

## EDITORIAL

### *New Bedfordshire Website*

The county have set up a new county web site, using a packaged product that is designed specifically for use by bridge clubs and other bridge organisations. Louise Smith is the principal webmaster (or do I mean webmistress?) and can be contacted via [la.smith9@ntlworld.com](mailto:la.smith9@ntlworld.com).

One of the strengths of the new site, is that controlled updates can be carried out by several different authorised persons, which should help ensure that county results, league and cup results can be quickly updated, without putting undue pressure on one person. I would recommend that any BBA member with internet access takes a look at the new site, which shows great promise as yet another way of communicating with the membership.

The new website address is:

**[www.bedsbridge.co.uk/](http://www.bedsbridge.co.uk/)**

The old website:

[www.bedfordshire-bridge-assoc.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshire-bridge-assoc.co.uk)

will remain open until January 2007, then it will be closed.

On behalf of all members of the county I would like to thank Alan Caves, webmaster of the old website from its inception for all the effort and assistance he has provided in getting Bedfordshire bridge on the web over the past few years. Not gone and not forgotten.

### *New Edition of Local Bridge*

Enclosed with this copy of the bulletin is the 2006-2007 edition of Local Bridge, setting out the relevant dates in the county calendar. Check this document out now and mark your diary with the dates you are going to try to make. If everybody in the county played a least one county event per year, what a difference that would make!

Not much else to say, nothing to grumble about. Good.

*Brian Keable (Editor)*

### **Membership News**

#### **Welcome to New Members:**

**Full Members:** Martyn Roots of Bedford; Barbara Talboys of Great Barford; Eric Winsor of Towcester.

and to rejoining members - Douglas Payne from Plymouth; Nadia Walsh of Milton Keynes, David Kent from Dunbartonshire.

#### **Dual Members:**

Mick Barnett of Watton-at-Stone, David Dodds of Baldock, Alan and Sarojini Ellis of Baldock.

**Bridge for All Member:** Mrs J Gossling of Amersham.

**Deceased:** Mrs Gabrielle Appleby, Ian Brydon.

Christopher Parkin, Treasurer and Membership Secretary  
[chparkin@msn.com](mailto:chparkin@msn.com)

### **Hands for the January Bidding Competition**

Hand 1: Dealer West EW Vul Teams

East: ♠A6♥QJ32-♦Q643♣A85

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

The auction is now game forcing.

<sup>1</sup> 15-18 <sup>2</sup> Checkback <sup>3</sup> 2NT 17-18

<sup>4</sup> Natural <sup>5</sup> 3 card support.

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.

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.

Hand 4: Dealer West EW Vul Teams

West: ♠K98743♥J93♦7♣QJ9

W	N	E	S
		1NT	P

? Do you bid? What do you bid?

## **New Announcing and Alerting rules, an interim progress report**

In the last bulletin, John Hurst decried the introduction of yet more complex rules into what was once a simple game, requiring only four reasonable human beings and a pack of cards, a table, four chairs, and a pencil and paper. The editor wearing his black cap, hinted that IHHO, he thought/predicted that all might crumble down and the game particularly at club level, might suffer following implementation of the new procedures from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2006.

The object of this article is to review the progress of the project in its first two months, and to see how the new rules are being implemented.

### **Publicity**

Since June, there has been a great deal of publicity and information regarding the new procedures. The EBU have published more information in English Bridge, and produced several handouts for clubs and players, which are available on the EBU website. The county has also put out information on its web site. In addition the BBA (Val Lawson) has run a Seminar on the subject attended by representatives of three of the clubs.

Several clubs, Bedford in particular, have put a massive effort into introducing information, handouts and new style convention cards, for the benefit of their members.

### **Implementation**

The new rules have gone live in all National tournaments, and in BBA county events (Bedford Congress, Opening Pairs). Most clubs seem to have implemented them, some more promptly than others. There are varied reports coming through of how the changes are being implemented. There have been a number of examples of people within the county expressing their disapproval of the changes, a partial refusal by some to accept (as yet) the changes and at least one reported resignation from a club by an unhappy player. Despite this the majority of players seem happy with the new methods, adhering to the following version of the old adage “no news is good news”.

### **Announcing**

The announcing rules tell us that partner should make an announcement, in the following limited cases:

- (a) An opening 1NT, partner announces the range of the no trump opener: “12-14”, “16-18” as appropriate.
- (b) After a Stayman 2C following an opening 1NT, partner announces “Stayman”.
- (c) After a Red suit transfer (2D or 2H) in response to an opening 1NT, partner announces “hearts” over 2D or “spades” over 2H.
- (d) Following a natural two level opener, partner announces the strength.  
Over a weak 2: 2D, 2H, 2S, partner announces “weak”.  
Over a strong Acol 2: 2D, 2H, 2S, partner announces “strong forcing” or “strong non forcing” as appropriate.

Over a natural Precision 2C, partner announces “intermediate”.

All other Two level opening bids should be alerted: Acol 2C, Benjamin 2C & 2D, Multi 2D, Lucas 2H & 2S and any other exotica.

Introduction of announcements is slowly being taken up. Many players “know” of the existence of announcements, but simply forget at the table. It seems too difficult for many experienced players to remember to announce a 1NT opener, yet they are quite happy to accept that they no longer have to alert Stayman, though they also forget to announce “Stayman”.

More difficulty seems to be found in announcing two level bids. Some players have not grasped that you announce “Natural two bids” but alert “Artificial two bids”. I have even come across players who thought their partners should perhaps have announced their “opening three bids”.

## Alerting Changes

Though there have been many Alerting changes (the 2006 Orange Book is now 17 pages longer than the 1998 edition), the changes are in three main areas and have lead to some simplification.

- (a) Over suit bids, takeout doubles should not be alerted, but penalty doubles and value showing doubles should be alerted.

