



# Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

## County Bulletin

Issue 41

APRIL 2017

Editor's News

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Editorial	1	<i>I would like to remind everyone about the forthcoming Lady Milne weekend taking place at the Ramada Hotel in Wrexham. This is the annual Women's Home International competition and whilst it will be broadcast live on Bridge Base Online there is no substitute for actually being there to watch the event and mingle with those involved.</i>
Important Message	1	<i>There are some local players in the Welsh team so why not get down there and support them and/or the country of your preference.</i>
Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2	<i>The event takes place on the weekend of 21st-23rd April (the first matches are on Friday evening starting at 7pm). It would be a tremendous boost for the organisers if as many of us as possible were there to watch at the venue.</i>
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This issue includes a short Bidding Test.

The hands are on pages 2 and 3, with a commentary on page 4. You might like to try them out with one of your partners before reading further. There are no marks awarded but it is hoped that you will find the deals interesting and useful

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

It is rare these days for a bridge event to be full. For many years the Jim Davies Swiss teams held by the Heswall club has been one of the most popular events in the County calendar, often reaching the entry capacity as it is well supported by teams from the Merseyside League and members of local clubs. Sadly the Heswall club feel that they will no longer be able to continue to organise the event after this year and are hoping that some other body or person will be able to take on the running of this competition. It would be a shame to see this disappear from the calendar so if you feel that as an individual, a group or as a member of a club committee you would like to offer to take over the organisation of this successful event, please contact Angus Clark or any member of the Heswall club committee - they will be delighted to give you any assistance you require and many players will be enormously grateful to you.

This year's event will be held on June 8th.

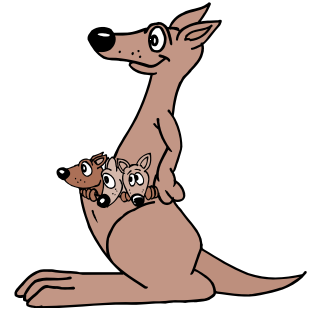
Please make sure that it is not the last one.

# HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer South. E/W vul.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ K Q J 9 ♦ Q 10 8 5 ♣ J 9 8 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 8 5 ♥ 8 6 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ J 9 7 4 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ A J 9 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ A K 10 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 20-22

2. Transfer to spades

3. Cue bid

West led the king of hearts and declarer saw that there would be no problem making 12 tricks if the clubs behaved, so he considered how to overcome a bad break in that suit. After winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, declarer drew three rounds of trumps. He then showed good elimination technique. First he cashed the king of diamonds played a diamond to the ace and ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy. Next he made the textbook play of playing a club to the ace before exiting in hearts, to endplay the defence. If West had won the heart trick he would have had to lead away from his jack of clubs or concede a ruff and discard. If East had won the heart trick and had another club to play it would have been run around to the queen. No matter how many clubs East held declarer would have made the four tricks required for his contract.

WEST Hands			
1. Imps Love All	2. Imps E/W vul.	3. Imps Love All	4. Pairs E/W vul. Dealer West.
Dealer West	Dealer West	Dealer West	South bids 3♦ at their first opportunity
♠ A 6	♠ Q 8 7	♠ Q 6 3	♠ J 9
♥ A K 7 6 3	♥ 9 5	♥ A 6 2	♥ A Q
♦ A Q 6 2	♦ Q J 9 7 4	♦ Q 8 6 4	♦ Q 6 3
♣ K 3	♣ A K 2	♣ A J 8	♣ A K Q 6 5 2

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# Eric Howarth Trophy

by Bob Pitts

This event is our County green-pointed teams competition and yet not even half of the players were Merseyside & Cheshire members, with the other entries coming from most neighbouring areas plus a couple of welcome visitors from Norway. It is a shame that more local players do not support events like this that bring funds into our County.

Clearly Ted Reveley is developing short-term memory loss as he agreed to partner me despite it only being January since our last outing (he normally needs at least a year to get over a session with me). Jean and Dave Keen made up our foursome and we had a good day, despite missing out on first place by only 2 vps.

On this deal Ted found a more successful line than most of the field.

Dealer West. E/W vulnerable

	♠ 8 4	
	♥ Q J 7 4	
	♦ Q 9 5	
	♣ K 10 6 4	
♠ A 7		♠ K 10 9 6 5
♥ K 8 3		♥ A 6 2
♦ A K 10 4		♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ A 8 5 3		♣ 2
	♠ Q J 3 2	
	♥ 10 9 5	
	♦ J 8	
	♣ Q J 9 7	

Not being a regular partnership, as East/West, we avoided the superior contract of five diamonds and settled in the spade game, played by East. The opening lead was a heart, which Ted won in hand with the ace. He then proceeded to ruff three clubs in hand using the high cards in the minors in dummy as entries and cashing the heart king along the way. This gave him the first eight tricks and the king and ace of trumps were enough for the contract. This line seems to require a good club break but even if North has less than four clubs this line still has excellent chances. At the other table declarer was less inspired and drifted one off, in fact the only other plus scores our way in the whole event were another four spade contract making and a pair sanely playing in five diamonds.

