



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

County Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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A Message from the Editor

Inside this issue:

Message from the Editor	1
Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2
President's Cup report by Bob Pitts	3
County Leagues	4
Calendar	4

I have been considering for some time whether the County newsletter should be revived, but I was unsure how keen the membership would be for it to return. I would welcome your views. In the past it was intended that the newsletter would be sent out with the bi-monthly copies of English Bridge and that often caused problems. There were difficulties both with circulation and getting sufficient copy for 6 issues per year. I hope that I will be able to circumvent these past problems. Initially, I would like to produce 4 issues of the Newsletter each year, but there may be more if there is a lot to include, as I don't want each newsletter to run to more than 4 pages. Another change that I am proposing is that in this new format, the newsletter will only be sent out via the internet, thus involving no production costs for the County. Copies will be emailed to individuals who request it and there will be a copy available on the County website to download. Also all club secretaries will be emailed a copy which they can print off for their members or otherwise use as they wish.

I currently put the major results in the County News section of English Bridge, but they have a restriction on how much detail I can include and whilst the County website is more comprehensive, I want the newsletter to go further and include the results of ALL of your club's major events – so please send me all of your information – I would love to publish your hands, as well as mention your club's results and forthcoming events.

I need some interesting hands for future issues, especially if it has occurred in a county event or a congress, but every deal you send me will be given consideration. I am sure you would all much prefer to see me write about hands sent in by the readership than have to suffer my personal musings in every issue.

Two regular features will be included – I intend to revive the Seven Deadly Bridge sins section, which first appeared some years ago. It will hopefully focus on aspects of the game where players do the wrong thing without realising why. There will certainly be a lot more than seven articles – especially if you all help by contributing your own ideas. Also each newsletter will include an instructive deal from 'Down Under'. Tim Bourke has for many years been a leading player in Australia and is one of its most respected writers about the game. He has published many books on Bridge including some co-written with the great Terence Reese and I am pleased that he has allowed me to reproduce some of his articles for you all to read.

LADY CONNELL

TROPHY

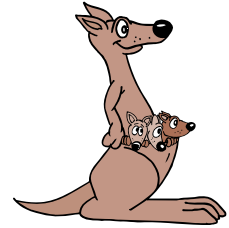
Have you organized your team for entry into the major County teams event? Green points, a consolation event and a chance to represent the County in the Pachabo Cup if you win – how much better could it be?

**Heats at Merseyside,
Liverpool and Deva.**

**See the Calendar for
dates**

A HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

By Tim Bourke



Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
All Pass			

After North's splinter-raise of hearts, two cue bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood followed and South bid the good slam in hearts. West led the queen of diamonds, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer considered the two possible plans. One line was to draw trumps and take the two black suit finesses, making the slam whenever East held at least one of the black kings. However, instead, he decided to rely on an elimination play. He drew the trumps with the ace, then cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Next he crossed to dummy with a trump and led a spade to the nine. West was able to win his jack of spades but then had either to play a black suit into one of declarer's black suit tenaces or, alternatively, to lead a diamond and see declarer discard a club from table while ruffing in hand; then, dummy's remaining club would disappear on the ace of spades. Of course, if East played the ten or jack of spades on the first round of the suit then declarer would cover it with the queen of spades. Whenever West was able to take this with the king, he would find himself similarly endplayed, as the ace and nine of spades would form a tenace around the ten of spades.

PRESIDENT'S CUP REPORT

The President's Cup is an annual all-weekend teams-of-eight event held in July. Counties from North England and the Midlands as well as North and mid-Wales are invited to participate. Whilst the event is organized by our County, the venue moves around the participants. This year it was Cumbria's turn and they held it at the Eden BC in Carlisle. The turnout was a disappointing 7 teams, when 11 or 12 is the norm, which was a shame as the hosts laid on excellent food and a constant supply of beverages – certainly some of the best catering I have received at a County match. After a slow start, we took the lead during the final session, only to be overtaken at the last gasp by Manchester. Despite that it was a wonderful weekend and thanks to all the team as well as David and Liz Stevenson who were running the event. The team was Dave & Jean Keen, Alan Stephenson, Stuart Mathews, Chris Pope, Andy Prothero, Colin Humphrey, Mike Swanson, Peter Broster, Bob Pitts

There were few interesting play hands, with most of the swings coming in the bidding, so here is the hand that caused me to think the longest. It did not help that it was the penultimate board of the Saturday night session and against erstwhile teammates (so you definitely want to come out on top).