So:

N	E	S	W	
1S	X	Takeout		non alertable
2S	X	Takeout		non alertable
3S	X	Takeout		non alertable
1S	X	2S	X	Takeout (responsive) not alertable
1S	X	3S	X	Takeout (responsive) not alertable

But:

1S	2C	2H	3C	
X				Competitive (value showing) Alertable

Most players seem happy not to have to alert takeout bids such as “sputnik” or “negative” doubles, but are perhaps unaware of the need to alert when their partner makes a penalty double or values double.

- (b) Over no trump bids, penalty doubles should not be alerted, but takeout doubles should be alerted.

So:

N	E	S	W	
1NT	X	Penalty		Not alertable
1NT	X	Takeout		alertable

But:

1NT	2D	X	Takeout	Non alertable
1NT	2D	X	Values	alertable
1NT	2D	X	Penalty	alertable

Above applies because the double is made of a suit – see (a) above

Players should note the following:

1H	P	1NT	X	Should be alerted if it is played as a takeout of 1H, its not a double of 1NT.
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- (c) Bids higher than 3NT should not be alerted (with some exceptions)

This means that players are no longer permitted to alert 4C Gerber, cue bids, 4NT Blackwood and many other bids made at the four or higher level.

Currently this appears to be causing some problems. Players who for many years have alerted those sorts of bids, are finding it difficult to comply. Even if they don't alert say 4C (Gerber) bids, their hands wander automatically to the bidding box, hover and then are withdrawn prior to making the next bid.

## Use of new style Convention card (EBU20B)

In order to implement the above changes the EBU have introduced a new convention card, EBU20B, which will replace the old EBU20 and EBU20A cards. Although some clubs (Bedford in particular) have provided their players with free convention cards, and they can be downloaded from the EBU website, there has as yet been a slow take up of the new card.

## Summary

The new rules are being implemented but it is a slow process, and perhaps a few may never get there. Currently there seem to be a number of players who are reluctant to take them up. This seems to be due partially to lack of knowledge, partially difficulty in learning, remembering and applying new ideas. It seems too early yet to predict that all will have settled down within the next year. At the moment with everything still in a state of flux, it is difficult to know what an announcement, an alert, or silence means. Do the opponents know what they are doing? Or have they forgotten or just made a mistake? We will have to learn to be patient.

## Benefits

### Announcing

Provide a simple way telling the opponents your no trump range and style of opening twos. It also should help prevent the old “French defence to 1NT”, where by after a 1NT opening by the opponents, second hand would ask about the range of the 1NT, discover it was “weak” and then surprise, surprise, “monsieur le partner” might then protect and find the asker with fair values. Announcing also eliminates some alerting. There has never seemed much point in alerting Stayman when 95% of the world are playing it. It also used to be very difficult if you didn’t play Stayman to be able to tell the opponents that you played a 2C response to 1NT as natural or some convention other than Stayman.

Note this information is already available *when players have convention cards and exchange them with the opponents.*

### New Alerting Rules

In a bridge world where takeout doubles (of suit bids) are the norm, it is a good idea to treat them as non alertable and reduce the number of alerts.

### New Convention Card

Provides an opportunity for clubs to try to convert more members to using convention cards, by issuing a all members with a free copy of EBU20B. The new cards concentrate on showing the information regarding announcements on the front of the card, and the partnership agreements on carding on the back of the card. A quick glance at the front and back of the card, gives one most of the information needed to play a two or three board round.

## Disadvantages

### Announcing

Older people (and deaf people) find it difficult to hear “announcements” and to remember when to announce.

### New Alerting Rules

Abolishing alerting above 3NT, now causes as many problems as it did before the changes.

Previously if your partner forgot to alert 4C as Gerber, the 4C bidder glared at partner and purposefully alerted the reply. Now Gerber and responses cannot be alerted, partner often inadvertently transmits a message by the reflex action of automatically attempting to reach for the Alert card.

### New Convention Cards

As yet not in full usage.

## Convention Cards

The sad thing about the current process, is that many of the problems caused at the bridge table, are caused by the failure of many clubs and players to insist that all players should have a convention card and exchange it with the opponents at the start of play. If everyone had to produce a convention card, with a brief summary of their methods highlighted on the front page, there would be less need to introduce the concept of announcements. Everybody could quickly glance at the card

prior to playing. A golden opportunity missed by the EBU Laws & Ethics committee, to enforce the current rules rather than introduce new ones.

Talking of convention cards, I would be very interested to know how Announcing etc is being implemented in one club in Bedfordshire. Prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> partner & visited a club on their premier duplicate evening, plonked our bright shiny convention cards on the table. Then to our surprise, one of the opponents, the TD in fact and a high ranking club member said “You won’t need those here!”. So we put the cards away and played on. We were not therefore surprised to meet no other players with convention cards, though I did hear of two other visitors who did produce their cards at other tables.

Editor:

I’m going to own up to writing the above article. As yet it is early days regarding the implementation of announcements and the new alerting rules. Full acceptance at club level may take a little while, but I expect that in a few months most of us will cope with the new methods. In the past many changes have been introduced into the bridge world. Alerting, Stop bids, bidding boxes, computer dealt hands and duplimated boards, were all new once, and perhaps not initially approved by all players, but they are now for most of us part of the every day landscape of the bridge world. Doubtless the same will be said about Announcing & the new Alerting procedures. If you the readers have any strong views on this area or amusing stories about the current changes, please write in and share your thoughts.

## Connolly on Defence

### Part I Forcing Defence

*by Dominic Connolly*

I’ve heard that defence is the hardest part of the game. Ever gone into a trance staring at dummy wondering what to play next or what opening lead to make after the auction has finished?

