



Bedfordshire Bridge Association

BULLETIN



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The Easter Declarer Play Quiz

Can you pull a rabbit out of the hat?



♠ J98
 ♥ QJ652
 ♦ K643
 ♣ K

N
W E
S

♠ AKQ2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ AJ87
 ♣ A643

6♦ by South
 Lead is ♦5

The contract is 6♦ by South and the lead is the five of diamonds. How will you play the hand? Answer on page 23

YOUR BULLETIN REPS

Please ask your club rep. if you have not received your copy.

Clifton	Alan Ellis	Leighton B.	David Gilling
PM Bridge	Ann Pillinger	Bedford	Alan Cooke
Cranfield	Erika Sharrock	Milton Keynes.....	David Gilling
Wardown	Peter Scott		

Recent Results

Date and Event	Winners and high achievers
3rd November EBU Swiss Teams Seniors Congress Daventry	Winners: Richard & Angela Chester David & Jane Jensen 103 VPs 2nd Place: David Dickson's team ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
12th November Children in Need Sim. Pairs National event	2nd place: Rita & Brian Keable 70.8% (out of 1,997 pairs) ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
14th November BBA Marsh Trophy Wilstead	Winners: Sue Giordano & Annabel Nelms - 63.2% ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
23rd/24th November Group A Tollemache Qualifier	Bedfordshire Team 2nd (out of 9 teams) qualified for the final (6th in Final) ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
28th November BBA Inter-Club Teams of 4 Wilstead	Winners: Alan Oddie & David Harris Ron Davis & Lynne Emmett +66 IMPS ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
12th December BBA Seniors' Teams of 4 Wilstead	Winners: David Willett & John Hurst Terry Pearce & Kathleen Gilbert with +58 IMPS ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
8th January EBU Winter Sim. Pairs National Event	20th out of 997 pairs Penny & Stephen Bligh with 65% ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
16th February BBA Pairs Final County Plate Competition	Winners: David Harris & Ron Davis with 58.8% Winners Steve & Julie Abley with 57.6%



Two Hands from the Tollemache Qualifier

From Alan Oddie



The Tollemache is the EBU's Counties teams-of-eight competition. The qualifying round was held over a weekend in November with 36 counties taking part. The counties were split into four divisions of nine teams, the top two teams from each division going through to the final. The draw was random, except that the eight teams from the previous year's final were seeded, with two being placed in each division. The draw put us in with Berks and Bucks (last year's winners), Suffolk (finalists from last year), East Wales (containing a number of Welsh internationals) and what on paper were several other strong counties: Merseyside and Cheshire, Sussex, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. This did not look like a dream draw!

We played 12-board matches (5 followed by 7) against each of the other teams in our division. We were around mid-table for most of the weekend and with only 14 boards to go were down in fifth place. However, Berks and Bucks were well ahead of the rest which meant that the teams lying from second to eighth were closely bunched. Any of those teams could still qualify for the final. The bad news from our point of view was that of the 14 boards remaining, we had to play seven against Berks and Bucks and seven against East Wales who were lying in second place. Fortunately our whole team produced a storming finish and we defeated Berks and Bucks 14-6 (their only loss of the weekend) and East Wales 15-5 to qualify for the final for only the third time in Bedfordshire's history.

This was an interesting slam hand from an early match:

♠ AK7		♠ 2
♥ KQ96	W	♥ AJ102
♦ K9	E	♦ AQ852
♣ J1065		♣ A98

Dealer East. E-W vulnerable
How would you play this in 6♥
from the West seat against the
lead of the queen of spades?

Four tricks from the diamond suit will be enough, to go with five trumps (you can ruff a spade) and three black suit winners. So you win and draw a couple of rounds of trumps. If they break, draw the last trump and play two top diamonds ending in hand. You make if the

diamonds are no worse than 4-2, and if they are 5-1 you're still ok if either the king or queen of clubs is on-side. If on the other hand trumps turn out to be 4-1, play king, ace and ruff a diamond high and you're still ok as long as the diamonds are 4-2 or 3-3.

Your combined chances with this line are around 90%, but at the table the hearts were 4-1, diamonds 5-1 and both club honours were off-side. Many pairs went off in 6♥ and I suspect most of them cursed their bad luck.

However, if they took the line above, or something similar, they've misplayed it! An even better line is to win the spade lead, cash the other top spade, discarding a club, ruff the last spade high and play ace and another club. The defence cannot now prevent you from ruffing a club high in dummy, drawing trumps and discarding your remaining club loser on one of dummy's top diamonds. Barring a horrendous break in one of the black suits (and you still have chances even then), you succeed whenever trumps and diamonds are no worse than 4-1 and 5-1 respectively.

This is a defensive problem I got wrong. Can you do better?

Dealer North. E-W vulnerable:

♠ 9	
♥ K84	
♦ AKJ1093	
♣ Q109	
West (Dummy)	♠ AJ764
	♥ 1073
	♦ 64
	♣ 862
South (You)	

Partner opens 1NT (12-14), you bid 2♥ (transfer) and West doubles for take-out (not my choice). Partner bids 3♠, showing a minimum hand with four card support, and East enters the fray with 4♣, raised to 5♣ by West.

You cash the ace of spades, partner playing the 8 and declarer the 2. The 8 is an encouraging card in your methods, so for what it's worth, partner will have the king of spades. How do you continue?

