

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter 97 Editor Martyn Moxley March 2010

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I have noticed of late that there is a growing reluctance in members willing to take office and assist in the running of their clubs.

I am not just referring to HBA responsibilities but to both the leadership and the administration of our bridge clubs.

The outcome is that a disproportionate load falls on those remaining in office who, for want of replacements, feel obliged to soldier on rather than see their club collapse.

Why so?

Few of us wish to be seen as busybodies, officiously throwing our weight around. Nor do we want an essentially leisure pursuit burdened with work. Then there are those who would say they may possess talents, but the nature of these talents or their temperaments make them ill-suited to the tasks involved in running a bridge club.



Chairman Tony Shadforth with Jutta, his wife, and Fownhope team mates Heather Brace and Lin Bennett

I am ready to acknowledge all of these arguments, but where does this leave us? The majority of members are retired and finding leisure time is not too big a problem. There is nothing intrinsically difficult in running a bridge club's affairs and even if mistakes occur, it is not the end of the world. If you take office, you see things from a different standpoint and this can

add to your enjoyment and your interest in bridge.

More to the point, if you take office, you are, as the saying goes, 'giving something back to the game'. You find yourself doing things for other members – their wish lists replace yours.

That's not a bad thing.

So next time there is an election or change of officers in the offing, may I ask you to think afresh about your reaction to such an opportunity – turn the tables and take up the challenge; give something back and work for your fellow members.

It need only be for a year or two!

Tony Shadforth

And a particular thanks, therefore, to the following of your bridge playing colleagues who are working for the benefit of the members of the county's ten duplicate clubs by serving on the county committee and offering invaluable support and practical assistance over this year:

Janet Dowdle (The Birches)

David Rex (Bromyard)

Sue Shore (Fownhope)

Dave Weller (Hereford)

John Paterson (Ledbury)

Janet Griffiths (The Marches)

Evie Whitfield (Brooms Green)

Janet Miles (Ross on Wye)

Neville Shorrick (Wellington Heath)

Geoff Harrington (Wyese)

And to the enthusiastic and invaluable work of Sarah Weller, Mike Ralph and John Thacker in organising and running county events.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

We were playing at a local club, when one of our opponents cried: 'Director! Director!' After a short silence, and no response from the room, the cry was repeated and became increasingly desperate.

This was followed by: 'My God! I am the Director!'

Fiddling with the bidding box often means a call of 'Director!' But how about this one? One of the strangest quirks seen recently was an opponent making the opening lead by placing a Pass card on the table. And another one doubling his partner. Surely there should be a place for this bid on our convention cards?! But a member reports playing at a club in Houston, Texas alongside a husband and wife pairing. On one occasion, the wife got so incensed by her spouse's bidding, she threw the box at him. He ducked and it hit a player on the next table. Ever after, the wife carried a water pistol to use whenever her partner erred. Safer and more effective!?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

YOU AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP

You will have been regularly updated by your Club of the proposed changes to the future structure and administration of the EBU. The agreed new format will take effect on 1st April so how will the changes effect you?

There will no longer be an annual subscription. Those of you who have paid by direct debit in the past will not have further payments deducted from your bank accounts and your mandates can be cancelled.

From 1st April both EBU and HBA membership will be automatic for every player who is a member of an affiliated bridge club. Current EBU members will retain their existing membership number, ex-members will have their original number reinstated together with any previously earned Master Points, and new members will be allocated a membership number. Master Points will be awarded by direct credit only and paper points will no longer be issued, so, if you have any unregistered paper points, do send them to Aylesbury as soon as possible.

To qualify for full EBU benefits which include the EBU magazine and diary, you must play a minimum of 12 sessions a year. These sessions do not all need to be played at the same club and can include EBU congresses. Every time you play, you will be charged a small 'Pay to Play' (P2P) fee which will be included in either your table money or entry fee.

If you don't normally play at an affiliated club and cannot fulfil the annual requirement of 12 sessions but still wish to be an EBU member, you

can become an EBU direct member and qualify for full benefits at a cost of £23. This fee will not include county membership, however, and a small county fee will have to be paid in addition if you wish to play in county events.