There are five main forms of defence and I have found it helpful to remind myself of them when considering an opening lead or continuation by the defence:

1. Forcing
2. Active
3. Passive
4. Cutting down on declarer’s ruffs
5. Trump promotion

For the bright sparks out there who volunteer a sixth – breaking up a squeeze – I categorise that under Active.

The first of these, the forcing defence, or tapping declarer, is particularly effective when declarer does not have a strong trump fit, perhaps a 4-3 Moysian. It can also be effective when declarer is in a 4-4 fit but the defender’s trumps are split 4-1, i.e. you have 4 trumps or you believe partner has 4, or declarer is two-suited or the defence have a long suit. Here’s an example.

	♠A975	
	♥JT5	
	♦854	
	♣QT4	
♠JT4		♠K863
♥A962		♥4
♦♥AKT63		♦Q972
♣3		♣9875
	♠Q2	
	♥KQ873	
	♦J	
	♣AKJ62	

Bidding	
South	North
1H	1S
2C	2H
3C	4H

West looked no further than his singleton club (quite how he thought he was going to get his partner in for a ruff is another matter entirely) and declarer sailed home. He won the club lead, forced out West’s HA and claimed 10 tricks, losing just a spade, DA and HA.

At the other table, West remembered to ‘lead length with trump length’ and tabled the DA. After an encouraging signal from East, he continued with DK, which declarer ruffed. Declarer started on trumps but West unhelpfully withheld his HA until the third round and tapped declarer again in diamonds forcing him to use his last trump. As West had to get in again with H9, the contract was off.

Note even if declarer abandons trumps after two rounds, retaining HKQ, the defence still make two more trumps and a spade.

West must hold up his HA until the third round else declarer can discard a spade loser on the third diamond, win the continuation, draw trumps and claim.

Next time Part 2: Active defence.

## Junior Bridge & other stuff

*By Alan Shillitoe*

Since Brian seems happy enough to let people write stuff for the bulletin, I thought I would continue on for a few editions with some of the differing places I’ve been recently and will be going in the future as I have a few interesting things in the pipeline.

This past month has seen me heavily involved with the juniors. My involvement with the Under 20 squad has really ramped up over the last 12 months, and it will only increase in the immediate future. As a result of all this I was up in Loughborough over the Bank Holiday weekend for the friendly between England, Holland and Scotland. Normally such an event wouldn’t raise an eyebrow in this shire, but this one featured the debut of two of Bedford School’s current crop – Justin Bell and Graeme Robertson.

They started off the hard way, playing a long stanza against the pair that went on to top the scores, the much more experienced Spangenberg sisters who illustrated their quality on the following deal:

### *Dealer S, Love All*

	♠853	
	♥AJ1032	
	♦K1094	
	♣6	
♠J10		♠KQ942
♥864		♥Q7
♦J873		♦52
♣A853		♣K1072
	♠A76	
	♥K95	
	♦AQ6	
	♣QJ94	

It’s a fairly innocuous layout and the field was all reaching 4H on the N-S cards, in this case via a strong NT auction. On the almost universal spade lead, most declarers were ducking a spade, winning the second, playing K and another trump to finesse and going off. This may be the correct trump play in isolation, but this hand is typical of many where two chances are better than one. Sigrid Spangenberg correctly played two top rounds of trumps, then planned to play on diamonds. If Diamonds are 3-3 then the 4<sup>th</sup> round will act as a loser-on-loser play enabling a losing spade to be discarded, if they are 4-2 or 5-1 with the J coming

down, then if the hand with long diamonds also has the long trumps then the contract will also make. In this case, the first chance came in, but that should not detract from the correct technique.

Graeme and Justin scored poorly off both pairs of Dutch girls, who went on to win the event, but they more than held their own against the Scots and Dutch boys so they can be pleased with their beginning at this level.

The weekend after is the big event in the Junior calendar each year – the Weekend Teach-in, also at Loughborough, only this time at the University. This was my seventh, although the record is held by sometime Bedford club member (from the late 90s), Marryat Stevens, who was notching up his 14<sup>th</sup> as both student and teacher. This year I was coaching the elite group with newly appointed U20 Squad manager Michael Byrne, a top junior of the most very recent vintage and newly crowned winner of the Brighton Teams – hence his now being known as ‘4\*’ to all and sundry. This gave us the opportunity to get to know how each other works as we will be heavily involved with one another once he takes up the post at the start of January.

The weekend was also an opportunity to meet the new EBU general manager who was getting his first experience of the kiddies and thoroughly enjoying it – you can read his blog on the EBU website – and chew his ear off on matters close to my heart.

As always though, it’s the sheer energy of all the participants that makes it so enjoyable, even if the bridge was beyond bizarre at times. Of course I will be back next year, I have determined I have to get to double figures.

That’s it for the kiddies for the moment. My journey takes me next time to the deep south of the good ‘ol US of A and (hopefully, I think we have got it sorted) a game with one of the top US professionals – Curtis Cheek. Time to brush up on my SAYC – that’s Standard American Yellow Card – and ride my pickup truck off into the sunset.

*Right Siding the Slam:  
Email from Alan Oddie*

Dear Brian,  
In your June Bulletin Val Lawson asks whether it is possible to conjure up an auction whereby N-S can reach a slam played by S on the following cards

North	South
♠AQ10	♠KJ93
♥84	♥73
♦KJ4	♦A1073
♣AKJ84	♣973

Slam makes played by S if W fails to lead a heart (E has AKJxx) - the club finesse is right, the suit breaks 3-2 and the two-way diamond finesse can be got right for three tricks in that suit. I think the following auction does the trick:

North	South
1H (i)	1S (ii)
2C (iii)	3C (iv)
3S (v)	4D (vi)
5D (vii)	5H (viii)
5S (ix)	6N (x)

- (i) 1H is the best opening on these cards. It shuts out a 1H overcall

from E and will prevent a heart lead.