You hold ♠ A J 7 5 4 ♥ A 6 ♦ void ♣ A K 8 6 5 2

Your side only are vulnerable and your right-hand opponent opens 3♥. You double and left-hand opponent bids 3♠ which is passed back to you. This sounds like a psyche on your left, especially suspicious as the perpetrator is Paddy Murphy. You double again to flush him out and he retreats to 4♦. Partner now helps out by bidding a natural 4♠ and you feel confident enough to jump to 6♠ (lazy but it was getting late). But...the bidding is not over as Paddy now bids 7♥ and this is passed back to you. The question is, should you bid on? Has partner got both spade honours and will he be able to set up the clubs without losing a trick. From the bidding everyone is likely to have a distributional hand and you should not bid grand slams without being pretty certain I will make, but it is very tempting. In the end, after much thought, wrongly I wimped out and doubled - the full deal was:

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

I cashed the club king and underled my spades to obtain a diamond ruff. +800 but not as good as a vulnerable slam (small or grand). Fortunately neither of the opponents N/S pairs had got past game, so we profited anyway eventually winning the match 20-0

Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

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It is not too late to enter for
the
Merseyside League – the
BEST regular teams
competition in the County.
Contact Earl O’Keeffe on
01704 831089 or
earlokeeffe@yahoo.co.uk

GO ON !!

**YOU KNOW THAT
YOU WANT TO**

DON’T MISS THE
ANNIVERSARY TEAMS AT
MERSEYSIDE B.C ON
SEPTEMBER 5TH

CHECK ON THEIR WEBSITE FOR
MORE DETAILS

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.

September

3 rd – 5 th	Bolton Congress	Bolton
5 th	Anniversary Teams	Merseyside BC
13 th /14 th	EBU simultaneous pairs	Clubs (MBC 13 th)
23 rd	Lady Connell heat	MBC – 7:30pm
24 th	M&CBA Executive meeting	Deva BC

October

5 th	Lady Connell heat	LBC – 7:30pm
8 th	Lady Connell heat	Deva BC – 7:30pm
9 th	Northern Counties League Round 4	
13 th /14 th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs (MBC 13 th)
17 th	Chester Bowl – charity pairs	Deva BC

November

14 th	Waterworth Cup (open pairs)	Merseyside BC
15 th	‘Children in Need’ sim. pairs	Merseyside BC
20 th /21 st	Tollemache Qualifier	
27 th /28 th	Llangollen Swiss Teams	Llangollen

December

5 th	Merseyside Cup (swiss teams)	Merseyside BC
28 th -30 th	EBU Year End Congress	Blackpool/London

January 2011

8 th /9 th	Manchester Congress	Renaissance Hotel
10 th /11 th /12 th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs (MBC 10 th)
15 th /16 th	Chester Congress	Deva BC
28 th	M&CBA Executive meeting	Merseyside BC

February

6 th	County Trials	Merseyside BC
13 th	Merseyside & Deeside Cup	Merseyside BC
20 th	Jean Keen Trophy	Merseyside BC

Contacts and information

MBC : www.merseybridge.org.uk

LBC : email jo-rogerarnold@talktalk.net

Deva BC : www.bridgewebs.com/deva

Dave Keen : email admin@mcba.org.uk

County website : www.mcba.org.uk

County Leagues

There are County Teams Leagues throughout the country. M&CBA enter teams in our area for the Northern Counties League, which has A, B and C divisions and a junior league. The winners of each division go through to a national final, and whilst the A and B teams have recently struggled in their respective sections, our C team have done us proud. In 2009 they won their division and then finished a creditable 3rd in the national finals. Well done to them and let’s hope they can repeat their success this year. The team for the national final was Cameron Boyd, Geoff Cowie, Earl O’Keeffe, Rob Roberts, Barbara Serres, Gareth Thomas, Ric and Julia Dearing, though other players did take part in the earlier rounds.

If you are interested in taking part – even if for only one of the 4 matches each team plays, then contact Chief selector Dave Keen – he will be delighted to hear from you. And of course.....he would love to