As is currently the case, you cannot be a full member of more than one County Association, so, if you wish to enter competitions run by another county, you will have to pay a Dual membership fee as set by that county.

Finally – keep playing & enjoying your bridge!

Pat Jenkins - Membership Secretary

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

I remembered one evening playing the second board of a set. My RHO played AH, which was strange because I also had AH.

I had pulled out my hand from the first board and bid and played without noticing anything amiss. I was tired and bored, but stone cold sober. It caused much amusement at the time and gave the director a headache. I don't remember how he scored the hand, average plus and minus I guess.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Any suggestions on how to bid these two hands to the making grand slam in spades/hearts (dealer West)?

♠ Qxxx	♠ AKxxx
♥ AKxxx	♥ Qxxx
W ♦ ♦	E ♦ xx
♣ AKJx	♣ xx

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Glittering Prizes?!

The world of bridge is full of prizes, from club to national level and the county is liberally scattered with esteemed prize winners at all levels.

Perhaps there's a place for recording some maybe less high-profile awards so, congratulations to.....

June Homes, Janet Holder, Greta Dallimore and Majorie Archer whose storming final two 20 – 0 victories in the recent Newent Bowl gained them the cash prize destined for the (non-existent) non-expert teamand....

Jennifer Baker, Pam Crisp, Neville Shorrick and Martyn Moxley, winners of the curiously named Sker Trophy at the last Porthcawl Congress – an award announced whilst the team were trying to make a quick getaway from the car park and for which they had to cradle a Ladies' Foursome's Golf Trophy in the absence of one for bridge!

CLUB NEWS

ROSS

In our Annual Mixed Pairs, 23 pairs took part. It was fitting that the 61.73% score achieved by Graham Jones and Joan Goodhead should see them finishing top of the final results table. It was the first time that Graham and Joan, a long-time partnership, had won a Ross Pairs Cup playing together. The competition was introduced in 1999 to commemorate the work of former Club Treasurer, Tom Marshall, a much loved and valued Club Member. For the second successive year, Chris Chowney and Susan Shore had to settle for being runners-up, with John Crowe and Judy Eaton behind them.

The Annual Swiss Teams Charity event was again well supported and Tournament Director, Jo Baker, was delighted that she was able to amass 15 teams to take part, with Clubs from across the County represented. With four 6 board rounds, it was a busy evening and going into the final round, 4 teams were still in the running. With 64 V/P's, the final victory was a convincing one for Judy Eaton, Martyn Moxley, John Crowe and Neville Shorrick (*pictured below with Club Chairman Brian Henry*).



Runners-up were Hereford's Bob Underhill, Peter Bellamy, Pat Jenkins and Ian Murray-Watson. Geoff Baker and Lily Boddington were irreplaceable in their score-keeping and the generosity of all members in providing raffle prizes meant that the main beneficiaries on the night were Ross Community Hospital League of Friends, who will receive a cheque for £400.

Keith Ray

THE MARCHES

A fundraising event was held on 26th February for the Ann Harrison Memorial Cup, jointly supported by Birches BC. £1000 was donated to Breast Cancer Haven, the sum collected from a raffle and table money doubled by the Chairman. Players competed for the Cup, but the atmosphere represented bridge at its best for the support that it can give people and causes. It reunited many old friends and epitomised the value and interest that bridge can bring to people, while at the same time encouraging improvement with friendly competition.

Marches has traditionally commemorated the club's founder and original teacher in the annual Barbara Forryan Trophy Event, to be held this year on Sat 27th March. Systems allowed are simple Acol/Standard English with the purpose of encouraging players of all ability to participate and feel included. We hope the event will be well supported again this year. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Vicki Archard on 01432 356079 or vaandra@tiscali.co.uk."

