



# Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

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## Editorial

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For two months every Summer I don't have the time to play any bridge due to work commitments. Sadly this meant that I was not available for the new Bridge4Fun event in June, but not to worry as it was 'sell out' (there was no entry fee) and from what I hear a huge success. Well done to everyone involved, especially Dave and Jean Keen for organising it. You can read all about what went on and see some photos on the County website.

As all of the news is posted on the County website I have begun to doubt if I should continue to call this publication a newsletter, as each issue seems to have more articles and fewer pieces of news. Thus I am considering a change of title and am open to (printable) suggestions. I reckon County Bulletin would be a more accurate title but let me know if you have any good ideas; sorry no prizes for the best suggestion.

### Bridge is different in Ireland! by David Stevenson

In the teams event you pick up ♠ 3 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 5 ♦ J 5 ♣ A Q 10 7 and open two diamonds, showing a weak two bid in either major. There is a double from left-hand opponent and partner passes. You alert and when asked, explain that it shows length in diamonds. RHO thinks for a long time and then doubles! The director is called and he explains it is illegal: she is not impressed; since the pass shows something [diamond length] she thinks she should be allowed to double it. Eventually, having been told her partner will be silenced, and with much grumbling, she passes! She does not seem to realise that this will have the same effect as doubling.

Should I pass? With LHO silenced I think that two hearts is safer and this goes around to RHO who, still grumbling, bids two spades. A look at the whole hand shows the strangeness of the whole affair.

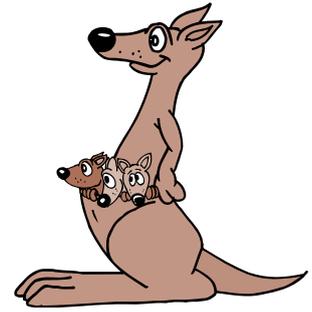
	♠ 10 9 4 2	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ A 10 9 7 4	
	♣ 3 2	
♠ A Q 7 6 5		♠ K J 8
♥ A K 3		♥ J 2
♦ Q 3		♦ K 8 6 2
♣ J 8 6		♣ K 9 5 4
	♠ 3	
	♥ Q 10 9 8 7 5	
	♦ J 5	
	♣ A Q 10 7	

She manages to lose four tricks [not easy when we miss the defensive club ruff] and is still grumbling when we move on to the next hand.

## HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer South. EW vul.



♠ Q 8 6

♥ Q 10 8 6

♦ K J 2

♣ 7 5 2

♠ A K 10 9 5

♥ 2

♦ 10 9 8 4

♣ K 9 6

♠ J 7 4 3

♥ J 4

♦ Q 7 5

♣ J 10 8 3

♠ 2

♥ A K 9 7 5 3

♦ A 6 3

♣ A Q 4

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When this deal came up in a teams match, both tables reached four hearts by South on identical auctions. Both Wests led the king of spades and after their partners indicated an even number of that suit, they each shifted to the ten of diamonds.

The declarer at the first table was more of a card pusher than a card player and tried the jack of diamonds at trick two, which would not have been a fatal move for an expert on this particular layout.\* Declarer took the queen of diamonds with the ace, then drew two rounds of trumps, ending in the dummy. Next he led a club to his queen and West's king (this declarer loved finesses). As there was no way to avoid a further loser in each minor, he finished one down.

South at the second table was in a different class: he hated finesses. This declarer played the two of diamonds from dummy on trick two and after East followed with a low card, he played the three of diamonds from his hand. West continued with a diamond but to no avail. Declarer took this with the ace drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and dummy's queen and ruffed dummy's eight of spades. All of the preparation had been completed and declarer crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds to lead the spade queen on which he discarded the four of clubs. West found himself end-played having to either lead a club or concede a ruff-and-discard; either way declarer had 10 tricks.

\* When East covers the jack of diamonds with the queen, declarer's objective is to keep East off play. Accordingly, he wins the queen of diamonds with the ace, draws trumps and leads the diamond six. If West plays the four, declarer wins with the king and plays a third diamond, forcing West to win the trick and endplay himself. If West plays the nine or eight on the six, declarer lets him hold it. West can exit with a diamond, but this just delays the inevitable. Declarer wins with the king, ruffs dummy's low spade, crosses back to dummy with a heart and throws a losing club on the spade queen. West is endplayed just like the defenders sitting against the second of our declarers.

## North Wales Swiss Pairs Congress....by Simon Whitehouse

Here are two hands from the excellent North Wales Swiss Pairs event, played at Llandudno in early July.

On the diagrammed deal, South bid strongly to be declarer in four spades at almost every table, with a low club lead to follow. East played two top clubs, with South ruffing the second. The diamond suit is "frozen", i.e. whoever opens it first will usually lose the second trick in the suit. The answer to this type of situation is often to try a throw-in against one of the defenders, but here I did not intend to lose another trick so an alternative came to mind. I played the ace then king of hearts and a third ruffed with the spade nine (the one risk is if this is overruffed), trump to queen, ruff the last heart high, trump to king and run the trumps. When the last spade hits the table, declarer retains  $\spadesuit Q 8$ , North has  $\spadesuit A 10 \heartsuit 10$ , West has  $\spadesuit K 9 \clubsuit J$  and must concede the remaining tricks. Making four spades plus two scored a joint top of 92.8%, whereas one overtrick would have been only 46.4%. This squeeze position is not uncommon – I have held the equivalent West hand in the ending several times, usually without declarer recognizing what he could do. Would you, as East, have been good enough to beat the play for 12 tricks by returning a LOW club at trick 2, trusting partner for the jack on his low club lead? I don't think I would have found it!

