



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

Issue 19

AUGUST 2013

All Change

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Editorial	1	It is a time of changes. Firstly thanks to Jean and Dave Keen who set up and ran the County website for many years and I am sure like me you are grateful for all their hard work. They have handed this responsibility over to Barbara Serres, who I am sure will do an excellent job (see page 4 for the new website address), but do keep her supplied with information and results.
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Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2	There has also been some changes to the selectorial panel for the County. Dave Keen has stepped down from the 'Chair' after a long time in this arduous post, though he will continue to serve as a selector. The new committee have elected John Hampson as the new Chief selector, so please contact him regarding selection issues.
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Northern Bridge League

The first round of the 2013 took place last Saturday. The A team were third out of five in their section, though Manchester have already built up a large lead. In the B section we took first place from a field of eight teams - well done to everyone for that excellent result. Sadly the C team were last in their division, so a day of distinct contrast for our representatives. Even though the teams for the remaining matches have already been selected, sometimes players have to drop out unexpectedly and the selectors would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be available as reserves for the remaining dates (see page 4). In particular they are a pair 'short' for the A team in round 4, so if you can help them please contact John Hampson.

Another change you should note - The Lady Connell trophy is our County teams event. The winners of this become our representatives in the EBU Pachabo Cup. This season there will be no qualifying rounds as there have been previously, instead there will be an open draw and teams will arrange their matches themselves. All entries need to be to Ted Reveley by the end of September (treveley1@btinternet.com).

Get your entries in as soon as possible for the Chester Bowl. This annual pairs event is held at the Deva club and the profits go towards supporting the local community. The field will be limited to 36 pairs - contact organiser Sara Miles 0151 208 9039 email : saramiles67@gmail.com Further information on the Deva BC website.

Congratulations to Deva club member Barry Jones who has just reached the exalted rank of Grand Master. As Barry registers his master points through the Welsh Bridge Union you will not see this excellent achievement noted in the ranking promotions in English Bridge so we are applauding his efforts here.

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

♠ K Q

♥

♦ A J 10 9 5

♣ Q 10 8 7 5 2

♠ 8 5 4 2

♥ K Q J 10 9 4

♦ 7

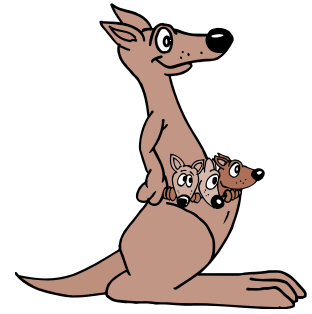
♣ 4 3

♠ J 10 9 7 6

♥ 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ K J 9 6



♠ A 3

♥ A 8 7 6 5 3

♦ K Q 4 3

♣ A

West

North

East

South

2♥

4NT

Pass

7♦

Pass

Pass

Pass

North's overcall promised length in both minors and South went with the odds that it was his partner rather than East who had the void in hearts.

West led the king of hearts against this enterprising bidding. Dummy was somewhat of a disappointment in the club department but at least it had the trump ace! Nonetheless, declarer saw that he would have to set up the clubs if he were to make his contract. He realised that if clubs were 3-3 or the club king was doubleton then almost any plan would work. Declarer looked to protect himself against someone having four clubs to the king with trumps 3-1; then, in order to set up the clubs, he would need four entries to the table—in that case two of them had to be in spades.

So, declarer discard the queen of spades from dummy at trick one and took it in hand with the heart ace. After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer played a low trump to dummy's nine then ruffed a club low, heaving an inward sigh of relief when neither minor suit broke very badly.

Declarer's second entry to dummy was via a low spade to the king and a second club was ruffed with the queen of trumps. Declarer's third entry came about by ruffing the ace of spades with dummy's five of trumps and a third club was ruffed with the trump king, thereby setting up two good clubs in dummy.

All that remained was to ruff a heart with dummy's remaining high trump and claim the contract, pointing at the two club winners left in dummy.

IT NEVER RAINS.....by Bob Pitts

When defending, it is always annoying to have declarer force you to make one play that is to his advantage, but on this deal, West suffered even worse than that.

