJ4	W	♥Q965
♦Q10	E	♦J
♣J843	S	♣K105
	♠K4	
	♥K1083	
	♦AK7	
	♣A762	

We were N/S and after 2 passes, I opened the bidding in the South seat with 1♣ (1♥ would have been better). West doubled (?) and Mike with shortage in both majors bid a pre-emptive 3♦.

Holding 2 top diamonds I rebid 3NT and made +1 when diamonds broke 2-1. E/W can make 4♠ but passed, giving us another good board.

Saturday afternoon (Session 2)

On Board 4 of the second session, we were playing E/W against one of the better pairs at the club. Mike as the dealer opened 1♦ and N/S competed in hearts. After a 3♥ asking-bid from West, I bid 3NT expecting a heart holding of Kx or Ax opposite my Qx!

Board 4

A lucky misunderstanding allowed me to make 3NT which could easily have been -5!

South led ♥5, 7 from dummy and North played 10 - quite sure I must have ♥A for my bid! With a nice fit in clubs which forced several discards, I made 3NT.

Board 4		♠AQ85	
Dealer W		♥K10643	
All vul		♦85	
		♣J5	
♠KJ3			♠764
♥J7			♥Q2
♦AKQ10			♦963
♣A632			♣KQ1074
		♠1092	
		♥A985	
		♦J742	
		♣98	

Board 5

This hand offered an interesting defensive challenge at trick 1. The contract is 3NT and North led ♦7. See full deal opposite. What would you play in the South seat?

At the table, South covered with ♦K allowing Mike to take the ♦A and eliminate ♦J and make two further diamond tricks for 3NT+2. If ♦Q is allowed to hold,

11 tricks can still be made providing declarer plays on spades first. If, after winning ♠A, South leads ♦K to establish a diamond trick. West continues the suit to make 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs as before. If South switches to ♥Q (or a black suit) declarer ducks a heart and makes the rest.

Board 5		♠742	
Dealer N		♥53	
NS vul		♦754	
		♣108642	
♠J962			♠KQ10
♥108			♥AK7642
♦A1098			♦Q
♣AK9			♣Q53
		♠A85	
		♥QJ9	
		♦KJ632	
		♣J7	

We ended up 5th overall. However, the lunch and dinner were excellent and gave us the chance to get to know some other club members. When we came out to Spain, our usual defence to 1NT was Cappelletti and required 11 points to bid. After this event, we decided to revert to ASPTRO so that we can compete more often against the strong 1NT which is used by most players here. Anyone with better suggestions please let us know!

BY RON DAVIS

COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Our final fixture in the 2010/11 ECL calendar has now been played and it falls to me as County Captain to reflect on a season of varying fortunes:

The 'A' team, which was in contention throughout, winning six of its seven matches and averaging 14-6, was ultimately beaten into second place by a fine late run from Hertfordshire. The 'B' team, though never up with the pace, also won six matches and finished well above average. The 'C' team started magnificently and built up a commanding lead, setting what was sadly an unsustainable pace. Nevertheless, it too finished above average.

There were several match winning efforts: Maureen and Brian Stairs against Herts; Alan Oddie and Iain Roberts against Norfolk; Paul Kilduff and Peter Scott against Suffolk and Les Calver and John Boughiey against the University. The best individual performance of the season was by Alan Oddie, who played in the winning 'A' team on all six occasions, with three different partners, posting an average Butler of +31. Spectacularly, we managed to whitewash Hertfordshire for the first time in living memory.

George Goddard played twice, recording positive Butler scores on both occasions. George who is a Life Member, Founder Member, past Chairman and past President of the Association has played County bridge at the highest level and can now amend his CV to include 'the oldest member (by a margin) to represent his County in the ECL'.

Forty-eight players gave up one or more of their Sundays to represent the County during the season, travelling at their own expense, to away venues as far afield as Ipswich, and for that commitment I thank you all. I take this opportunity of wishing my successor, Brian Keable, every good fortune and assure him of my continued support.