A TD course took place at Bartestree on 13 & 14 March, organised by HBA and Marches BC and run by Andrew Kambites. Most players had enrolled so that they could support their own clubs. The more directors a club has, the happier they are as duties can be shared. It is a rare person who give equal attention to their own play and what is going on in the room. I'm sure someone has produced statistics on the deleterious effect of directing on personal play! Club directors act in a spirit of altruism and we all owe them our thanks and co-operation. They are the most important people in the club!! **Val**

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

We were on Malaga Airport, and as we waited to check-in, the PA system informed us that there was an hour's delay. We looked at each other, took two packs of cards from our suitcases, checked in and made for a remote café table. Time passed like a flash. Since then we've played at Heathrow. Then last year, with extended check-in times to and from Israel, we had a flying bridge start and finish to our pilgrimage - London and Tel Aviv. The moral: Don't leave home without packs of cards near the top of your luggage. Oh! - and an extra couple of like-minded bridge players.

LEDBURY

Club Competition Winners 2010

The Caley Cup – John Crowe and Ken Dodsworth

Teams of Four – The Chairman's Bowl

Janet Holder, June Homes, Graham Jones and Brian Kingsley

Individual – Julia Benchley

Men's Pairs – Peter Flagg & Tony Teale

(This pair are currently lying 3rd world-wide in the Charity Challenge Cup Sims with 74.82%!)

Mixed Pairs – Jennifer Baker & Neville Shorrick

Ladies' Pairs – Majorie Archer & Greta Dallimore

Winter Pairs – Lindsay Ray & Denise Robertson



Players gather for the club's Wednesday evening duplicate at anything from 10 – 15 tables

January will go down in club history as, undaunted by the snow, Club Chairman Steve Clegg and Ken Brookes battled their way through to the Community Centre to keep bridge going. On two occasions, eight members staged an impromptu head-to-head teams competition!



Members of Ledbury's Monday afternoon club assemble for play at 2 pm under the expert guidance of Steve Clegg supported by Jenny Thomson and Betty Dickie

BROOMS GREEN (nee Much Marcle)

The club continues to flourish following its move into Gloucestershire, attracting a number of players from across the Hills and the Malvern Club, in addition to those from other Herefordshire clubs.



Neville Shorrick, Colin Sandy and John Crowe relax before the rigours of the table

The friendliness and the standard of play (plus the chance to lunch...and the biscuits and much else courtesy of our enthusiastic and busy leader, Evie Whitfield) make Fridays a pleasing way to finish a week of bridge. Even though the village hall was inaccessible during the first week in January, snow shovels and muscle power saw bridge continue the following Friday. Leading master point scorers up to the end of January were Sue Evans 164, John Crowe 144, Jutta Shadforth 122, Martyn Moxley 96, Evie Whitfield 92.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

In days of yore when we had bidding boards, I picked up a 23/4 point hand and whilst musing as dealer on how to ensure my partner did not pass my opening bid, I touched 'No Bid'. LHO opponent passed, and my partner opened 1NT. Let off the hook, I bid the slam. There were some hilarious looks on everyone's faces.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

HEREFORD

Results of the still-running autumn and winter competitions will be announced in the next issue.

WYESIDE

Latest Results

Weekly Pairs

Pat Berry & Kathy Chapple
Heather Brace & Jutta Shadforth
Gisela Ogden & Sandy Dowle
Carol Brown & Albert Brown

Winter Teams

Current Leaders: Alison Lewis & Nigel Edmondson/Peter Watts & Richard Johnson

Pairs Championship

Current Leaders: Margaret Newcombe & Olaf Newcombe

Handicap Pairs Winners: Carol & Albert Brown

BROMYARD

Since Christmas, the club has managed to meet on every Tuesday except one. But numbers attending have dropped. Costs of hiring the hall have risen dramatically and table money has increased to £2 per person. When the EBU P2P scheme begins there will be a further increase. At January's A.G.M, former Officers and committee members were re-elected en bloc, there being no other nominations. Presentations were made to Joy and Ray Morgan (winners of the Joan Smith cup) and the joint winners of the trophy for highest average scores throughout the year, Margaret and Olaf Newcombe, and June Homes and Janet Holder.

We meet every Tuesday evening at Bromyard Public Hall, beginning at 7 p.m. and new members/visitors are always made very welcome.