- (ii) Transfer to 1N
- (iii) Breaking the transfer shows 18-19 and five clubs to three honours
- (iv) South does best to raise clubs, appreciating the potential value of the 9
- (v) Showing three spade honours
- (vi) Roman Keycard Redwood for notrumps
- (vii) Showing the K of diamonds and a winning club finesse
- (viii) Do you have the Q of diamonds?
- (ix) No, but I do have the J
- (x) Can count 12 tricks now, with at least three diamonds coming in on the opening lead. Bidding the grand slam would be a fair shot if the seven of diamonds was the eight.

Yours sincerely

*Alan Oddie*

Editor: 10/10 for imagination and effort.  
Won’t a Lightner double perhaps attract a heart lead?

# What would you bid? Answers to June Competition

## The Panel

Many of the panel are back. Jeremy Dhondy and Derek Oram have returned. We also have a new panel member, Victor Silverstone, who formed one of Scotland's top partnerships with Willie Coyle, plus international appearances with England's Chris Dixon. Welcome to the panel Victor, we await your thoughts with interest.

Thanks to those who have taken part, including the competitors, that small band of enthusiasts which is actually growing. We welcome the following brave new competitors who are not afraid to reveal their views on bidding: Tim Sharrock, Stewart Pye, and Harry Moore.

### Hand 1

Hand 1: Dealer West NS Vul Pairs

West: ♠KT973♥-♦AT97653♣4

W	N	E	S
?	Do you open? What do you bid?		

### Keith Bennett: Pass

Pass - really at matter of style, although I opened xxxxxx, -, xx, AKXXX last time, that had the merit of getting spades into the game. Since I'm not opening 1S on this (1D is closer), I'll hope to get my 2 suiter in on the next round of bidding.

### Jeremy Dhondy: 1D.

1D. The problem with passing is that I'll probably be unable to get both suits in. Because of the disparity in length a two suited overcall is not a great idea. The problem with opening is the lack of high cards but if I defend later on at least I have an Ace and a King.

### Alan Kay: 1D

Yes 1D. Although short of points this hand has a lot of playing strength and if I passed initially it would be difficult to show my distribution. The danger is that we will get too high if it is a misfit but I think it is worth taking that chance.

### Peter Lee: Pass

No I do not open. Partner has a right to expect a smidgeon of high cards when I open. What I would bid later would depend on the auction.

### Derek Oram: 1D

Yes. 1D, OK by rule of 19, don't like passing then trying to show a 7-5 2suiater.

### Victor Silverstone: 1D

1D – There is a large army of players who prefer to pass then come in later. I never signed up and have been opening at the 1 level on hands like this for more years than I care to admit. It seems to work for me but continues to produce a variety of question marks from partners and opponents.

### Alan Shillitoe: Pass

Pass. I'm not afraid though because I have a spade suit. I will attempt to show my weak two-suited nature later, and then emphasize diamonds further if needs be. If forced to open, mark me down for 1D.

**Moderator:** Not quite an endorsement for “never pass”, but as usual most bid.

### Hand 2

Hand 2: Dealer West NS Vul Pairs

West ♠63♥QT♦KQ986543♣6

W	N	E	S
?	Do you open? What do you bid?		

### Keith Bennett: 4D

4D - Down the middle (imho of course)

### Jeremy Dhondy: 4D

4D It could go for 800 but with an eight card suit it is time to put some pressure on and 3D is for wimps and grannies.

### Alan Kay: 4D

Yes 4D. It seems that I have a pre-emptive hand in diamonds and I think the appropriate level is the 4 level. I do not like passing and then coming in later after the opponents have a chance to bid comfortably at a low level.

### Peter Lee: 4D

Yes I bid 4D. Seems a fairly central example of the bid.



**Derek Oram: 3D**

3D, if first or second in hand I don't want to bypass 3NT opposite an unlimited partner. In 3rd pos I would open 4D or probably 5D.

**Victor Silverstone: 3D**

3D – Yes I could be very weak in this position but I don't have to be. If I knew it was their hand I would start with 4 Diamonds and could easily be talked into this especially if lefty was counting on his fingers.

**Alan Shillitoe: 4D**

4D. Will be happy to let them play in 4 Major unless partner raises with a fit. 5D At IMPs where - 800 isn't a disaster.

**Moderator:** Fairly standard opening, amazingly at the table 1D was sufficient to keep the rabble at bay, and we played in a quiet 3D.

**Hand 3**

Hand 3 Dealer South NS Vul Pairs			
North: ♠6♥J76♦AQT76♣AKQJ			
S	W	N	E
1H	P	2D	P
2NT <sup>1</sup>	P	3C <sup>2</sup>	P
3D <sup>3</sup>	P	3H <sup>4</sup>	P
3S <sup>5</sup>	P	? What do you bid now?	
<sup>1</sup> Bal 15-18 <sup>2</sup> 3C Enquiry <sup>3</sup> 15-16			
<sup>4</sup> 3 card heart support <sup>5</sup> 4 card spade suit			

**Keith Bennett: 6NT**

6NT - since this looks right on values I'll bid it, 6 of any of 3 suits may have more play, but in pairs the money is in NT. In teams I would bid 6C to give partner the choice of slams (I don't mind the 4-3 fit, ruffing out diamonds etc). I could investigate more, but I don't want partner thinking I am investigating a grand when I later bid 6NT.

**Jeremy Dhondy: 4C**

4C. What a system! I don't seem to have any idea

whether partner has 5 hearts or not. If we have found a 5-3 fit isn't he allowed to show a spade card and a suitable hand? What I do know is that I am going to slam but it is more difficult than it might be to get to the right strain. For him to have to bid 3D with a minimum and more with a maximum is the wrong way round. You ought to reserve more room for when you are more likely to have a slam.