Eastern Counties League (ECL) Calendar

V/S	HOME/AWAY	DATE	YEAR
Suffolk	Home	8th May	2011
Norfolk	Away	17th July	2011
Hertfordshire	Home	9th October	2011
Cambridge University	Away	23rd October	2011
Cambs & Hunts	Away	11th December	2011
Essex	Home	5th February	2012
Northamptonshire	Away	1st April	2012

Cranfield Bridge Club moves to Astwood

The venue for Cranfield Bridge Club is now the village hall in Astwood (map reference SP 951 474), very close to the Beds/Bucks border, just off the A422. This gives very easy access from Bedford, Milton Keynes and Junction 14 of the M1.

The Village Hall, post code MK16 9JS, is in Main Road, almost opposite 'The Old Swan' public house. Maps and recommended routes are now on the Club's website www.cranbridge.org.uk (from INFO go to MAP).

The Club, which is affiliated to the BBA and the EBU, meets virtually every Sunday evening. Table money (£2 for members; £3 for non-members) includes tea or coffee and a biscuit. Please arrive before 7.10pm for 7.15pm start. **Visitors and new members are very welcome.** The Club tries to help unpaired players with its 'Find-a-Partner' scheme (e-mail tim.sharroock@btinternet.com).

Should anyone need further information, please contact the Club's Chairman, Paul Goddard, on 01234 881409, or Hon.Secretary, Erika Sharrock, on 01234 327466.



Please take the East seat. Your partner leads the seven of spades (probably 4th highest) against South's 3NT contract, knocking out dummy's ace of spades entry in the process. Declarer then plays a small club to the ace in hand and then leads the six of diamonds. Do you take any notice of which spot card your partner plays to this? If not, you should do! You can see there are no more entries to dummy so how will you know how many times to hold up your ace? You won't - unless you are clairvoyant. You need a signal from your partner to tell you how many cards he/she holds

♠ A		3NT by South Lead is ♠7
♥ Q654		
♦ KQJ754		
♣ 84		
N		
E		♠ 9542
		♥ KJ10
		♦ A102
		♣ 1065



in the suit - the *count* signal - possibly the most important signal in bridge defence.

To *peter* by playing high-low indicates an even number of cards in the suit while playing low-high shows an odd number. Your partner should play the 9 to the first diamond. Now, consider the spot cards you can see. You hold the 10 and the K Q J are clearly visible in dummy. The 9 must be your partner's highest diamond. So what can you deduce from this? He/she must either have a singleton or an even number which can only be two as declarer has shown the 6. If your partner has a singleton, you will have to duck twice to cut off dummy's diamonds. However, you won't know until the second round of diamonds have been played. Let's say declarer returns to hand with the king of clubs and leads the eight of diamonds (safest play to guard against A 10 9 3 with West). Partner now plays the 3 and you can now count that declarer started with two diamonds. You must cash your ace on the second round. If not, declarer will abandon diamonds and cash his four top winners in the other suits for a total of nine tricks - making their contract.



Here's the full deal from which you can see that it is vital to know exactly when to cash your ace of diamonds.

Another popular use of the *count* signal is when your partner leads from an AK holding. When partner leads an ace or king, many players will give an 'Ace for Attitude or King for Count' signal. So, if partner leads an ace and you hold Q82, you encourage by giving a high *attitude* signal and play the 8. If you held 842 and did not wish the suit continued, you would play the 2.

3NT by South		♠ A
Lead is ♠7		♥ Q654
		♦ KQJ754
		♣ 84
♠ Q10873	N	♠ 9542
♥ 98	W	♥ KJ10
♦ 93	E	♦ A102
♣ 9753	S	♣ 1065
		♠ KJ6
		♥ A732
		♦ 86
		♣ AKQJ

The *count* signal can be useful when on lead to decide how many cards your partner holds in the suit. Let's say you are on lead to a NT contract and you hold AKJ64. By leading the king rather than the ace, partner will give you a *count* signal indicating whether they hold an odd or even number of cards in the suit (in NTs, if it doesn't cost, they should unblock any honour holding in the suit on a king lead). Suppose they play the 2 and you can see 10 9 7 on your left in dummy. Partner must hold either one or three cards in the suit as the 2 must be their lowest card. Sometimes the bidding will help you work out which it is, but if partner holds a singleton, there is not much hope in the suit as declarer must hold four. Assume they hold three small cards, then declarer must hold queen doubleton and you now know that you can safely cash your remaining cards in the suit.