Ron Williams

THE BIRCHES

March Results

Charity Event

- 1 Rosie Wilson & Janet Dowdle
- 2 Anne Slater & Eileen Richards
- 3 Timothy & Lesley Vessey

Pivot Teams

Elizabeth Dinnen & Liz Lloyd-Nash
Josephine Kelly & Jean Mullan

WELLINGTON HEATH

Latest Top Results (Feb/March)

N/S Rex Shutler & Joyce Sambrook
Janet Holder & June Homes
June Homes & Janet Holder
E/W Pat Holliday & John Davies
Jean Groves & Peter Morgan
Peter Morgan & Neville Shorrick

FOWNHOPE

Club Competition Winners 2010

Championship Pairs – Ted Dutton & Mary Panniers

Monday Teams – Jutta Shadforth, Janet Holder, Greta Dallimore & June Homes

Annual Swiss Teams – Ted Dutton, Mary Panniers, John Poole, Jane Priestman

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

WHY OVERCALL?

A quick checklist on the reasons for overcalling.

1 Constructive

Despite the opening bid, the hand may belong to your side. You hold ♠J8523 ♥A74 ♦K72 ♣AQ. RHO opponent opens 1H. You bid 1S. Despite the poor suit quality and lack of nuisance value, the side suit more than compensates. And you're posing the old challenge to opponents – never argue with the spade suit!

2 You take up bidding space

You hold, both vulnerable, ♠A95 ♥Q9873 ♦92 ♣KJ3. If RHO opens 1D, bidding the poor quality heart suit is risky and serves no purpose. However, if you hold ♠Q9873 ♥83 ♦KJ3 ♣A95, and RHO opens 1C, then 1S takes up so much space it is worth the risk.

3 Lead-directing

This is especially important in match-pointed pairs where the battle for the overtrick is vital. You hold, NV against V, ♠A7 ♥872 ♦KQ1076 ♣752. The bidding goes 1S – NB – 2C – ? At pairs, with the likelihood that partner will be on lead, you can consider conceding a big penalty in the hope of saving an overtrick by bidding 2D. Note that if you held the AH instead of the AS, you would not mind a heart lead and therefore would not risk the 2D overcall. I emphasise that this is NOT a teams bid, but lead directing opportunities will arise in all forms of the game.

4 Setting Up a Sacrifice

This can apply when opponents are clearly in a game-force sequence. You hold, NV v Vul, ♠Q106432 ♥9 ♦KJ7 ♣542. The bidding goes 1C – NB – 2H – ? They are heading for game and at this vulnerability will not be interested in taking penalties, so 2S is safe and may set up a sacrifice position for your partner.

Remember – if none of the above apply, do NOT overcall.

John Thacker

TWO CHALLENGING HANDS

Our County Chairman, Tony Shadforth, has tried to increase participation in County Competitions. In the recent Teams of 8, the entry was restricted to one team from each Club. The idea was that more Clubs would enter. In the end, only Fownhope, Ledbury, Wyeseide & Hereford participated.

This was one 'problem' hand. You hold -

♠J87
♥AK83
♦AK95
♣T2

Partner opens 1S, P, 2D (bidding 2H should show 5 H), P, 4S.

Oh dear!? Are we going on? Are Clubs protected? How can partner bid 4S when I have only promised 10 points and there's no protection in Ds or Hs (because I have that)? Partner must have protection in S & a good S suit. So we bid to 6S.

This is partner's hand -

♠AKQ653
♥QT5
♦3
♣KJ8

A heart is lead & 6S rolls in. You had to use your intuition AND trust your partner!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

As in most games, there is enjoyment to be had at all levels and there can be significant competition among equals. Progressing through the 'levels', however, can also be enjoyable, as you take on, and beat, players who you thought were 'better than you'. Getting off the cycling machine in the garage and riding on the road can be exhilarating, hard work and provide new 'scenery' - but well worth the effort.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Recently, at the Cwmbran Swiss Teams, Chris Chowney & I were lying fifth. We had to play the Hackett Twins, Justin & Jason, the only British players in the top 50 World Rankings. This is what we had come for!