**Alan Kay: 6NT**

6NT. We have had a fairly long auction so far but do not seem to have found a fit so far unless it is in diamonds but at this form of scoring I will bid what is likely to be the correct contract rather than investigate further which may help the defence.

**Peter Lee: 4C**

4C. This cannot be wrong though how it will be read I am not sure. Clearly the auction so far has been based on a well-defined system but I am not sure quite what further bids mean. Partner is presumably 4-4 in the majors as he would have bid 2S with 4-5, so we are unlikely to want to play in hearts. Probably we will play in 6NT (and a direct 6NT now is not unreasonable) but 6 of any suit but spades is possible, and if I can describe my shape I hope to be able to bid a 5NT pick-a-slam later.

**Derek Oram: 6NT**

6NT. With a shrug of the shoulders, but with the room in a large pairs field. Expect partner to be 4423 but all the space at the 3 level has been used up that I could find a diamond or show a heart fit. Maybe 4NT is the limit but the 10D swings it to go to slam. Even an outside possibility of perfect cards for 7H with a fair wind but can't confidently pinpoint all the exact cards so won't bother.

**Victor Silverstone: 4C**

4C – Can't say I am thrilled with our methods. I have managed to find out that partner has 4-4 in majors and 15-16 points. What I really wanted to know was how he felt about diamonds (no idea) or clubs (unlikely but still possible that he has 4 – eg AKxx AKQx x xxxx – assuming he would open 1 Heart) We could belong in 6 clubs even on a 4-3 if partner has the club 10 – and if he doesn't have that card there will be hands where the 9 of clubs may do. We could even belong in 7 clubs with the perfecto produced above. Is anything known about partner's style – does he belong to the obscure school which avoids re bidding NT with xx in an unbid suit – if so he has at least 3

clubs and only 2 diamonds, and would raise to 3D with 15-16 points in a 4-4-3-2. I can't assume that he would bid that way since it is very much a minority treatment. 3NT over 3 spades would be a mild slam suggestion which a partner terrified wrongly about his club holding would be sure to reject so have to make a try with 4 clubs

Prefer 3 clubs natural or if an enquiry first about diamond support not points.

**Alan Shillitoe: 3NT**

3NT. Yuck. A natural 3C would have enabled us to get the distribution sorted (most important) instead it seems that now that 4C would be a cue for spades and 4NT would be RKCB and not quantitative. Any slam would seem to have to be punted so I take a safer (probable) average minus.

**Moderator:** Interesting comments by the panel who don't seem to like what is becoming part of a Bedfordshire local standard system, marketed by "Checkback Monica and her disciples – "the Checkback Charlies?". I don't understand it either, but for Jeremy's benefit partner need only have 4 hearts and 4 spades. 3 Clubs natural or 3D forcing might well be a better start over the 2NT rebid. Jeremy's comments about reversing the mean of the 3D bid is well made. At the table 6NT made, but note there could have been two aces missing. I have given 6NT top marks, just, because it is a practical bid and will often work, and must be the right action to take whenever you are unclear about what is the "correct" bid. Technically 4C may be better as it strives for diamond preference.

**Hand 4**

Hand 4 Dealer North LA Pairs			
East: ♠T98♥-♦AKT97♣AK964			
N	E	S	W
P	1D	P	2C
P	?	(a) What do you bid now?	
(b) What would you bid playing teams?			

**Keith Bennett: (a) 3H (b) 3H**

(a) and (b) 3H - splinter since 2H would have been forcing - leaves 3NT in the picture. If 3H isn't forcing I will grossly underbid with 3C at pairs and bid 4C at teams.

**Jeremy Dhondy: (a) 4H (b) 4H**

(a) 4H (b) B 4H. This gives us the best chance of

bidding a slam, possibly even a grand although there is the slight risk that we may have 3 spade losers. The opposition appear to be trappist monks. I would do the same at pairs and teams. This is not the right hand to look for 3NT.

**Alan Kay: (a) 4H (b) 4H**

4H. Since 3h would be a splinter showing a singleton heart I think that 4h shows a void. The opponents have a lot of major suit cards and have not bid which suggests that partner has a strong hand so it is tempting to hide this feature from the opponents to get a favourable lead but I think that I will let partner know that heart values are not as useful as in other suits. This could be wrong if 3nt is the correct contract especially at pairs but I think that 6c or 7c is so likely that I will ignore this possibility.

**Peter Lee: (a) 3H (b) 3H**

(a) 3H splinter (b) same. 4H void showing is also possible.

**Derek Oram: (a) 3H (b) 3H**

(a) and (b) 3H agreeing clubs and showing short hearts. Points straightaway to the identification of a spade control in the subsequent bidding if in the slam zone. Partner can still bid 3NT if he wants which I will pass.

**Victor Silverstone: (a) 4H (b) 4H**

(a) (b) (c) and (d) 4 Hearts – at least an easy one. Tell partner – void heart (3 hearts would be singleton) and club fit. This is a situation where it is MANDATORY for partner to show a first or second round spade control. The interesting question is what 4NT from partner should mean at pairs. – I suggest something like QJX AQX QX Qxxxx but have never seen, heard or discussed this. Over 4 S I will bid 4NT and partner when replying will know to ignore the heart ace. Over 5 Clubs I will pass and hope he has only 2 spades but will expect the worse.

**Alan Shillitoe: (a) 4H (b) 4H**

(a) 4H. Void. Can be Exclusion Keycard if agreed as such. Looks most descriptive choice. (b) Same action at teams.