	$\spadesuit J 9 3 2$	
	$\heartsuit 7 2$	
	$\diamond A 10 5 3$	
	$\clubsuit 10 9 2$	
$\spadesuit 7$		$\spadesuit 10 6$
$\heartsuit 8 5 3$		$\heartsuit Q 10 6 4$
$\diamond K 9 6$		$\diamond J 7 4 2$
$\clubsuit J 8 7 5 4 3$		$\clubsuit A K 6$
	$\spadesuit A K Q 8 5 4$	
	$\heartsuit A K J 9$	
	$\diamond Q 8$	
	$\clubsuit Q$	

On the second hand I held the West cards which were  $\spadesuit A 10 9 8 3 2 \heartsuit Q J 10 6 5 4 \diamond$  void  $\clubsuit 9$ , with North the dealer and the major complication of being vulnerable against not. North opened one diamond and South responded two clubs. At green I might have bid four of a minor immediately (pick a suit partner, and which minor is a good question – wish I had a good answer), but at this vulnerability I merely doubled. North bid 3NT which was passed back to me. The winning action, for a 49% score, is to pass, and as I often criticise partner for not having a green card at relevant times, this is one he can dine out on for a while. We don't see 6-6 hands too often and believing (correctly as it happened) that we might have 9 tricks in a major with very little from partner, I now bid four diamonds, but instead of leading us to a good save in four hearts doubled, it woke up the opposition who needed no further pushing to bid the excellent and unbeatable diamond slam. This was now 13% of the matchpoints and, as we were in the (lower end of) prize list, cost an expensive 2 places. I know six hearts is a good save against six diamonds, but the matchpoints saved had I bid it would have been minimal, and N/S might even have bid 6NT next! (*Despite this deal, Simon and his partner won this match 17-3 - editor*)

Their hands were	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
	$\spadesuit K 5$	$\spadesuit J 7 6$
	$\heartsuit K 2$	$\heartsuit A$
	$\diamond A K Q J 6 5 4$	$\diamond 10 9 7$
	$\clubsuit 10 3$	$\clubsuit A Q J 7 5 2$

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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.

August

15th-17th

Aberystwyth Congress

30th

Northern Bridge League round 2

September

4th

Merseyside League Swiss Teams I

MBC

8th-12th

EBU simultaneous pairs

Clubs

11th

Merseyside League Swiss Teams II

MBC

13th

Northern Bridge League round 3

27th/28th

Green-pointed weekends in Derby, Cumbria &amp; Westmoreland

October

11th

Northern Bridge League round 4

12th

North Wales green-pointed Swiss pairs

Northop

19th

Chester Bowl (charity pairs event)

Deva BC

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF.....by Liz Commins**

A female bridge player,

It all began with the five "T's".

The first four being Tuition, Telling off, Tears and Tantrums.

The first, tuition I hope will continue as long as I play the game and is gratefully received.

The telling off "T" thankfully has all but disappeared though occasionally it rears its ugly head. I am now told that most of my mistakes have elevated themselves to a different level which warrant discussion rather than telling off....PHEW!!!

As a result of this "T3"(tears) and "T4" (tantrums) have abandoned me.

Which brings me to "T" number five "Testosterone" which I refer to as "Mr. T."

I just don't understand?

Where am I going wrong?

No matter how much effort I put in or how hard I try I just cannot keep "Mr T" under control.

I was recently playing in an event and had to call the Director to the table. He appeared at the table and I described the auction to him and explained all of my concerns. He took notes and instructed me to continue with play...me as declarer. At the end of the hand I called him back and asked him to look at the hand as I thought I may have been damaged and off he went to consider the matter.

Finally, the event was over and I was stood with my partner in the playing area when I spotted the Director heading towards us.

At some point during his journey in our direction "Mr T" jumped out of the shadows and launched itself onto this poor unsuspecting male.

The look changed, the walk changed, the eyes became focused, the walk determined

..."Mr T" was on a mission.

At this point I must have become invisible. "Mr T" proceeded to almost push me off my high heels as he barged past me to ask my partner how "she played the hand" and why "she thinks she was damaged"!!

Now, a very strange thing happened ..my partner who as dummy and probably asleep during the play of the hand sprang to life and seemed to lock himself onto the radar of "Mr T" and entwine himself to become enveloped by "The Force". I could see it unfolding before my very eyes! He proceeded in true Mr T fashion to speak on my behalf, the testosterone grinning and weaving itself between the two of them.

At this point T's numbers three and four (tears and tantrums) must have felt sorry for me and to prove to me that I had not completely disappeared and that my new hairdo was not completely wasted decided to pay me a visit. In order to cope with their unexpected return I stormed out hissing and fissing determined that somebody was going to pay for Mr T's terrible behaviour. Needless to say when my partner eventually appeared my wrath was duly vented.

Later that evening we all decided to go out for a meal which involved an approximate thirty minute drive. We were reliant on the Sat. Nav. to get us to our destination. The Sat. Nav. said turn left...the driver went straight on- the Sat. Nav. said turn right...the driver turned left..."Turn around when possible" the Sat. Nav. shouted "Do a U turn"!!

We were getting nowhere and eventually the driver gave up on his own methods and listened to the Sat. Nav. and guess what? We went directly to our destination.

I can only assume that the female voice coming from the Sat Nav had been dismissed as the alien "Mr T" invaded my poor husband who had been driving the car.....BAD BAD MR T!!!!!!

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