What if partner plays a high spot card on your king - say the 8? This looks like the first card of a *peter*, if not a singleton. This time, if partner holds two cards, declarer must hold three, most likely Qxx (exact spot cards unknown). This time you know to switch to another suit and hope partner can regain the lead later in another suit and then lead through declarer's remaining Qx into your AJ64.

Without a *count* signal, how would you know what to do? You would be on a guess and you can easily get it wrong. The *count* signal is the way to find

COMPETITIONS REPORT

From Stewart Pye



Competitions Secretary

On 25th November, eleven teams contested the inter-club 'Teams-of-Four' competition. The County was pleased to welcome David Merriman past-President of the Scottish Bridge Union and his wife Heather who were visiting the county. Milton Keynes took the honours with the first two places. The winners were Ron Davis, Lynne Emmett, Iain Roberts and Alan Oddie. Runners-up were David and Anne Gilling with Ros and John Bateman who will represent Bedfordshire in the Beck Cup in Oxfordshire.

In December the 'Seniors' Teams', started last year, again proved popular with 10 teams taking part. John Neville, Monica Lucy, Rita and Brian Keable took the honours with Greg Ward, Dave Willett, Mike Vogel and Maggie Willis as runners-up

In January our 'One-Star-Pairs' competition was held, aimed at the less experienced players (EBU members with less than 10,000 Master Points). Tea and cakes were provided by Lorraine Curry and Roger Gregory. Although the number taking part was relatively small, those playing enjoyed the afternoon and a number of favourable comments were received. Bryan Power and George Reed emerged as winners with Kishore Jani and Brian Edwards as runners-up. It is hoped that more of the County's less experienced players will consider this event in the future. The event is also open to those playing in non-affiliated clubs.

The County's major pairs competition for the Geoff Clarke Memorial Cup was held over two sessions on Sunday 20th February. John Hurst and David Willett headed the qualifiers and held on to win in the final. The runners-up were Alan Cooke and Maris Sheppard with Paul Habershon and Margaret Jones coming 3rd. Paul and Margaret will represent the County in the Corwen Trophy. The Plate was won by Chris Challinor and Stewart Pye, with Monica Lucy and Peter Coles as runners-up. Sue and Brian Ford were the leading non-experts

On 24th February, the inter-club 'Teams-of-Eight' was contested by seven teams with Wardown coming out on top and Bedford 'A' runners-up. Leighton Buzzard teams made a strong showing with the two teams occupying third and fourth places. Bedford 'A' will represent Bedfordshire in the regional final of the 'Garden Cities' competition.



Don't spoil your partner's best suit!

The 'Mixed Pairs' winners were Rita and Brian Keable with Gina Dunn and David Dickson as runners-up. The non-expert winners were Lorraine Curry and Roger Gregory. Our last competition for this season, The Seniors' Pairs, was won by Alan & Saroj Ellis with Gina Dunn and David Dickson as runners-up. The leading veterans were Anne and David Gilling and the leading non-experts were Paul Kilduff and Peter Scott

I am pleased to report that the entries to our County events are slightly up and a number of players have entered events for the first time. It is hoped that this may encourage others to take part. A prize is given to the leading non-experts in all the County Pairs competitions.

In the Leagues, Tudor Rose head the First Division and in the Second Division, there is very little between the first three teams of Regis, McTitans and The Cricketers. In the Knock-Out, Tudor Rose and Double Shuffle are through to the semi-final as non-losers and the play-offs for the remaining semi-final places are between Exiles v/s McTitans and Buzzards v/s Jade Pyrates.

Monica Lucy heads the table for the Jon Williams Victor Ludorum Trophy and with only the teams competitions points to be added, she has an unassailable lead. Maris Sheppard and Alan Cooke are runners-up. The leading non-experts for the current season are John and Ros Bateman, narrowly beating Susan Ford by 1 point.