They declared 3NT played by West after 1H, P, 2C, P, 3NT. Partner leads the 6D and

Dummy
♠Q8
♥85
♦KT2
♣AT8543

You
♠9743
♥AKJ2
♦73
♣K96

Declarer wins with the QD and plays the QC. Partner plays the 2 & Dummy the 3. What do you play?

The number of times I've played small in this position (to supposedly give Declarer a problem?) – so I did again.

Wrong!!! & 3NT makes.

Let's rewind. In Teams play, the defence plays to get the contract down, even if this means giving up a trick in the process.

Let's look at that QC again.

Partner has played the 2C. He could have J72, which means this QC is a singleton and partner can make the J if Dummy leads them. We can, therefore, make two Club tricks.

I've got two Heart tricks, so if partner has a Spade trick? Bingo – it can't make. We therefore play the KC on the QC, cash our two H tricks (declarer can't run his Hearts as we have the J2) and lead a Spade. This is the full deal –

♠KJ2	
♥T9	
♦J9865	
♣J72	
♠AT65	♠Q8
♥Q7643	♥85
♦AQ4	♦KT2
♣Q	♣AT8543
♠9743	
♥AKJ2	
♦73	
♣K96	

Lesson: count your winners, or potential winners, in Defence – to beat the contract.

Other Observations. If partner's 2C was a singleton (or doubleton), Declarer has Qx or Qxx, and will lead them again & set up the Clubs. We can see that Dummy can be accessed via the QS & the KD, so can then run the Clubs and make the contract.

Stephen Booth

COUNTY MATTERS by Peter Watts



The Journey Begins – Jutta Shadford, Pat Jenkins and squad leader Peter Watts prepare to set off for Exeter.

In February, the Western league match against Avon ended with 2 defeats for the A & B teams and a victory for the C team. In March, we had the reverse with wins for the A & B teams and a defeat for the C team against Devon. The results leave the County around mid-table in all Divisions, but convincing wins in the last two sets of matches against Dorset (April) and Cornwall (May) could see moves into the top half of the respective leagues.



Pre-match team talk – Peter Watts, Steve Booth and Richard Croote

Outside formal County matches, Ben Britton, Mike Ralph, Chris Chowney and Steve Booth finished a creditable 7th in the recent Cwmbran Congress, with one victory over a team including the Hackett twins and Artur Malinowski. Alice Kaye just failed to make the Lady Milne team (England Ladies), which competes for the Home International Championship. She and her partner from Yorkshire are first reserves after the English Trials. County Training continues on the last Wednesday of each month with new players will introduced where possible. This year the

the sessions are more competitive as results will help to determine this year's Tollemache team.

County Competition Results

National Pairs Qualifier

- 1 Dave Weller & Ben Britton
- 2 John Thacker & Mike Ralph
- 3 Jutta Shadforth & Evie Whitfield

No Fear Teams

- 1 Neville Shorrick, Colin Sandy, Sylvia White, Brian Poole
- 2 Evie Whitfield, Janet Davies-Jones, Janet Dowdle, Rosie Wilson
- 3 Jutta & Tony Shadforth, Richard Manuel, Keith Ray

Swiss Pairs

- 1 Ben Britton & David Brown
- 2 John Crowe & Pam Crisp
- 3 Bob Underhill & Peter Bellamy

Mixed Pairs

- 1 Derrick & Sue Munday
- 2 Peter Watts & Gisela Ogden
- 3 Bob Underhill & Liz Drew

Club Teams of 8

- 1 Hereford: George Richardson, Steve Booth, Mike Ralph, Ben Britton / Paul Smith, Robin Lewis, Chris Chowney, Peter Watts
- 2 Wyeside: Carol Brown, Albert Brown, Sarah Weller, Dave Weller / Bob Underhill, Peter Bellamy, Gisela Ogden, Liz Drew
- 3 Ledbury: June Homes, Janet Holder, Pam Crisp, John Crowe / Steve Clegg, Martyn Moxley, Derrick & Sue Munday

Inter-Club Teams of 4-Current Leaders

- 1 Wyeside B
- 2 Fownhope C
- 3 Ross



Teams gather in Ledbury's Community Hall for Round Four of the County's most popular event, the Inter-club Teams of 4, brilliantly organized and run by John Thacker

NEXT EVENT - MARCH 27th
CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS - TARRINGTON

AN UNEXPECTED RESULT

Just as in real life, in bridge the truth is very often stranger than fiction. Had Victor Mollo contrived to concoct this deal in one of his books, people would have assumed that he had become far too eccentric and that he should return to planet Earth as soon as possible.