You can work out quite a lot about this hand from the bidding and the play to the first trick. Declarer has at most five clubs (partner opened 1NT, so will have at least two) and he won't have four hearts, since otherwise he'd have bid them - remember that off-centre take-out double from West. Therefore partner has four hearts and declarer

three (partner can't have five hearts and declarer two, since even if your methods include opening 1NT with a 5-card major, partner has already shown four spades in the bidding and opening 1NT with 4-5 in the majors is decidedly warped). Therefore declarer almost certainly has a 3-3-2-5 distribution. If that's the case, what can partner have to beat this contract?

If he had the A-Q of hearts he would have dropped the king of spades on the first trick to ensure you switched to hearts, so that's out of the question. If he's got both the missing aces, it won't matter what you do, so you can forget about that too. If the diamonds are ready to run and/or declarer has the ace of hearts, there's very little hope, so you can hypothetically place partner with the queen of diamonds and the ace of hearts. But even if he has those cards together with the king of clubs to make up the minimum 1NT bid he's shown, declarer's plan will be to cross to a top diamond and stick the queen of clubs on the table. Whether or not partner covers this, declarer will be able to ruff a diamond in his hand with the jack and draw trumps, ending in dummy to run the diamonds.

To counter this you must force dummy with a spade at trick two. If declarer then ruffs the diamonds out, your third trump will prevent him from finishing in dummy after drawing trumps. Moreover, partner will be able to hold up the ace of hearts for as long as necessary to deprive declarer of an entry to the diamonds in that suit.

What's that you say? If you play another spade at trick two, declarer will simply ruff it in dummy, cross to hand with a heart and ruff his last spade. Then he won't need the diamond suit for his contract.

Well maybe so, but once he's ruffed two spades in dummy, your eight of clubs is promoted to a winner!

The Bedfordshire Team members were Brian Keable, Alex Foley, Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Ron Davis, Iain Roberts, Alan Oddie, Rita Keable, Richard Chester and David Harris.

The Full Deal		♠	K853	
		♥	A952	
		♦	Q87	
		♣	K3	
♠	9	<div><div>N</div><div>W<div>E</div>S</div></div>	♠	Q102
♥	K84		♥	QJ6
♦	AKJ1093		♦	52
♣	Q109		♣	AJ754
		♠	AJ764	
		♥	1073	
		♦	64	
		♣	862	

Winning Pairs Tactics

Part 2. by Peter Scott
Courtesy of Ed Scerri



For the following hands, assume that you are playing against top class opponents.

Hand 1.

After you open a Benji 2NT on the South hand, North, in a desperate attempt to outscore the rest of the room, bids 3NT rather than look for a heart fit. After the defence play off ace, king and another spade, you are in with the queen. How do you view the situation and more importantly, what do you plan to do about it?

♠ Q743
♥ KJ93
♦ 86
♣ AQJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AKJ2
♥ AQ4
♦ K95
♣ 1063

Hand 2.

After you open a strong (15-17) 1NT, your partner North who appears to have forgotten how to use Stayman, jumps straight to 3NT. West leads the three of diamonds to East's ace who then returns the jack. How do you see things and what is your plan of action?

♠ J6
♥ Q10763
♦ J52
♣ A82

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q102
♥ AK952
♦ AK10
♣ K5

Hand 3.

After a 1♣-1♦-1NT sequence, you, as South, wind up playing in 1NT. The defence take the first four spade tricks after which East switches to a small club. How will you proceed?

♠ 64
♥ Q752
♦ AQ103
♣ 1094

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J107
♥ AK86
♦ K8
♣ KJ75

Answers on page 25



BELIEVE IT OR NOT!



By Alan Cooke

When I lived in Hampshire, one of my most memorable matches was a county semi-final knock out against a team of convicts from Winchester Prison. Obviously they had to play all their matches at home!

During the first half I had been doubled by my right hand opponent, only to find that his partner held all of the missing high cards and on scoring up at half time our team mates said the same had happened to them. I remembered I had felt a foot brush past mine so we came to the conclusion that one of the inmates had kicked his partner instructing him to double.

Anyway, it was an extremely close match and on the very last board my partner opened 1NT from which I could tell we had a certain game on and a possible but marginal slam. I could have investigated but after some deliberation I hit on the perfect solution. I bid 3NT and kicked my left hand opponent!

Sure enough he obediently doubled which I promptly redoubled when the bidding came back to me. My partner made a comfortable eleven tricks for a healthy and match winning +1800. Fortunately no violent convicts were allowed on the prison team otherwise I might not have pulled this stunt!

John Collings who died in 1995 was a very strong international bridge player with a vivid imagination and great sense of fun. His most famous hand occurred in a European Championship match where, holding eight solid clubs and nothing else and seeing his opponents heading for a slam, he decided to overcall 4♠ to disrupt their bidding.

This worked wonderfully well, his opponents reaching 7♥ destined to go one off but unfortunately his partner chose to sacrifice in 7♠. Although the defence was not perfect, down ten for -2600 was not a success! Predictably the British team captain was not amused and singularly unimpressed by Collings' claim that any other declarer would have made only one trick for -3200!.

On another occasion it is said that Collings with ten solid spades decided to pass initially to await developments. Much to his surprise the hand was passed out. Curious to know what had happened he asked his partner what he had. Back came the reply "Nothing much, just three aces!"



