



# Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin

Issue 47

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Editor's News

## Inside this issue:

Editor's News	1
Eric Howarth trophy by Bob Pitts	1
Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2
Guard Squeeze by Bob Pitts	3
Calendar	3
Frustration by Bob Pitts	4

*Last year we were fortunate to have the Ladies Home International tournament (the Lady Milne trophy) taking place locally as the event was held in Wrexham. In May we again have International bridge on our doorstep as the Senior Camrose is being held at the Beaufort Park Hotel near Mold on the weekend of 18th-20th May. Rather than watch on BBO why not take a day out to go and watch (free) at the venue. If you go on Saturday you could take in the delights of Mold market first, perhaps have some lunch (I can particularly recommend both Glasfryn and the Fat Boar) and then go and watch some Bridge and chat to the players (not whilst they are playing of course). After all, who wants to stay at home and have to choose between watching a boring FA cup final or seeing some couple getting married. Of course on the Sunday you will want to play in the John Armstrong trophy taking place at the Deva BC.*

## Eric Howarth Trophy

by Bob Pitts

M&CBA hold 3 green pointed events each season. The Waterworth Cup in December is our County pairs event and acts as our qualifier for the Corwen trophy, the national County pairs competition. There are 2 Swiss events, the John Armstrong trophy which is for pairs and the Eric Howarth for teams of four. The turn out for this latter event this year was **dreadful** with only 6 teams entering, 2 of those being foursomes based in North Wales. Where were you all? I know the weather had not been great but it was no problem to travel on that day. With support like this the County will lose money holding such competitions and thus their future could be in doubt. Please come and support the County and let's have lots of entries for the John Armstrong event in May.

Tournament director David Stevenson was keen to maintain the Swiss format so that everyone would have the chance of earning masterpoints. Whilst this was a sensible move it did not do my team any favours as we won our early matches and so played the same opponents in the second session as in the first, never playing either of the teams that finished in the bottom 2 places. However, it did not matter as my partner Ted Reveley and team-mates Dave and Jean Keen played magnificently and we won comfortably.

I backed myself into a corner on this early hand ♠ K Q 9 2 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ void ♣ A Q 10 9 3. After two passes, my right-hand opponent opened one diamond. I doubled and this was raised to two diamonds on my left. Two passes back to me. Why I could not find a green card in my bidding box I don't know but I decided on a second double, even though I was about an ace light for this action. Redouble on the left and back to me again. Help!!! I decided Ted would have baled me out if necessary so I eventually passed - one off! Ted had the heart king and 6 diamonds to the K J. Lucky me.

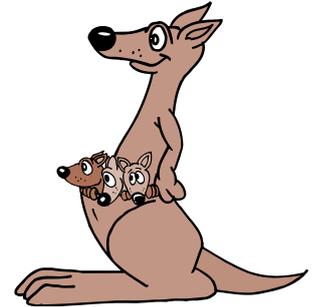
Dave Keen was laughing about one hand. His opponents bid to 7NT and he was looking at the club ace, however he was not on lead and as a double would have asked for the lead of dummy's first suit (diamonds) he passed. It was then pointed out to him he actually was on lead. At least he had no problems selecting which card to play.

# HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer North. E/W vul.

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



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West began with the ace and king of hearts. Declarer ruffed the second round and drew trumps in three rounds throwing a heart from the table. Declarer saw that he would always have ten tricks if either diamonds were 3-2 or West had the ace of clubs, so he considered what could be done if neither of these possibilities materialised. He saw that the best hope in such circumstances was for East to hold the club queen. Accordingly he crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and led a low club towards his hand.

East rose with the queen of clubs and led a third heart. Declarer ruffed and played the jack of clubs which East won with the ace (South was happy to see that East held that card as well). East continued with the hearts; declarer ruffed in hand and threw the three of diamonds from dummy. Declarer was later pleased to find that the diamonds broke 4-1 and his precautions had been necessary. He made six spade tricks, three diamonds and a club.