Imagine that you pick up the following hand vulnerable against not in a team-of-four match in the Cheltenham Bridge club 'A' division.

♠ J 4 2 ♥ J 7 ♦ A Q ♣ A K 7 6 5 3

The opponents are playing a strong NT and your RHO opens 1♦. You venture a bid of 1NT which your LHO doubles! Now, most players would retreat hurriedly into 2♣, but you are made of sterner stuff! Backing your faultless judgement you pass: you then win the diamond lead with the queen and proceed to cash six clubs to go with your two diamond tricks for eight in total and +380! You note that your opponents were able to take the first nine tricks on a major suit lead for +80. Then, you see that they are absolutely lay down for 4♥; so you mentally chalk up a score of something between +11 IMP (170+380) to +13 IMP (420+380).

So how could you possibly **LOSE** 15 IMP on the board? Well, the full story of what transpired in room two is as follows:

♠ A 8 5
♥ A Q 9 6
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ Q 8

♠ 10 9 7 6 3
♥ 2
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ J 10 2

♠ J 4 2
♥ J 7
♦ A Q
♣ A K 7 6 5 3

♠ K Q
♥ K 10 8 5 4 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ 9 4

N	E	S	W
1NT	X	XX	2♣
X	P	P	XX
All pass!			

I expect you would like an explanation of this bidding sequence? OK, let's go, but buckle your seatbelts!

The double of 1NT (12-14) showed a single suited hand and required partner to transfer to 2♣ after which East would pass with clubs or remove to his actual suit. South's redouble confused the issue somewhat as East/West were a little unsure as to how to progress the auction from here. Anyway, West decided to ignore the redouble and he continued the sequence by bidding 2♣ as instructed. North made what he thought was a takeout double but South assumed it was intended to be for penalties. East then passed as did South. The spotlight now moves to poor West, now in a right pickle!

Pretty certain that his partner had a Heart suit, he assumed that East had passed 2♣X to cater for the possibility that West himself was holding a long club suit: so West now redoubled to enable his partner to emerge from the bushes and show his actual long suit but, though he had no idea what was going on, East passed. South was now convinced that his opponents were in dire straits, hence 2♣XX became the final contract.

Of course, 2♣ cannot be defeated on any defence, but North led a diamond to the Queen and King. Now, when the defence attempted to cash two heart tricks West was able to ruff and advance the club jack. When this was covered he could unblock the diamond ace and return to hand with the club 10 to claim two overtricks for a very handsome 1560 points giving a net gain of 1180 and 15IMPs! **Tony Truluck**

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

The last BGB Sims suffered from the snow, but congratulations to the following local club winners:

Hereford - Mike Ralph & John Thacker

61.25%

Ross - Janet Miles & Frances Nightingale

59.53%

Ledbury - Martyn Moxley & Neville Shorrick

66.35%

The Birches - Richard Cottam & Peter Landau

66.82%

As a student, I used to play weekends during the season at Newmarket. After one particularly long session, a venerable member of the racing fraternity approached me brandishing his chequebook. When I asked for an explanation he announced that as we had been playing for money he owed me my winnings. Some £800, a fortune at the time for an impecunious student! I refused the cheque. Surprised at my response, I offered an explanation. Unaware that we had been playing for money, I was honour bound to reject my good fortune. I would have been unable to pay any loss to my opponent had he been the winner.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Latest Promotions (Jan – Feb 2010)