John Collings

Talking of passing hands out, Andrew Robson was teaching some beginners when he was surprised to see that one of his most attentive pupils had passed an eighteen count, fourth in hand. When asked why he had not bid with such a good hand, the earnest young man sitting South replied "Well, you told us the auction period finished after three passes, so I couldn't bid!".

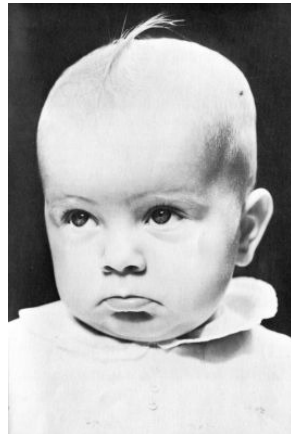
Did you know that:

- 74.3% of all bridge players are women.
- With computer dealt hands, on average North-South hold 8.9% more points than East-West, rising to 15.6% in Simultaneous Pairs events.
- 56.3% of all slam contracts fail.
- 21.7% of all experts have played in a 3-1 fit at one time or another.
- 92.2% of all bridge statistics are made up.

* * * BRIDGE BABIES * * *



"We made it!"



"Partner, we're down again!"



Bridge Gems from the Greats

Gleaned by Bob Denby

Regarded by many as the best woman player of her time, most certainly in Europe, if not the world, having won five world titles, Rixi Markus offered the following gem as a Bols Bridge Tip Competition entry. The competition ran from 1974 to 1994 in which the world's best bridge players submitted bridge tips to a panel of International Bridge Press Association members. It was sponsored by Bols Royal Distillers, a Dutch company. There is even a book by Sally Brock: 'The Complete Book of Bols Bridge Tips'. Bols are famous for their Genever gin and liqueurs.



Rixi Markus

"When you are defending and about to attack a suit in which you have a holding such as J-x, Q-x or K-x, do you invariably lead the high card? Most players always do, but this could be costly. My bridge tip is that when you have to open up such a holding you should consider the possible advantage of leading the **low card**. This may well work better when the hand on your left is marked with strength in this suit, and especially when you have no re-entry to your hand.

"For example, during the defence you lead the king from K-x and the next hand wins with the ace from A-J-x. Now, if you have no entry, your partner is stymied – even with a strong holding, like Q-10-9-x. He cannot continue the suit except at the cost of a trick. Had you instead led low, the suit could have been cleared, assuming, of course, that partner had enough entries.

The Bidding

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	X	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	End

"I was able to put this tip to good use in a recent rubber. South opened with an Acol weak 1NT and finished in 3NT after this sequence. What would you have led from the West hand?

Dealer South
Love All

♠ AK10
♥ 6
♦ KJ985
♣ Q742

♠ Q2
♥ 107432
♦ 643
♣ 865

	N	E
W		
S		

♠ J97654
♥ AJ9
♦ AQ
♣ 103

♠ 83
♥ KQ85
♦ 1072
♣ AKJ9

“As South was unwilling to pass partner’s penalty double of 2♠, it seemed likely that the spade strength was in dummy. So, with no re-entry to my hand, I led the two of spades rather than the queen. As you can see, declarer could no longer cope with his task. He won with the ace, entered his hand with a club and led a diamond, losing to my partner’s queen. Declarer ducked the spade return, allowing my queen to hold, but I was able to put partner in with the ace of hearts to clear the spades. Now South could only take eight tricks. It is easy to see that if West leads the queen of spades initially, declarer will win with the ace and make the contract, as East will be unable to attack spades effectively.

“These situations occur frequently during the middle game when it often pays to lead a small card from a doubleton honour. This is especially so when you can see three or four small cards in dummy and provided that your partner is intelligent enough to interpret your plan of action.”

In the last paragraph, Rixi is thinking of this type of situation: East is on lead and the defence need two tricks from the suit. East is now entry-less and must lead the 5, not the 10, and West must read the situation; when he captures the queen with the ace he must steel himself to return the suit.

962	
AJ74	105
KQ83	

There is a great example of Rixi’s Bols Tip in her book ‘Aces and Places’ in which she writes:

“With a good partner you can try and beat contracts which seem unbeatable; but you need co-operation, which you only get from a first-class partner. Here it was Benito Garozzo (still playing at 86, including on BBO) who understood my reason for an unorthodox but successful attempt to beat 4♠, which was made at every other table.

After I had opened 3♥ as East, South played in 4♠ and West led the queen of hearts. I overtook with the king and declarer won

	♠ J5		
Dealer	♥ 65		N/S Vul
East	♦ K862		
	♣ AK976		
♠ AQ6		♠ 83	
♥ Q74		♥ KJ10982	
♦ Q973		♦ J4	
♣ 532		♣ QJ10	
	♠ K109742		
	♥ A3		
	♦ A105		
	♣ 84		

with the ace. He then crossed to dummy with a club and finessed a spade to Garozzo’s queen. I won the heart return, but what now? It seemed to me that with clubs breaking I had to set up a diamond trick quickly, at the same time attacking dummy’s entry. You will see that if I led the jack of diamonds, West cannot continue the suit when in with ace of spades. So I had to find a low diamond.”