A Request from the Membership Secretary

(or "Why does my Bulletin go to the wrong club?")

To All BBA Members:

At the time of switching to Pay-to-Play (P2P), your Primary Club was noted on your EBU record. For reasons I don't understand, this Primary Club isn't recorded correctly for all members. We send the Bulletin to your Primary Club according to these EBU records, so that's why your name may not be on the correct list for Bulletin distribution.

Here's how you correct your Primary Club:

- 1, Go to www.ebu.co.uk and click on "Member Login" at the top of the list on the left.**
- 2. Log in with your Username (which is your EBU membership number) and your password. If you don't have/can't remember your password, click "Forgot Password" and they'll email it to you.**
- 3. Once logged in, you'll see 3 links to information. Click on 'My Club Membership'. Find your main club in the list and click on 'Set Primary'. If 'Set Primary' doesn't appear next to your main club, then do nothing: it means your main club is already set to your Primary Club.**

Whilst logged in, you can see useful information such as all your playing sessions, your rank and where your Master Points have come from. You can also update other personal information.

Please take a few minutes to check and correct this information to help us get our administration right. If you're not sure what any of this means or you don't have internet access, please call me on 01234 295569 and I'll help.

Thanks for your time
Louise Smith

BEDFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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Full details from Brian Keable
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Tel 01525 377906 Email BrianKeable@compuserve.com
or go to the BBA website
www.bedsbridge.co.uk
for information and online entry form facilities

Consider this:

"Every human being who ever sat down at a bridge table thinks
he is a better player than he actually is. There are no
exceptions to this; none." Ely Culbertson

How's your declarer play?

(Another hand from *Dave*)

Contract is 6NT by South and the lead is the eight of hearts. How do you plan the play?

Answer on Page 23

♠ KQ5
♥ J743
♦ K5
♣ K1062

♠ J97
♥ 9862
♦ J982
♣ 83

♠ 103
♥ KQ10
♦ 7643
♣ QJ75

♠ A8642
♥ A5
♦ AQ10
♣ A94

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WATER MELONS

BERT'S HAND ON BACK PAGE - WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

How has your reasoning gone? After his pre-emptive 3♣ opening bid, it looks like the eight of hearts lead is a singleton. Assuming West holds seven clubs, East must hold only one. Bert figured his only chance was to hope for a 3-3 spade split with East holding the queen. Before East could realise he was about to be end-played, Bert cashed the ace and king of spades, both opponents following, then cashed his ace of clubs to remove East's singleton. He then played a 3rd spade which East won with the queen but was now end-played in the red suits and had to concede the remaining tricks. 4♠ making +1 against two well-known internationals!

The Full Deal:

♠ 4		
♥ Q1052		
♦ QJ109842		
♣ 3		
♠ 1065	N	♠ QJ2
♥ 8	W E	♥ AJ743
♦ 73	S	♦ AK65
♣ KQJ10875		♣ 9
♠ AK9873		
♥ K96		
♦ Void		
♣ A642		

The only (very difficult) defence is for East to throw his queen and jack of spades under the ace and king, thus avoiding being end-played, as his partner will win the third spade with the ten. This defence would be easier to spot if Bert had not cashed the ace and king of spades before the ace of clubs. Did you plan a similar line? Are you sure?



Ok partner, so where's the hand you held during the auction?

Answer to Declarer Play Quiz on Page 3.

You have seven top tricks, eight if you play the jack of spades at trick one. However, if you do so, your spade suit is blocked and your entries to dummy are limited, so you cannot set up any more spade tricks. West will play the king of diamonds and return a diamond if you lead the ten which thwarts you. If you play on clubs, West will duck and let East win with the ace, who then returns a diamond. You are then sunk as when West regains the lead with the king of clubs, all his/her diamonds are now good.