Note that nothing is lost by this approach of not playing a second diamond even if West turns up with the queen of clubs. You can still have the original chances of the ace of clubs being onside or diamonds being 3-2. The danger of playing a second diamond before leading a low club can be seen by just transferring the ace and queen of clubs to West. West could take the queen of clubs and play a third round of diamonds, making the king of clubs unreachable : West would make a heart, two clubs and a diamond.

## John Armstrong Trophy - County Green Pointed Swiss pairs

This popular event takes place on Sunday May 20th at the Deva BC.

Two sessions £40.00 per pair. Bring your own food.

Entries to : Liz Stevenson 0151 677 7412 email [liz1@blakjak.uk](mailto:liz1@blakjak.uk)

# Guard Squeeze

by Bob Pitts

Simple squeezes where one defender is subjected to pressure are quite common, though not always spotted at the table. One of the rarer ones is the guard squeeze. In this one defender has to protect one suit (or occasionally two) whilst having to retain a holding elsewhere to assist their partner in protecting another suit. Here is an example from this year's trials to select the Welsh Bridge Union's Senior team.

Dealer South N/S vul.

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

South opened with one heart and a splinter bid from North encouraged South to punt the slam. East had doubled the diamond splinter so West began with that suit. Assuming two diamond ruffs in the dummy, declarer could see an obvious 11 tricks and to obtain a twelfth he needed a third spade trick, so a 3-3 break in the suit or K or K x of spades on-side would be required. Alternatively, something might be made of the clubs and he could see that the two possibilities could be combined.

Declarer won the lead with the ace and ruffed a diamond in dummy. He followed with a small club, but East wisely ducked and declarer ruffed in hand. Another diamond was ruffed in dummy and a second club ruffed in hand (no ace appearing yet). South now cashed the heart ace hoping for a singleton jack to appear that would set up an extra entry to dummy to ruff another club. When that did not materialise the trump suit was run and this was the situation as the penultimate trump was played.

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

If West threw a spade then declarer could establish the twelfth trick there, but a club discard would permit declarer to take the spade finesse and lead the club king, pinning the remaining honour in the West hand to promote the club nine. West was squeezed out of his helpful guard in clubs.

**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.

May

18th-20th	Teltscher trophy (Seniors Camrose)	Mold
20th	John Armstrong trophy (GP Swiss pairs)	Deva BC

June

6th	Liverpool Open Pairs	LBC
21st	County AGM	MBC
26th	Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs	various clubs inc. Deva BC
30th	President's Cup	

July

14th	Northern Bridge League round 1	
17th	Liverpool Open Teams	LBC

August

11th	Northern Bridge League round 2	
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## Frustration

*by Bob Pitts*

One of the most frustrating things that can happen in this game occurs when the opposition stop low and you protect, but nudge them into a game that they had failed to reach under their own power. This was certainly the case here though declarer had to play carefully to succeed.

*Dealer West N/S vul*

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

West opened one diamond which was passed around to South who had a routine call with one spade. Now West was back in there with two hearts and over North's spade raise, East's invitational three hearts was accepted by West. A spade was led and South won and continued the suit, declarer ruffing with the seven of hearts. Clearly to make the heart game both red suits must divide favourably, but once the third round of diamonds is conceded West might get forced again in spades. The solution is simple, on the third round of diamonds a spade is thrown from the East hand so that if spades are continued the ruff can be taken in the dummy. As long as declarer has not played more than two rounds of trumps before attacking diamonds, a top heart is the entry to the West hand to cash the diamond winners.

*Further to the Editorial - the North Wales Bridge Association need volunteers to work at the Senior Camrose as BBO operators. This is an enjoyable way to watch the game and the experts will train you so there is nothing to worry about. The more that volunteer the less taxing it will be so go on..... get involved.*

*Check out the North Wales BA website for more information.*