There is another situation where it may be right to lead low from a doubleton honour, though with different intent. Imagine a suit divided as follows:

	6	
K4		AJ108532
	Q97	

East has opened with a pre-empt in his long suit, South has finished in 3NT, and West can tell from the strength of his own hand that his partner will have no side entry. If West leads the king the suit is dead, but if he leads low, and East puts in the 10, South will probably win the trick and communication will be established.

This is a variation of the same play:
 East has opened in third hand, the opponents have reached 3NT, and West has about 8 points. He can be sure that he has little chance to establish and run his partner’s suit after the normal lead of the queen. He must lead the 3 and East must put in the 9 or 10, tempting South to win.

	7	
Q3		AK10964
	J852	

Quite often, the player in third position must make the critical play of low from a doubleton honour:
 West leads the 7 and East can judge that his partner will have no quick entry. If East plays the king and follows with the jack, South will duck and the suit will be dead. East must play the jack, making it difficult for declarer to hold up the queen.

	63	
A108752		KJ
	Q94	

Finally, the following example is a pretty combined defence when the lower of a two honour doubleton is played:

South plays in 3NT after North has opened 1♣. West leads the five of diamonds. If East plays the ace and then the queen, South must duck and the diamond suit will be shut out. East must put in the queen at

trick one. Unless he can read the situation, South will win. Then East will dispose of his blocking ace of diamonds when his partner holds up his ace of clubs until the third round.



Dealer North		♠ K105	The Full Deal	
Love All		♥ A4		
		♦ 106		
		♣ KJ10852		
♠ Q3	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ 97642		
♥ J7		♥ Q983		
♦ J97542		♦ AQ		
♣ A94		♣ 63		
		♠ AJ8		
		♥ K10652		
		♦ K83		
		♣ Q7		

The Bridge Addict

(A poem by Jocelyn Shaffer)

I'm addicted to bridge,
It's just like a drug.
I can't get enough,
I have the bridge bug.

I'm addicted to bridge
I can't get enough,
And some games are easy
Though others are tough.

And when I'm real tired
But I can't get to sleep
I'll be counting my cards
Although others count sheep.

I'm addicted to bridge
There's no hope for me.
All I crave is a slam
It's the way it must be.

My friends have all tried
To lead me astray.

They say take a break
A short trip away.

So I said I would stop
And the craving ignore.
I would give up my bridge
And not play any more.

But the addiction came back
And I could not say no
to Stayman and Blackwood
and to cards high and low.

Bridge is my life
On this earth and next.
You can keep your PC
And your smart phone and texts.

I'll be playing in heaven
'Cos that's how I am.
So if you hear a big cheer
I'll have made my grand slam!



Success at the Seniors

By Richard Chester

On a Sunday morning in early November, Angela and I set off to Daventry for one of our increasingly rare forays into the tournament world. The competition was the Teams Championship at the EBU Seniors' Congress, where we were playing with new team-mates Jane and David Jensen.

We made a good start and found ourselves in the lead after two of the seven matches. We were playing well and also enjoying some good fortune which was never more in evidence than on this comedy of errors from match 4. After a conservative opening Pass from Angela, I opened 1♦ on the West cards and she bid 2♠ to show a maximum Pass with spades and a diamond fit. All memory of her initial Pass had now disappeared (this was a seniors' event after all) but she seemed strangely reluctant to co-operate with grand slam tries and I subsided somewhat unhappily in 6NT.

I was lucky to find that this contract was not entirely hopeless and, after an opening club lead it seemed that I needed three tricks from the heart suit. If I could find South with ♥K9x(x) or ♥Q9x(x) then a bit of successful finessing and guessing would get the job done. Clearly this plan was doomed to failure but when I led the ten from dummy South failed to cover and North, after winning with the king, led the crucial nine to the following trick. This solved all my problems at a stroke and produced an unlikely 2 IMP gain against the humdrum 6♦ contract reached at the other table.

	♠ K7643	
Game	♥ K93	Dealer
All	♦ 102	East
	♣ 732	
♠ Q		♠ A852
♥ AJ75	N	♥ 1082
♦ QJ54	W E	♦ AK987
♣ AKJ8	S	♣ 9
	♠ J109	
	♥ Q64	
	♦ 63	
	♣ Q10654	

In match 6 we came up against a strong Hertfordshire team and after six of the seven boards had a very good looking card. We then overbid to 6♥ on this layout. The luck we had been having until now deserted us when Dave Dickson was unkind enough to fish out ace and another diamond to defeat the contract. With team-mates having their one mediocre match of the day we had slipped to a 12-8 defeat and were now equal second, 2 VPs off the lead.

Love All		♠ 1094	Dealer West										
		♥ 9											
		♦ AQ7											
		♣ J108732											
♠ 6		<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AKQJ32	
	N												
W			E										
	S												
♥ AK872		♥ Q6543											
♦ 86			♦ 109										
♣ KQ964			♣ -										
		♠ 875											
		♥ J10											
		♦ KJ5432											
		♣ A5											

In the last round things seemed to be going quite well when this final board appeared. At the other table Jane had played peacefully in 4♥ for +420 while we got busy with the East / West cards and bid to 5♣. If North doubles this we need to get the trumps right for 2 down and -300 which leads to a 17-3 win and overall victory by 1 VP. This is not totally automatic when North has already used one of his trumps for a diamond ruff. Going 3 down is worth a 16-4 win and overall second place behind the Dickson team on a split tie. Fortunately, we were not put to the test when North took the push to 5♥ which never had a chance.