Possible Full deal

♠ K10986		
♥ 842		
♦ QJ		
♣ 532		
♠ 53	N	♠ Q742
♥ 106	W	♥ 9753
♦ K987654	S	♦ 32
♣ K7		♣ A64
♠ AJ		
♥ AKQJ		
♦ A10		
♣ QJ1098		

To make: play the ace of spades at trick one followed by the jack at trick two, overtaking with the king in dummy. Now play the ten of spades and ***throw the ace of diamonds from hand!*** The defence is now foiled as they can only either provide you with a diamond entry to dummy to cash your remaining established spades or set up your club suit for you. If they play hearts, you have time to set up the clubs yourself. Phew - breathe on!



Artist Cartoonist Photographer

Do you have an artistic or photographic talent? If so, would you like to contribute to future Bulletins? If so, please contact the Editor.

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Recent Results

Date and Event

Winners and high achievers

25th November
BBA Interclub Teams-of-4

Winners: Ron Davis & Lynne Emmett
Iain Roberts & Alan Oddie

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

9th December
BBA Seniors' Teams

Winners: John Neville & Monica Lucy
Rita & Brian Keable

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

10th January
Winter BGB Sim Pairs
National UK Event

Winners: Bert Shiebert & Peter Scott
(out of 1,938 Pairs) - 73.32%
In 28th Position - 65.1%:
Kevin Faulkner & Doug Lavis

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

13th January
BBA One-Star Pairs
Wilstead

Winners: Bryan Power & George Reed
- 57.64%

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

29th/30th January
National Swiss Teams
Congress

4th Alan Oddie & Iain Roberts' team -165 VPs

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

19th February
BridgeClubLive (on-line club)
Congress Pairs, Hinckley

4th: Peter Scott & Malcolm Burch - 66.4%

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

20th February
BBA County Pairs Final
BBA County Plate

Winners: John Hurst & David Willett - 61.69%

Winners: Stewart Pye & Chris Challinor - 60.76%

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

--- Results continued ---

24th February
BBA Teams-of-8
Wilstead

Winners: Wardown Bridge Club - +84 IMPS

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

5th/6th March
Premier Life Masters Pairs
Daventry

3rd Alan Oddie and Iain Roberts - 54 IMPS

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

10th March
Mixed Pairs
Wilstead

Winners: Rita and Brian Keable - 62.7%

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

13th March
Beds 1-Day Swiss Teams
Luton

Winners: Alan Oddie and David Harris,
Ron Davis and Bill Hood - 120 VPs

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

24th March
BBA Seniors' Pairs
Wilstead

Winners: Alan and Saroj Ellis - 60.9%

Answer to Dave's hand on Page 18

You have 11 tricks on top and will have to find a way of creating an extra trick. There do not appear to be any finessing possibilities or long suits to set up. There are two possible successful lines of play:- You can play a squeeze on East, and to do so, you must first *rectify the count* by ducking the opening heart lead. Assuming a heart continuation (no better defence), after taking your ace, play off your five spade and three diamond tricks. East will be squeezed in hearts and clubs on the third diamond and cannot keep the king of hearts as well as a club guard. Whichever they discard gives you your 12th trick in that suit. The squeeze on East will not work if you do not duck the first trick (try it and see).

An alternative line is to take the first heart trick with your ace and then end-play East with the king of hearts at trick 10 after cashing all your spade and diamond winners (East must keep a top heart honour and three clubs). This play would force East to lead from their club holding to give you three club tricks for a total of 12.

PLAY A HAND WITH BERT

From Bert Shiebert

West opened
3 ♣

♠ 4

♥ Q1052

♦ QJ109842

♣ 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AK9873

♥ K96

♦ Void

♣ A642



West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
End			

How would you play this hand? After a lengthy hesitation from East before passing his partner's pre-emptive 3♣ opening bid, Bert took a gamble by bidding 4♠ and received the eight of hearts lead. The two was played from dummy and East cashed the ace, under which Bert smoothly dropped the king (a deceptive play to try to avoid East returning a heart which West would ruff). East, after another long hesitation, tried to cash the ace of diamonds which was ruffed in the South hand. How would you continue? See Page 19 for what happened next and how it turned out.