Life Master

Mrs P J Crisp

National Master

Wg.Cdr N Shorrick

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr S Booth

9 Star Regional Master

Mrs J Homes

8 Star Regional Master

Mrs J B Holder

9 Star Premier Master

Mr M J Lane

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs J Baker

3 Star Master

Mrs S Shore

2 Star Master

Mrs S Weller

1 Star Master

Mr D C Rex

Mrs E D Richards

Master

Mr R Cottam

Mr R Ellis

County Master

Mr P L Flagg

Miss LF Gregg

Mr H E Hardy

Mr S Martin

District Master

Mrs C Kinmond

Mrs DJ Woods-Humphery

Mr R L Manuel

County Master

Mr S Martin

Mr H E Hardy

Mr P L Flagg

Miss LF Gregg

Area Master

Mr M Wilkins

Local Master

Mr K C Blackburn

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

What's the best way to fold a traveller?

So the score doesn't show!

What's least used bid in your system?

Pass!

How's this for a bizarre bidding sequence?

P - P - INT - 2H - P - 1S (insufficient bid - accepted!) - 1NT - 2H - X - 2S - 2NT 150 on traveller for 2NT + 1!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE PRINCIPLE OF RESTRICTED CHOICE

Suppose you are faced with the following and need to make all tricks:-

Dummy (north) A 10 x x x

Declarer (south) K 9 x x

Assuming you have no information from the play or bidding, how do you proceed?

With 4 cards missing, the odds are slightly in favour of playing for the 2/2 split. Most of the time, but not always!!

You shouldn't play for the 2/2 split if the following happens:-

You play the K, West plays x and East plays either the Q or J.

You then play x from the South hand and West again plays low. You should take the finesse. Do **not** play for the 2/2 split.

The logic behind this is that there are 16 possible combinations of the four missing cards. The only ones that are relevant in this scenario are where East holds either QJ, Q or J. As you can see, it is twice as likely that he has a singleton.

The old adage 'Eight ever, Nine never' doesn't apply in this case. And the rule is that if one opponent comes up with an honour, his partner is twice as likely to have the adjacent honour. There are many more card combinations where the principle can be applied.

John Crowe

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

I was very new to bridge, and so naive. When paired with "The Dragon" at the Christmas Party, after the first hand had been scored, we attempted to bid the next. When asked what system we played, my partner responded: "One of us is playing Acol!" I didn't realise what an insult it was, not even when the opponents were left gasping!

I was once playing against Hackett Snr. My partner had miscounted aces and given the wrong Blackwood response to reach a grand slam. I had 2 small hearts in my hand and a singleton club. When dummy went down 2 almost as small hearts appeared - 2 certain losers. Hackett on lead thinks for a long while and leads - a trump! I draw trumps and throw the losing hearts on AKQ of clubs in partner's hand and claim. Hackett's partner is left holding the babies - Ace and King of hearts!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

A SALUTARY LESSON

During last Tuesday's teams at Hereford we played a hand that brought up a number of DO NOTS!!

The hands were:-

N. ♠6 ♥A103 ♦KJ98764 ♣Q8
S. ♠Q109875 ♥- ♦105 ♣A10976
E. ♠A432 ♥K854 ♦32 ♣K32
W. ♠KJ ♥QJ9762 ♦AQ ♣J54.

South opened 2S...West can hardly pass although short of controls and bids 3H...North bids 3D...East really only has a raise to 3H but bids 4H (which should not make and which our team-mates defeated by one trick)...Now South takes the first horrible action on the board by bidding 4S after preempting...East doubles and should collect 500.....This is passed to North who makes another horrible bid by bidding 5D...West doubles and can collect 800.

Now it's the turn for the defence to misbehave..... East leads a heart so now the contract can only go two down...A trump is led from dummy and West pops up with the A...West now thinks this is the prime time to make a deceptive lead since partner can not possibly be mislead...(Can he?!)...and leads JS expecting North's distribution to be 0382....However North turns up with a spade and now East on lead places West with a singleton(!?) and returns a spade so that 5Dx makes for +750 for a gain of 12 IMPS instead of a loss of 11 IMPS.....Disaster for EW when it should have been a disaster for NS!

The three main lessons to be learnt from this hand are....