Love All		♠ QJ4	Dealer North	
		♥ KQ1074		
		♦ J7		
		♣ K73		
♠ A1032		N	♠ 65	
♥ 2		W E	♥ AJ5	
♦ Q104		S	♦ 863	
♣ Q10986			♣ AJ542	
		♠ K987		
		♥ 9863		
		♦ AK952		
		♣ -		

The Bidding

N	E	S	W
1♥	2♣	4♣	5♣
?			

Our thanks for a very enjoyable day go to Jane and David who were solid throughout and to our opponents who all played in a very convivial spirit and who provided plenty of welcome gifts to help us on our way.



A Guide to Bridge Club Etiquette



Part 1 by Colin O'Hara

Bridge is a wonderful game and all of us have, at some time, witnessed examples of both poor and good behaviour at the table. The following notes have been compiled in an attempt to clarify what may make our participation more enjoyable. The laws of bridge can seem complicated at times but here are some issues we may consider and if we all attempt to comply with them, it will make the session fairer and more enjoyable for all concerned. Additionally, if all members of the club are encouraged to adhere to the spirit of these guidelines, then the reputation of the club as a place that people want to attend will be raised and with it, numbers attending will rise as a consequence.

Courtesy - the absolute key to an enjoyable night's bridge.

Always be courteous at the bridge table, both to the opponents and to your own partner. Avoid any remark or action that might offend or embarrass. Greet your opponents politely but in the interests of avoiding slow play, keep general chit-chat to a minimum until you have finished the boards. Above all, do not hold a post mortem on the hands you have just played as it can be very frustrating for others nearby to hear details of boards they have yet to play! At the end of the round, thank your opponents, even if they have comprehensively outplayed you. Additionally, some opponents may find it difficult to hear you congratulate your partner effusively on a good contract in front of them as they might feel you are gloating at their correspondingly poor result. If you need to call the director, do so in a courteous manner, remembering that they are here to enjoy a night's bridge too. Please remember also that mobile phones should be turned off where possible and set to vibrate where it is vital that they remain on.

The Auction – Try to consider the following rules:

- Do not remove your cards from the board until all four players are present at the table.
- Count your cards before you look at them.

- Leave the board in the centre of the table so that everyone can see the vulnerability.
- Decide on your bid before reaching for the bidding box.
- Do not touch a bidding card and then change your mind and Pass, as that clearly conveys unauthorised information to your partner. You are permitted to change your bid if you put the wrong one on the table by mistake, provided it was an inadvertent mechanical error and your partner has not yet bid - even if your left hand opponent has bid. However, if you 'paused for thought' before deciding to change your call, the call cannot be changed.
- Remember the EBU has rules for alerting and announcing bids. Follow those rules at all times.
- Do not, whether by comment, sighs, body language or facial expressions let your partner or opponents know that something has gone amiss with your bidding or that you feel forced into making a particular bid.
- Avoid comments like "Oh well, we're not vulnerable" or "I suppose I'll have to ...". Clearly such comments may unfairly influence partner's next bid. Try to maintain the same demeanour and tempo at all times.
- If you hesitate before passing, your partner is placed in a difficult position, as any positive bid by them must be a clear and logical choice. Your opponents can complain to the director, claiming your hesitation conveyed information to your partner. If the director agrees, you can be penalised.
- At the end of the auction, all bidding cards must remain on the table until the opening lead is made face down on the table. Do not waste time writing the contract on your scorecard while everyone else is waiting for you to lead.
- Do not ask the meaning of a bid during the auction unless it is your turn to bid **and** you are considering making a bid other than Pass. You may ask questions after the auction ends and before the opening lead is faced (turned up).

With thanks to the Kelvin Malone Bridge Centre, Belfast and the HBA newsletter for providing the inspiration to this article.

Colin O'Hara

Part 2 of Colin's article on 'The Play' in next Bulletin issue - Ed



'STUFF' HAPPENS



By Michael Collins - BBA Chairman

In the seventies, so many teams played in my home county that the league competition was split into two, North and South, and each had five divisions. Fresh from university our team blagged a place in Division 3 and rose in successive seasons to Division 1. This was achieved mainly through buying Terence Reese's book on Precision Club, reading the first three chapters over a can of Party Seven, adopting the system and understanding it slightly better than our opponents, which is to say not much at all in either case. In the first division we met our nemesis, four well-mannered, steely, empire fishing-trip widows with Elizabeth Cowell* accents who had retired to Dovercourt. It turned out none of them could drive, so they conceded all away matches and playing only home ones came in the middle of Division 1 every year. Clearly, they had played every day since Culbertson was a lad and they cheated. Had we complained, they would have been horrified at being accused, highly offended and quite rightly so. In those days, before bidding boxes and the like, their 'cheating' consisted of sub-conscious use and interpretation of tone of expression and body language that only comes from knowing someone extremely well. In siblings, spouses and string quartets we celebrate this phenomenon. In a bridge partnership it is cheating.

Now, not long ago I played with an occasional partner at a local club. Two-thirds of the way through the evening I made a bidding system error, my partner gave an explanation of the bid that was correct in our system but not what I intended. We were likely to defend, so I was obliged to remain silent. Partner defended as if I had the expected bid and declarer scored 2NT + 1. The bridgepad revealed everyone else also made nine tricks but in spades, so our opponents scored 100% defeating both those who stopped in a low-level spade contract and those who ventured a spade game. As it happens, later in the evening one pair, not one of the club's strongest, made the spade game; it was a very low percentage double dummy make. Make of that what you will.