**Moderator:** The 4H void men out vote the splinter brigade.

Panel	Hand 1	Marks	Hand 2	Marks	Hand 3	Marks	Hand 4	Marks	Score
Alan Kay	1D	10	4D	10	6NT	10	4H	10	40
Jeremy Dhondy	1D	10	4D	10	4C	9	4H	10	39
Keith Bennett	Pass	8	4D	10	6NT	10	4H	10	38
Victor Silverstone	1D	10	3D	8	4C	9	4H	10	37
Derek Oram	1D	10	3D	8	6NT	10	3H	7	35
Peter Lee	Pass	8	4D	10	4C	9	3H	7	34
Alan Shillitoe	Pass	8	4D	10	3NT	5	4H	10	33

## Competitors Comments

### Hand 1

**Dominic Connolly: Pass.** Some might open 1D which is the only other valid bid but I don't regard this as an opening hand. Bidding a higher number of diamonds loses the spades which is too risky in this seat..

**David Woulds: Pass.** No, yet another one of these Russian Roulette hands.

**Terry Pearce: 2S.** 2S, showing spades and another at least 5-5

**Tim Sharrock: 1D.** (Rule of 19, so it's legal, and, if they do get to a high-level H contract, I can bid S and partner will give me a preference for our sacrifice).

**Stewart Pye 1D.** The hand despite short on points is a very good shape and complies with Rule of 19. With seven diamonds and five spades if you open a spade you will have difficulty convincing your partner you have seven diamonds, against that is the risk of possibly missing a spade fit. You are at favourable vulnerability and I would therefore open with One Diamond and see how the auction develops.

**Harry Moore: Pass.** Its too easy to pre-empt my partner here. He might have spades. I can always get involved later, somehow. I might get the chance to bid Diamonds a couple of times later and my hand will then sound stronger than it is!

### Hand 2

**Dominic Connolly: 4D.** When I'm lucky enough to be dealt eight cards in one suit I try to open at the 4 level. The risk of bypassing 3NT is one I am happy to accept.

**David Woulds: 4D.** Yes, 4D, routine pre-empt, the only question is how high.

**Terry Pearce: 4D.** 4D showing seven tricks with diamonds as trumps.

**Tim Sharrock: 4D.** (on our system, partner will know that I have no outside Ace and have at least five losers, so will be able, during the auction, to assess whether to Pass, Raise, Double or Sacrifice. I don't want the responsibility of having to decide what to do after partner has passed and they have reached 3NT or 4H or 4S).

**Stewart Pye 5D.** With eight diamonds I do not think passing is an option with partner holding nothing you will be unlucky to lose more than six tricks and three off doubled would be a good save. I think it is a choice of four or five diamonds and if partner is unable to contribute anything then a slam looks likely by the opponents. I am inclined to create the maximum disruption and bid Five Diamonds.

**Harry Moore: 4D.** If you really want to pre-empt, this is the type of hand, and do it properly!

### Hand 3

**Dominic Connolly: 5H.** 5H. With good trumps this hand should play well in the Moysian. With poor trumps and values in spades, probably not so good. 5H should get the message across.

**David Woulds: 6NT.** Risky as we could be off 2 aces or AK in a major, but the system seems to have left us with no exploratory move as 4C and 4NT bids would surely imply spade agreement and 3NT is an underbid. 6NT is the percentage bid as there are more hands partner could hold to produce 12 tricks, than when there are 2 losers.

**Terry Pearce: 4NT.** 4NT RKCB with hearts as trumps, 1<sup>st</sup> suit bid.

**Tim Sharrock: 6NT.** 6NT (partner can not have no Aces; even if he has two Aces, 7NT is only a remote possibility, but 6NT is likely to depend on finding only one missing honour; so there's no point in Gerber or Blackwood).

**Stewart Pye 4C.** It looks like partner has a 4423 hand, however a slam is not out of the question. Although partner may only have two diamonds if he has the King there are chances. The defence hold seven or eight points clearly this could be two Aces in which case you will make eleven tricks in no trumps. Asking for Aces at this stage is unlikely to help I therefore favour showing my shape by bidding Four Clubs.

**Harry Moore: 4NT.** (Key-card Blackwood). All that bidding is too clever for me! I would check that my partner has two key cards, and if he does I would bid 6NT on the point count alone! 6H might be better but this is pairs.

**Moderator:** Tim isn't completely right about the number of Aces opposite. Zero is possible methinks. Well done however on your final score.

#### Hand 4

**Dominic Connolly: (a) 3H (b) 3H.** You are only ever playing this hand in clubs, unless pard made up the club bid, tell him the good news, fabulous trump support and heart control. 2H would be 100% forcing and natural so make life easy and play 3H as a splinter in clubs.

**David Woulds: (a) 3H (b) 3H.**

(a) 3H, (b) 3H, splinter agreeing clubs. Should be unanimous this one. If partner continues with 3NT, at pairs I would pass, but at teams I would bid on with 4C.

**Terry Pearce: (a) 4H (b) 4H**

4H showing first round control.

**Tim Sharrock: (a) 4H (b) 4H.**

[What is "LA Pairs"? Please set problem that can be understood by tyros as well as by experts.] (Moderator: LA "Love All"). 4H (Very difficult. With partner's 2C bid, this hand has suddenly improved from 16 pts to 19 pts. There's no way in my system to find out about partner's specific Aces (except by cue-bidding). Any level of D or C would be non-forcing, and the only change of suit that's sensible is a splinter. We *could* lose three tricks in Spades, but it's now up to partner to settle for game or to investigate slam. It would be nice to hear a 4S bid!)

Playing in teams, 5C is perhaps the safer bid.

**Stewart Pye (a) 4H (b) 4H.** You have at least a nine card club fit and partner may also be short in the majors. I do not think no trumps are likely with a heart lead. A slam is a possibility and I therefore will jump bid in hearts, which should be a control bid or splinter-agreeing clubs as trumps. Two hearts would be natural and forcing therefore Three Hearts would not be natural. It would still give partner the opportunity to bid no trumps with the double stops in both majors In teams game or slam in clubs would be the aim and a jump to five clubs giving opposition no extra information could be considered, however if partner has losers in hearts he is unlikely to go on. I think that a bid of Four hearts is probably a better bid as even if no trumps is possible the scoring in teams make a minor suit game with the hand a safer option. If partner has the Ace of spades and the diamonds can be established for discards a slam is a distinct prospect.