## EAST Hands

1. Imps Love All	2. Imps E/W vul.	3. Imps Love All	4. Pairs E/W vul. Dealer West.
Dealer West	Dealer West	Dealer West	South bids 3♦ at their first opportunity
♠ K 8 5 3	♠ K J 5	♠ A K J 5 2	♠ A K 8 7 6 5
♥ 5 4	♥ J 10 8	♥ K J 8 7 3	♥ K J 7 4
♦ K J 8 7 3	♦ A K	♦ A	♦ void
♣ Q 6	♣ J 10 7 5 4	♣ Q 6	♣ 10 8 3

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**Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association**

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All of the club contacts are available on  
the County website

## Calendar

All events here are correct at time of publishing but you are advised to take the precaution of checking with the organisers in all cases.

April

21st-23rd Lady Milne (Women's Home International) Wrexham

May

4th Merseyside League pairs MBC

21st John Armstrong trophy (Swiss pairs) MBC

27th/28th Match v Dublin

June

7th Liverpool Open Pairs LBC

8th Jim Davies Swiss teams Wirral BC

27th Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs Deva BC

July

15th President's Cup Manchester BC

18th Liverpool Open Teams LBC

## Bidding Test

### Deal 1.

This came up in one of the semi-final matches of the Merseyside League's knockout event. At one table the East-West pair quickly reached three no-trumps after West began with a two no-trump opener, as I suspect many of you will. At the other table, West opened with a strong one club and East could show that he held 8-10 hcp with five diamonds headed by one of the three honours. Asking bids were available and West could discover that his partner had 2nd round control of spades and 3rd round control of both of the other suits, making the diamond slam a great prospect, especially as a transfer response had made the strong hand the declarer - helpful if the club control is a doubleton and not the queen. With trumps 2-2, twelve tricks were easy.

### Deal 2.

Many bidding tests include one of these. You have a combined 25hcp, but no game makes. This came up in a WBU multiple teams event, the Webber Cup. West usually played 3NT and on the lead of the spade nine, South knew to win the ace and switch to a heart from A x x x for a quick two off, but some defenders managed to let it through!

### Deal 3.

Any slam needs to be played from the West hand with six hearts having good chances. In a recent Merseyside League match, East/West managed this task easily, when East decided to respond to West's weak no-trump opening by transferring to hearts! When West completed the transfer, East jumped to three spades intending it as natural, though West seemed less sure. Cue bids in the minor suits got them to the heart slam the right way up avoiding the killing club lead. On a diamond lead, declarer could cash two top hearts (both following) and then discard his clubs on the run of the spades, eventually ruffing a club in hand with the defenders powerless.

### Deal 4.

As it is pairs scoring, no doubt many of you will reach the spade slam, which is an easy make as trumps are 3-2 (as long as you don't take two finesses in the trump suit against North. The key is to reach the grand slam in clubs but did you manage that? And would you have done so at the table where it counts? Of the eighteen tables at the North Wales Congress pairs last weekend, there were only two pairs in the spade slam and three making six clubs with an overtrick. Everyone else stopped in game.

Playing in a recent Congress, a player who many moons ago was one of my Mathematics students put down as dummy :

♠ 5 4

♥ A J 4

♦ 9 4 2

♣ A 8 5 3

and remarked to everyone, look I've got a Fibonacci sequence in the club suit.

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## Dare you Duck?

by Bob Pitts

You are playing in a multiple teams event and hold ♠ J 10 6 4 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ K Q 5 2. There are three passes to you and as you are playing five-card majors, a strong no-trump and a short club opener, you have to start with one club. Left-hand opponent overcalls one diamond and your partner bids one spade. A two spade bid appears on your right and on enquiry you are informed that it shows a good raise in diamonds. You bid the obvious three spades which is followed by two passes. Right-hand opponent is still there however and puts the four diamond bidding card on the table, which becomes the final contract, partner leading the three of spades. This is what you see:

♠ A	
♥ 9 7 2	
♦ J 7 6 5 2	
♣ A J 9 4	
	♠ J 10 6 4
	♥ A Q 6 5
	♦ 10
	♣ K Q 5 2

The lead is won perforce in dummy and declarer leads a small heart towards his hand. You win the ace and return a spade to the queen, partner's king and a ruff in dummy. Declarer now plays a diamond to the ten, ace and queen. After cashing the heart king, he ruffs another spade in dummy, a heart in hand and exits with a trump, which your partner wins with the king. Partner plays a small club but you are marked with both honours in that suit and declarer needs you not to hold the ten, so inserts the nine from dummy and you are endplayed to lead a club into the ace-jack, or give a ruff-and-discard. Contract made.

Could you do better? Well clearly you must get partner in twice to lead clubs through the dummy, so you have to hope he has the jack of hearts. Back to trick 2 and you must duck the ace of hearts. Even if declarer is sneaky and crosses to dummy with a spade ruff to lead another heart you must steel yourself to play low again, after all giving away an overtrick if declarer started with K J doubleton should not be a disaster. Once partner gains the lead in hearts he will see the need for a club switch

The full deal :

Dealer South. N/S vulnerable

	♠ A	
	♥ 9 7 2	
	♦ J 7 6 5 2	
	♣ A J 9 4	
♠ K 9 8 3 2		♠ J 10 6 4
♥ J 8 4 3		♥ A Q 6 5
♦ K Q		♦ 10
♣ 10 6		♣ K Q 5 2
	♠ Q 7 5	
	♥ K 10	
	♦ A 9 8 4 3	
	♣ 8 7 3	

At the other table E/W were one off in three spades so not finding the duck cost 6 imps; your side lost 2 imps rather than gaining 4 imps if you defeat four diamonds.