Meanwhile, back at our table, our declarer correctly and assertively called the director, then discoursed in a manner that made us, especially my innocent partner, feel as I imagine my Dovercourt opponents years before would have felt if we had accused them of

cheating. Declarer was not content with a top but wanted to vent indignation too. Understandable, and my partner that evening and I had broad shoulders. Those of you thinking at this point 'you needed them', be aware I am there before you. So, I do not criticise the aggrieved declarer's demeanour over much; in fact had I thought of it I should have taken the advice of Monica Lucy in an article in this very magazine's August 2013 issue and called the director myself.

Actually, it was an eventful evening. We scored an outright top against two of the county's best. On the very next hand against this pair, making up for my memory lapse earlier, I recalled we played splinters - only to be left as declarer in a major game contract with four small trumps between us. Spilling half a cup of coffee over the table, a couple of boards, and the groin area of an aged opponent's trousers is hardly worth mentioning, though what his wife thought when he got home goodness knows.

A few evenings later in a teams match, a bidding misunderstanding by opponents that involved the club suit meant we scored a +1100 penalty instead of a vulnerable game for a nice swing. A couple of hands later, left hand opponent opened 1NT and his partner responded 2 Diamonds. With the earlier hand in mind, opener joked: "By which he means clubs". Of course we all knew they were playing red suit transfers, or so I thought. I wanted to compete at favourable vulnerability. Had I doubled, in our system this would have been lead directional for diamonds, so I bid 2 Hearts ahead of my left hand opponent. He passed of course, and my partner who was holding five of the six hearts unaccounted for also passed. A pass on my right hand side and I was playing in 2 Hearts with a void in the suit! Obviously partner had taken opening opponent's jocular comment at face value and as declarer, there was now nothing I could do to correct the situation. Five down and an adverse 8 IMP swing. Now I was the one feeling indignant but my partner and our team captain both said let it be, and of course they were right; all four of us were to blame.

Stuff happens and I guess sometimes one just has to learn not to let it affect the enjoyment of playing bridge. Maybe learning and applying that lesson a bit more will contribute a little to getting back to the days of ten divisions in a county league.

* Younger readers should ask their grand-parents or try this ...
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01fzcks>



Bedford Club Facilities



From Louise Smith - Bedford BC Chairman

From Beginner to Duplicate player – A Structured Pathway

Bedford Club has now established a structured pathway for those who wish to learn and play duplicate bridge.

Beginners Lessons – running throughout the year and assuming no prior knowledge, these lessons take the player through the basics of the game including simple conventions and competitive bidding.

No Fear Club – this is where novice players can play an unhurried duplicate game with results, hands and travellers shown on the No Fear website (www.bridgewebs.com/bedfordnofear). It is a teaching and practice environment so players are encouraged to ask questions when unsure in order to progress their learning. A few experienced players join in which helps with the coaching on duplicate etiquette, scoring etc.

Improvers Section – this is a separate section running alongside the standard Friday night pairs at Bedford club. The difference from the No Fear club is that players cannot ask how to bid or play a hand and are encouraged to play faster. The importance here is practice, practice, practice, so it is of no great consequence if the movement is not completed. By keeping them in a separate section they are less exposed to that daunting feeling (trawl through your memories to remember that!) when meeting experienced players at a table with conventions they haven't yet met and laws and ethics they haven't yet experienced. The final step is, of course, joining in with the experienced section.

There are several people who give their time freely in order for this process to run, namely Paul Wiltshire, Pam Kinselley, Irma Sucher and myself. However, the big thanks go to Sue and Brian Ford: without their (seemingly unlimited) time, dedication and hard work this setup just would not have come to fruition. We would also like to thank BBA for their generous financial contribution to our initial advertising expense.

If you are teaching bridge at the moment and would like your learners to gain more experience with others at the same stage, we would welcome them at the No Fear club or in the Friday night Improvers section. Just get in touch with Louise or Sue via www.bedsbridge.co.uk/bedfordbrickhill

and also ...

Bedford Bridge Club switches to Table Money

In case you haven't heard, Bedford Club has changed its membership subscription structure from an all-inclusive annual fee to table money. Our annual fee is now £10, with table money of £2.50 (£3.50 for visitors) with no charge for tea and coffee.

So it's now easier for members of other clubs to have membership at Bedford as a secondary club, for when you want to face some different opposition for a change 😊

Louise Smith, Bedford Bridge Club

Q? Must these cards be played?

a) Declarer takes a card out of his hand, then jerks it back immediately (saying 'Whoops'). Everyone sees it.

b) A defender takes a card out of his hand, then jerks it back immediately (saying 'Whoops'). Everyone sees it.

c) Declarer calls for the six of spades from dummy. There is no six of spades there, but there is a six of clubs. Must this be played?

Answers on page 25



**Director
Please!**

Some Famous Quotes:

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts ... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it."
Groucho Marx.

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."
Oscar Wilde



Even Top Players Can Be Fooled!

A hand from Bob Denby

Team Zimmerman (known Internationally as top ranked Monaco) won the French DN1 (National Division 1) Teams Final in January this year, beating Team Zaleski 270-118 IMPs, who decided to withdraw after the third set. The win was aided by the following 17 IMP board. The event was shown on BBO.