**Harry Moore: (a) 3H (b) 3H.** 3H. With my partner, this is a cue-bid showing good club support and first round control of hearts. 4H would be a splinter.

Competitors	Hand 1	Marks	Hand 2	Marks	Hand 3	Marks	Hand 4	Marks	Total
Tim Sharrock	1D	10	4D	10	6NT	10	4H	10	40
Stewart Pye	1D	10	5D	7	4C	8	4H	10	37
David Woulds	Pass	8	4D	10	6NT	10	3H	7	35
Terry Pearce	2S	5	4D	10	4NT	7	4H	10	32
Harry Moore	Pass	8	4D	10	4NT	7	3H	7	32
Dominic Connolly	Pass	8	4D	10	5H	5	3H	7	30

## BBA Competitions

### Opening Pairs September 2006

The first event of the season, saw 16 tables, (yes 16 tables at a county event!), sit down to play a well organised competition for the Tudor Rose Bowl at Wilstead Village Hall. With good directing and scoring from Ian Mitchell, the event ran well. There were some big scores at the top end of the field, with David Harris and Jon Williams continuing their current domination of the county scene, closely chased by an in form Maureen and Brian Stairs. Bill Stanley and ever green Bert Shiebert, eased out Maris Sheppard and Alan Cooke from third place. Slightly lower down the field Pamela Smith & Paul Habershon had an excellent result to win the non expert prize, well done.

Pair	%			
		17	Liz Talbot & Rita Keable	48.48
1 Jon Williams & David Harris	66.10	18	Terry Pearce & Les Calver	47.73
2 Maureen & Brian Stairs	65.53	19	Tim & Erika Sharrock	47.54
3 Bill Stanley & Bert Shiebert	63.83	20	Barbara & Brian Taylor	45.83
4 Maris Sheppard & Alan Cooke	63.45	21	Padma Dalvi & Mary Rider	45.64
5 Monica Lucy & Peter Coles	58.33	22	Pat Barnett & Tony Slater	45.45
6 Michael Bale & John Neville	57.95	23	Tony Dyer & Eric Mason	45.27
7 Alan Oddie & Ron Davis	57.20	24	Bernard & Margaret Eddleston	44.70
8 = Anne & David Gilling	54.73	25	Paul Kilduff & Peter Scott	44.32
8 = Pamela Smith & Paul Habershon	54.73	26	Mike Vogel & Maggie Willis	44.13
10 Stewart Pye & Chris Challinor	53.79	27	Gwynne Hughes & Christine Day	42.05
11 Ian Wilson & Chris Watson	53.60	28	Nadia Walsh & Chris Parkin	41.67
12 Dominic Connolly & David Woulds	52.27	29	Alan & Saroj Ellis	39.58
13 Val & Mike Lawson	51.89	30	Graeme Robertson & Justin Bell	39.39
14 Angela & Richard Chester	50.95	31	Michael Green & Jamie Findlay	38.64
15 Niall Perry & Barry Holmes	49.81	32	Louise Smith & Steve Gibbs	35.98
16 Margaret Jones & Alfred Hitchcock	49.43			

### Bedford Congress

The Bedford Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September”) was this year played at a new venue, the Empress Stand at Towcester Race Course. Most players were impressed by the venue and the event will probably move permanently to this site. This year show a marked rise in the number of pairs playing on the Saturday (31 Tables) but the Swiss Teams fell to 53 Tables.

### Championship Pairs

A massive victory for Northants pair Keith Nash and Michael Keogh who finish four percent clear of Derek and Celia Oram, who finished second, with a huge surge from the bottom half of the field in session two. Good results for Bedfordshire pairs Richard & Angela Chester, Janet & Derek Marsh, finishing high up. Good to see Milton Keynes pairing of Jim Peard & Paul Garthwaite turning out to a congress and picking up the non-expert prize.

1, Keith Nash & Michael Keogh, 61.39%, Guardian Royal Exchange Cup, leading Pair.

2, Derek & Celia Oram, 56.90%, Geoffrey Clarke Salver, leading Mixed Pair.

3, John Amor & Richard Currie, 56.34%, Committee Cup, leading Men's Pair.

4, Maggie Dawson & Bill Gordon, 55.53%.

5, Mandie Campbell & Benji Hackenbroch, 55.48%.

6, Richard & Angela Chester, 55.07%, Broke Bowl, leading Married Pair.

7, Janet & Derek Marsh, 55.06%.

24=, Nevena Senior & Catherine Seale, 51.67% Upcott-Gill Trophy, leading Ladies Pair.

42, Jim Peard & Paul Garthwaite, 48.87%, Suzanne Betts Bowl, leading Non Expert Pair.

## Swiss Teams

A runaway victory for Catherine Searle and her team of experts, Sandra Penfold, Nevena & Brian Senior, winners of the Shulman Bowl. Two teams tied for the Non Expert trophy the Pilgrims Trophy: P Aubeck, S Cross, K Pausey, I Clarke and M Keogh, K Nash, M Hodgson, S Chattopadhyay. An excellent congress for Nash and Keogh who did well on both days of the Congress.

1, Catherine Seale & Sandra Penfold Nevena & Brian Senior, 115 VP. 2, Trevor & Marion King Christine White & Ian Clarke, 103VP. 3, Victor Savage & Richard Palmer Phil Thornton & Kevin Elstow, 101VP, 4, Jackie Davies & Mike Rawlins, Mike Minting & Nigel Rawlins, 98 VP, 5, Berry & Graham Hedley Chris Heames & Trevor Thrower, 98VP, 6, Doreen Charteris & Richard Currie Marie Horlock & John Amor, 90VP. 7, Ernest Schlesinger & Malcolm Rosenblatt, Martin Lerner & Adrian Scheps, 88VP. 8, Alan Cooke & Chris Cook, Maris Sheppard & Andy Fenn, 86 VP.