Dealer East E/W vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♠	Double
Pass	3♣	All pass	

West led the spade ten, which drew the six, three and four. With nothing more appealing spades were continued and declarer won and ruffed his other spade in dummy with the club four. Now the ten of clubs was led and ran round to the queen. Whatever West played at this point would help declarer. A heart would get rid of the loser there and a diamond away from the ace would give away 2 diamond tricks. A spade would give a ruff and discard so West opted to return a club. South won this and played a further round of clubs to draw the last one from East's hand, but what could West discard? A heart would lose the queen and if a diamond was thrown, declarer could lead towards the king and duck on the way back to bring down the ace. So it had to be a spade. Now ace, king and a third heart put West back on lead. He could safely play a spade, but declarer ruffed and led a diamond towards the king to get access to the last heart if West ducked and be presented with 2 diamond tricks if the ace was taken immediately. Sadly for the defence, whilst declarer was out of trumps, West had no further spade to play as he had been squeezed in three suits by the fourth round of clubs.

The Merseyside Bridge League need more teams for next season. This is the major teams league in the County and taking part WILL improve your game. The next season starts in September, so please register for it now with Earl O'Keeffe ear-lokeeffe@yahoo.co.uk

Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

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Club contacts 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.

August

31st Northern Bridge League round 2

September

9th - 13th	EBU simultaneous pairs	Clubs
13th - 15th	MBC Anniversary weekend	Llandudno
14th	Northern Bridge League round 3	

October

7th - 11th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs
12th	Northern Bridge League round 4	
20th	Chester Bowl - charity pairs	Deva BC

November

10th	Merseyside Cup - new format	Deva BC
30th - Dec. 1st	Llangollen Swiss Teams	

You can upgrade

by Bob Pitts

Don't worry, I am not turning to selling mobile phones to supplement my income. I am far more interested in encouraging you to evaluate your hands by means other than just the simple point count. I could provide pages of examples, but instead just let me show you a couple of hands that got me thinking about writing this piece.

Both occurred in the teams event at a recent weekend Congress. On the first hand, my partner held ♠ A 6 4 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A 5 4 2 at Game All, there was a pass on his right, and he also opted to pass, feeling this empty hand had little to recommend it, a decision I fully agree with. His reward was a weak no-trump opening on his left, followed by an optimistic move on his right. The final contract of 2NT went two off for 200 to the good guys. At the other table, the player holding this hand had no qualms about opening a weak no-trump and played there. Not a success; one off and 7 imps to my team.

The second one came soon afterwards, the opening hand being ♠ 10 8 5 ♥ A K J 4 3 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ Q 5. Now whilst this is 14 points, the good five card suit and the two tens make this worth much more than it's 'raw' point count. It is not unusual for players to open 1NT with a five card major, in fact it is becoming more common, but I would treat this hand as a strong no-trump and open 1H, intending to rebid to show 15-17. However our opponent did not see it like this and after he started with 1NT responder had no ambitions beyond a part score. A shame as the hand opposite had the club ace, the three other queens and a couple of nines, so the no-trump game would have rolled in.

Perfect reasoning

by Paul Roberts

How often do you bid a Grand Slam in a competitive auction? Well, my partner Joan Marray managed it in the Jim Davies Swiss teams :

First in hand love all, she held ♠ A K x ♥ K Q x x ♦ void ♣ A Q J x x x and opted to open 1 club. There is a case for opening this 8 playing trick hand with two clubs, but I think one club is better with a two suited hand. Her left hand opponent overcalled one diamond and I bid one heart (guaranteeing at least a five card suit and better than a minimum response). Her right-hand opponent jumped to three diamonds, so she bid four diamonds -agreeing hearts showing first or second round control and some slam interest. After a double on her left, I now bid six clubs.

Showing admirable trust in her partner's bidding, Joan reasoned thus :

"He must have the heart ace and the club king for this jump to slam and in that case we must have a good play for 13 tricks". So she bid the grand slam in hearts, which ended the auction.

I held : ♠ Q ♥ A J 9 x x ♦ Q x x ♣ K x x x so I could run the spade lead to my hand and claim, remembering to say "drawing trumps".