Cronier opened with 1♠, Zaleski answered with a 2/1 GF of 2♦, and Fantoni showed his heart suit and safe lead.

After Cronier's Pass, Nunes raised partner's suit, and Zaleski invited to slam. Cronier accepted, and they ended in the 6♠ slam.

Nunes led the heart seven, ruffed in dummy, Fantoni playing the king, declarer the four. Double

dummy the slam relied on declarer finding the diamond queen position. Cronier continued with a club to his queen. Winning with his ace, Nunes played a club back, taken by dummy's king. Declarer ruffed a third club in his hand, noting Fantoni pitching a heart, and ruffed a second heart in dummy to continue with two trumps, finishing in his hand.

Cronier now knew that both defenders had started with two trumps, and as Fantoni had discarded a heart on the third round of clubs, Nunes was marked with five clubs. As Fantoni's heart bid placed him with six or seven hearts, he could only have two or three diamonds. To get more information declarer played his spade king and Nunes made the incredible psychological discard of the diamond four, which clouded declarer's mind with the idea: *Fantoni has the queen.*

		Zaleski												
		♠ Q1063												
		♥ -												
		♦ AJ1053												
Nunes		♣ K975		Fantoni										
♠ 74		<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>			N		W		E		S		♠ 85	
	N													
W				E										
	S													
♥ 732		♥ KQJ10985												
♦ Q64		♦ 87												
♣ AJ842		♣ 103												
		Cronier (Dealer)												
		♠ AKJ92												
		♥ A64												
		♦ K92												
		♣ Q6												

The Bidding			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	End

Cronier continued with a diamond to the ace and then played the jack. Fantoni followed with a small one ... declarer too ... and Nunes won the trick with his queen ... for one down.

At the other table Helgemo/Helness bid the slam against Michel and Thomas Bessis after Helgemo opened with a strong NT and Helness responded with a system 3 heart bid. When the moment of truth arrived, Helgemo, after his discovery play, confidently finessed West for the diamond queen.

Answer to the Easter Declarer Play Quiz on page 2

I hope you weren't too hasty at trick 1! It looks like the defence have saved you a decision on the diamonds but looks can be deceptive. A quick count up (before playing to the first trick) tells you that you have ten top tricks if diamonds split 3-2. Therefore you will have to ruff two clubs in dummy to make your contract. If you played low from dummy at trick 1. you are doomed, as you will run out of entries to the South hand. So, go up with the king of diamonds immediately at trick 1, cash the king of clubs and lead a low diamond to the jack (assuming East plays low). Now ruff a low club in dummy and return to hand with a spade in order to ruff a second club in dummy. A spade to the king, cash the ace of diamonds and it's all over.

Had you taken the first trump at trick 1 in hand, you would find yourself in dummy at trick 8 after ruffing two clubs and cashing the king of diamonds. However, you have no safe route back to hand to remove East's last trump. Your two rather unpalatable choices would be to concede the lead with a heart which West can win and give his partner a club ruff with his last remaining trump. Alternatively you could try overtaking the jack of spades, hoping spades split 3-3. However, this would promote East's ten for one down.

6♦ by South		♠ J98	The Full Deal
Lead is ♦5		♥ QJ652	
		♦ K643	
		♣ K	
♠ 43	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ 10765	
♥ K1043		♥ A87	
♦ 105		♦ Q92	
♣ Q10752		♣ J98	
		♠ AKQ2	
		♥ 9	
		♦ AJ87	
		♣ A643	



2014 Half Century Celebration for Beds Bridge

by Peter Malpass



To mark this special anniversary, we plan a celebration at Wilstead to include:

- Bridge with a difference.
- Food and wine (free).
- An educational component.
- A speech or two (no more) by the glitterati of Bedfordshire bridge.

Lasting longer than a normal county event, the bridge will give you the chance to play with your normal partner (if you wish) but to join forces with two different pairs of team-mates in a teams event which will put pairs of stronger ability with the less so. The educational component will no doubt come from constructive thoughts at the post mortem stage along with a section at the interval where a star will dissect a hand or two! At the halfway stage, we will swap partners to add to the variety.

The event is supposed to be primarily social but the bridge will be competitive with generous prizes but will, I am sure, be relaxed and fun.

Organised for Sunday 12th October with timing to be confirmed later, the ticket price will be £15 per head for which we will require pre-entry to enable us to organise the catering.

Please reserve this date in your diaries and check the website for entry details and timings, or book direct with Peter Malpass or Derek Marsh.

Friends of Bedfordshire bridge and some of its founder members will also be in attendance.

Answers to 'Winning Pairs Tactics' on page 7

Hand 1.

It looks like you have missed a good heart fit and that most of 'the room' will be making 11 tricks in 4♥ by pitching a possible diamond loser on the 3rd spade and ruffing the ten of diamonds in dummy. To beat this, you will have to make 11 tricks (10 is not enough) and the only way is to risk finessing the ten of diamonds. Ok, if it loses you will lose some more spades and go down in 3NT but this would score the same near-zero as only making 10 tricks in NTs.

Hand 2.