## Eastern Counties League 2006-2007

### Hertfordshire Away 10th September 2006

Not the best of starts to the new season, with all three teams losing. The A team lead for three stanza's but a no play grand slam, plus some other blips lead to defeat.

Team	IMP s	In	Out	VPs	Players
<b>A</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6</b>	Ron Davis & Brian Keable, Rita Keable & Monica Lucy, Alan Shillitoe & Greg Ward, Richard & Angela Chester
<b>B</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>7</b>	Brian & Maureen Stairs, Brian & Barbara Taylor, Terry Pearce & Les Calver, John Neville & Mike Bale.
<b>C</b>	<b>-77</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>0</b>	Louise Smith & Steven Gibbs, Linda Tigwell & Bill Marsden, Barry Holmes & Niall Perry, Graeme Robertson & Justin Bell

### Essex Away 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Three wins for Bedfordshire. The A were disappointing with a narrow victory, the B and C were rampant, destroying Essex over the last eight boards.

<b>A</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11</b>	Jon Williams & Alan Oddie, Rita Keable & Monica Lucy, Ron Davis & Brian Keable, Richard & Angela Chester.
<b>B</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	Steve & Julie Abley, Les Calver & Terry Pearce, Mike Bale & John Neville, Barbara & Brian Taylor
<b>C</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>17</b>	David & Anne Gilling, Chris Parkin & Mike Vogel, Louise Smith & Steve Gibb, Val Lawson & Ian Wilson

## Bedfordshire Teams-of-Four League and KO Cup 2006/2007

League and Cup entries have held up well with little decline from last years numbers. One or two members have returned to league bridge after an absence and perhaps we could have a revival.

### Division I

**Double Shuffle**, Maureen Stairs, Brian Stairs, Barbara Taylor, Brian Taylor. **Eagles**, Richard Last, Peter Last, Bob Brown, Bob Gillett, Andrew Mason, Terry McCann. **Exiles**, Michael Bale, John Neville, Tim Nash, Mark Westley, Fred Gaydon. **Spartak Kempston**, Alan Shillitoe, Greg Ward, Rita Keable, Brian Keable, Dave Dickson, Ian Roberts. **Tudor Rose**, Alan Oddie, Ron Davis, David Harris, Jon Williams.

Quite a strong division with all five teams capable on their day of winning matches. Tudor Rose with four of the best players in the county must be favourites, but the others are all capable. Spartak

Kempston is the only new team, but is just a revamp of the old Pussy Cat's with one new player, with two old Pussies taking a back seat for this years campaign.

## **Division II**

**Cricketers**, George Goddard, Paul Kilduff, Keith Bennett, Peter Scott. **Late Entry**, Dominic Connolly, David Woulds, Angela Chester, Richard Chester. **McTitans**, Phil Titchner, Miriam Jones, Elaine McAllister, Martin McAllister. **Scratch**, Maureen Westley, Roger Gaudoin, Judi Malpass, Peter Malpass. **Tetrad**, Chris Parkin, Michael Sim, Val Lawson, Ian Wilson.

Another well balanced division with five teams of fair strength. My money would be on Late Entry, the Chesters are a sound pair, and Dominic Connolly and David Woulds have the opportunity to shine in what should be a no pressure environment. Tetrad may surprise, they have players who are capable on their day of giving many a good run for their money. Will Cricketers survive at this level? They have some weaknesses but few people realise that in Paul Kilduff they have a player who often played in Division I some 25 plus years ago, so they may well manage.

## **Division III**

**Bedford Blazers**, Jan Page, Doug Page, Anne Stark, Frank Stark. **Ousels**, Mike Vogel, Justin Bell, Graeme Robertson, Michael Green, Jamie Findlay. **Tanglin**, Roy Drage, Melek Drage, Gwynne Hughes, Graham Pointer, Colin O'Hara, Larry Redmond. **Wrest Park**, Eric Audsley, Wendy Audsley, Paul Miller, Vic Rees

Lots of familiar old names in this division, plus Ousels from Bedford School lead by Mike Vogel. Do the juniors have sufficient experience/common sense to show their elders a clean pair of heels?

## **Knockout Cup**

Only eleven teams have entered this year. In the upper half of the draw, Spartak Kempston look to be likely finalists, but may get a surprise from Vortex or Eagles. The bottom half of the draw is much tougher and the semi-final looks likely to be between the winners of Double Shuffle and Exiles who should meet Tudor Rose.

As in the league Tudor Rose are the favourites. Perhaps the presence of one team that on paper is vastly superior to any other four that the county could assemble, acts as a deterrent to people entering the Knockout? Ordinary teams perhaps don't mind playing the better teams over 24 boards in the league, but playing longer matches, 32 boards or 48 boards in the final, may put people off from entering the Knockout.

Difficult to know what the county could do about this. No one can blame four strong players for ensuring they have the best team available. After all winning the KO Knockout gives them free entry to the national teams of four event the Pachabo. On the other hand more teams might enter if the qualifying event was a Swiss teams, where they might have a better chance to come through playing seven or eight board matches, or some other form of teams other than knockout.

Worth a passing thought??

<b>Top half of draw</b>	<b>Bottom half of draw</b>
Spartak Kempston (bye)	Double Shuffle v Exiles
Tanglin (bye)	Scratch (bye)
Vortex v Eagles	Tudor Rose (bye)
Ousels (bye)	Square Dealers v McTitans
Teams as league plus:	
Vortex	Square Dealers
Mike Sim, Chris Parkin, Richard & Angela Chester	Monica Lucy, Maggie Willis, Maris Sheppard, Alan Cooke