1. Always preempt to the limit of your hand at the first opportunity.....if you have not bid at a high enough level, do not try to improve the situation by bidding again.
2. If you have a misfit with partner, the best bid if you suspect you have less than the balance of points is pass.
3. If you are thinking of playing a deceptive card in defence, make sure that it is not going to be partner who is deceived.....I thought my JS passed this test!!!!

John Griffiths

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Do make use of the County Website and make constructive criticisms.

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

LONDON BUSES

You know the saying: you're waiting for one for ages, and then two turn up at once. Looking for a suitable hand, I was trying to explain Splinters to my less experienced friends.

This was the hand:

♠AK7	♠Q93
♥A8732	♥K9654
♦9	♦A754
♣J642	♣7

Pass - 1H - 4H and on 21 HCP twelve tricks roll in!
Suggested auction: P-1H-4C-4D-4H-4NT . . . 6H

The very next hand – would you Adam-and-Eve it?

♠A1065	♠Q9
♥K752	♥AJ7
♦---	♦1043
♣KQ532	♣AJ864

1C – 3C – 5C

I'd suggest (if you aren't playing Inverted Minor Raises) 1C-3C-4D. The slam isn't cold, but the SK and the HQ: one of them needs to behave. Both did.

Splinters: easy to remember, and so useful. The key to both slams, and so many others, is the uselessness of the suit opposite the splinter. Everything is working. **George Richardson**

Sports-loving grand daughter: "Where are you going, granny?"

Me: "To sub in a bridge match."

Grand daughter: "How do you get injured Playing bridge?"

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

A QUICK SIMPLE FINESSE CHECKLIST

- 1 Lead from the hand opposite to a card you are trying to promote.
- 2 Missing one honour, use the Finesse or Drop Test – How many cards are missing? – Put the missing honour in the long hand – Will it drop it you play from the top?
- 3 Missing 2+ honours, finesse against the lower one first.
- 4 Do not lead an honour when taking a finesse – unless you have sufficient surrounding cards.
- 5 Retain a finesse position for as long as possible.
- 6 When one opponent has shown up with a critical card, his/her partner is twice as likely to hold the adjacent card in the suit.

A traveller underlining the endless fascination of the game of bridge – try as you might someone will always throw a spanner in the works!

Thanks to all the named contributors. I would also like to thank the following for sending me the titbits slipped anon into this newsletter:
Lili Boddington, Paul Clayburn, John Crowe, Sue Evans, Paul Lewis, John Paterson, George Richardson, Neville Shorrick, Robin Smith
 If I have made a mistake or left something out, then I apologise most humbly.

SOME USEFUL BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

Bidding Box - A device to prevent you from speaking your errors out loud.

Bidding System - A collection of secret agreements which enable two players to reach the wrong contract.

Convention - An elaborately scientific way of reaching the wrong contract.

Major Fit - Declarer's reaction on seeing Dummy.

Opponents - The other three players at the table.

Partner - The ultimate euphemism.

Penalty Double – The drink to drown your sorrows with after a heavy defeat.

Pre-emptive Jump - An important move in defence when partner tries to kick you.

Psyche - Something brilliant when you do it, something idiotic when partner does it, something unsporting when the opposition do it.

Reverse - When partner takes a bid to have the opposite meaning to the one you intended.

Roman Key Card - How the Italian Blue Team used to get into its hotel room.

Signal - A card played by a defender in the vain hope that partner is watching.

Stayman - A convention that gives the opponent information in order to get you down.

Squeeze in the Majors - A painful experience.

Squeeze in the Minors - Almost as painful as being squeezed in the majors.

Suit Preference Signal - A clever card understood by everyone at the table except your partner.

Unusual 2NT - Any time partner bids 2NT and it happens to be the right bid.

(With more than a nod towards Ron Klinger!)

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Any suggestions on how to bid these two hands to the optimum making slam (dealer West)?

♠ AKxx	♠ QJx
♥ KQxx	♥ Jxx
W ♦ AK10x	E ♦
♣ J	♣ AKQ10xxx
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Please send articles, reports, pictures etc for June's newsletter to Evie Whitfield email pewhit@waitrose.com

Address Woodsend/Falcon Lane/Ledbury
 HR8 2JP
 by June 1st 2010