You appear to have missed a stone cold 4♠ contract in which most others will make 12 tricks if the club finesse succeeds or 11 if it doesn't. In your NT contract, you will have to make the same number of tricks and so, ducking the 2nd diamond won't cut the mustard. Play the king of diamonds at trick 2. and then, despite the risks, you will have to take the club finesse twice to make the same number of tricks for a 'top'. If it fails and the defence then make hay in diamonds, you will be way down for a zero, but take heart from the fact that you have played in the only way you could have done to give yourself the chance of a decent score on the board.

Hand 3.

A quick view of the situation reveals that by not showing your heart suit, you have missed a 4-4 fit. Most pairs will be making at least 9 tricks in hearts to score +140. To beat this score in NTs, having already lost 4 tricks, you will have to make the rest! You are twice as likely to win the club switch by going up with the king rather than the jack. So, play the king and hope it holds. Take your 4 heart tricks and then, to make 4 diamonds, cash the king and then finesse the 10. Should the 10 hold, you will make 9 tricks for a good score of +150. Should it lose to the jack on your right, you will probably only make 6 or 7 tricks but this will score only marginally less than making 8.

Answer to 'Director Please!' on page 21

- a) Law 45C2. This is not a played card.
- b) Law 45C1. Since partner could have seen its face, it is a played card (whether or not his partner actually saw it).
- c) Law 46B4. No. Declarer must nominate a card that is in dummy.



A Personal History of Wardown Bridge Club

From Barry Robinson



On the 10th May 1998, 16 assorted ladies and gentlemen gathered in an upstairs room of Luton Town's cricket pavilion to play duplicate bridge. We were 'refugees' from the bridge club in Stopsley where we had all played. Why?

Because we wanted to play in a properly constituted and efficiently run bridge club. The only solution was to set up our own club! I had played cricket for Luton for many years and maintained close links with the club, so it seemed to be an ideal venue.



A week or so later, a self-appointed committee met to draw up a constitution. The committee consisted of myself, Barry Robinson as Chairman, George Moore (Vice-chairman), Michael Gammon (Hon. Treasurer), and Pat Bowen (Membership Secretary). An important item on the agenda was the total absence of finance. Michael, using his banking experience, suggested that the founder members should each lend the club £50. This would be used to purchase essential items: bridge tables, bidding boxes, packs of cards etc. The members would be reimbursed over a period of time by paying reduced table money. Many of these items are still used by the club 16 years later!

As time went by, news spread that a new bridge club had been established in Luton. Local players who had to travel as far as Leighton Buzzard for a game decided to "give us a try". I remember when Bertie Shiebert turned up one night and asked me if he "had come to the right place?" Bertie is still playing at the club and showing us how bridge should be played. Soon the increase in numbers meant that the upstairs room of the cricket pavilion was too small and for an increase in rent, we hired the function room downstairs.

And so the club thrived. It was and is fortunate to have been supported by hard working and conscientious committee members led by chairmen committed to the development of the club; Barry Robinson (1998-2005), Richard Chester (2005 -2012) and Brian Edwards, the current chairman. Barry and Richard were appointed life members for service to the club. Pat Bowen joined this elite group in 2012. In 2003 Pat, who has always been an energetic supporter of the club, came up with an idea which has ensured a steady flow of new members. This was what is known as the 'Tuesday Club'. Its creation was advertised and new recruits were taught the game from scratch. Tuesdays are really popular and currently attendance exceeds our Monday sessions.

We wanted the club to be a friendly club in which bridge could be played at various levels in a very social and relaxed environment. A number of social events were organised: an annual dinner, a barbecue in the summer and a Christmas party in December. Each still has an important place in the club's calendar.

Of course there have been problems along the way. In 2002 the Luton Town Cricket Club amalgamated with the Luton Indians Club. The pavilion was shared with the Luton Hockey Club and overall management has been by an umbrella organisation called the Luton Sports Club. The Sports club is a well run body with which we have an excellent relationship. We have a very comfortable place to play bridge; the bar is open for twelve months of the year for which at least one member, Bill Stanley, is very grateful. We also have the pleasure on many occasions to enjoy the heady aromas of various curries cooked on site. At least some of us enjoy the flavours!

Bridge gives the impression of being a quiet well-mannered game played by equable and well behaved people. In general this is true but occasionally the atmosphere can be somewhat charged and tempers raised. Over the years we have experienced one or two 'difficulties'. One member was expelled for "verbal abuse of the director" and another resigned before expulsion could be enacted.

For me, the last 16 years have been extremely enjoyable and bridge has been a significant part of my social life. Through Wardown Bridge Club, I have met many new people and formed many new and lasting friendships. The 10th May 1998 really was a significant event and for

my part, one of the best things I have done. Others must form their own views. Barry Robinson - Wardown Bridge Club, Luton

Wardown Pavilion



Frozen Suits

By Peter Scott



Have you heard the term *frozen suit*? It doesn't mean the director has just taken the boards out of the boot of his car on a winter's evening when the temperature is -5°. A frozen suit is one where whoever opens the suit will wish they

K954
AJ7 1063
Q82

hadn't. In other words, it will cost the side breaking the suit a trick. Here are a few examples of frozen suits. Look at them carefully and you will soon realise that the suit is better led by your opponents. These situations are not always easy

to spot but if a suit looks as if it is frozen, when you are on lead, exit in another suit and wait for your opponents to tackle the frozen one. Many tricks are lost by players not realising what they are doing at the time, so try to grasp this concept and your trick count will increase!

Q54		
A976		K103
		J82

K954		
Q86		A102
		J73