



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin

Issue 43

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Editor's News

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European Tales

by Bob Pitts

In the recent European Open Championships, Tracy Capal and her partner David Sherman finished in a superb second place in the EBL Cup in a strong field. They gave me this hand from the event :

Tracy held ♠ K J x x x ♥ x ♦ Q x ♣ K Q 10 x x and her RHO opened one diamond. She overcalled one spade and after a pass on her left David made an unassuming cue-bid of two diamonds. Tracy felt she was minimum in their style so rebid two spades. David continued with three diamonds and not considering her hand worthy of a four club call she rebid three spades. David continued by bidding the opponents suit for a third time, which was doubled on Tracy's right. Tracy bid four spades and David came back with five spades. Tracy needed no further encouragement and bid the slam.

David's enthusiasm was fully justified as he put down ♠ A Q x x x ♥ A J x ♦ x ♣ A J x x and bidding the cold slam was worth a 70% + board.

In the main teams event one player found his methods were inappropriate.

Holding this monster : ♠ A Q J ♥ A J 9 4 3 ♦ A K 10 3 ♣ A the hand in front of him opened a non-vulnerable four hearts. As a double would be for take out he had to bite his lip and collect lots of +50's and lose a bundle ofimps against the three no-trump contract reached at the other table when the pre-emptor was not so ambitious.

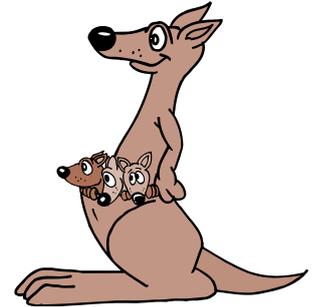
European Open Championships are held every two years - the next is in June 2019. As they are an Open event, perhaps you might consider taking part in it?

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer North. E/W vul.

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



West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West did exceptionally well in the auction by not doubling the final contract. West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer took it with the ace to play a trump. East's discard of a diamond was not a welcome sight, but declarer did not give up. After some consideration he saw that he could make his contract if he could take six tricks in the black suits without West ruffing in.

Accordingly, declarer rose with the ace of trumps at trick two and led a low club to the eight and jack. Next he played the four of spades to his queen and led a second club to the ten and queen. After cashing the club ace, felling West's king, declarer played the ace and king of spades. When West followed to both of these the contract was almost home.

Declarer could see that leading a trump at this point would not succeed. Consequently, instead he called for dummy's two of diamonds, which gave the defenders no suitable countermove. If West had won the trick, he would have had to lead a trump, allowing declarer to make the queen and jack of hearts separately for his ninth and tenth tricks. At the table east rose with the king of diamonds and played another round of the suit. West ruffed low and the jack of trumps in dummy became declarer's ninth trick. Declarer then ducked a round of trumps to West and came to the queen of trumps as his game-going trick.

The Chester Bowl, is an annual charity pairs event organised by the Deva Club. This year it takes place on October 15th. It is a good idea to book early as places are limited. Details are available on the club website.

Oxford Congress Teams

by David Stevenson

Going into the last two boards of the Oxfordshire Congress teams, because a team had come from nowhere with a 20-0 win we needed imps to stay ahead, though we did not know it. While the approach of many people is to try to get things right when they hold the points, and defend well when they do not, Liz and I have a more proactive style. Could we get the imps we needed?

Dealer South N/S vul.

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

At Red (V v NV) I dealt with the South hand and opened a weak no-trump. West bid two no-trumps showing clubs and a major, Liz bid a non-forcing three spades and East bid four clubs. Being minimum I could have passed but with my good spades I thought four spades was worth a try. West bid five clubs which Liz was happy to double, two off, +4 imps, not enough to win the event.

So on to the final board (see over for the deal), needing a fair swing (though again we did not know it). Team-mates made 11 tricks in the obvious three no-trumps, and most people also played in three no-trumps. East opened one club and I was looking at the South hand at Green (NV v V). Some people would bid two diamonds, weak, others might try one diamond. I think that is for wimps so I bid three diamonds! Now the spotlight falls on Liz. West doubled and Liz hoped they would reach a major suit contract so she passed. Three hearts by East, three no-trumps by West, so Liz, despite having seen my pre-empt before, bid four diamonds. Round to West who doubled, and East passed after much muttering, shaking of heads and so forth.

(continues overleaf)

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.

August

19th Northern Bridge League round 2

September

9th Northern Bridge League round 3

12th Andrew Rosebowl (County Mixed pairs) LBC

30th Great Northern Swiss Pairs Leeds

October

4th EBU simultaneous pairs Deva BC

7th Northern Bridge League round 4

8th North Wales Swiss pairs Northop

15th Chester Bowl (Charity pairs) Deva BC

November

25th/26th Llangollen Swiss Teams Llangollen

(from page 3)

Dealer East E/W vulnerable

♠ Q J 8 6 5

♥ K 10 5 2

♦ 8 6 5

♣ 6

♠ K 10 7 4

♥ J 8 3

♦ A K J 4

♣ K 7

♠ A 3 2

♥ A 7 6 4

♦

♣ Q J 10 8 5 2

♠ 9

♥ Q 9

♦ Q 10 9 7 3 2

♣ A 9 4 3

The best defence seems to be to abandon the trump trick and lead ace, king and another diamond for 800. Unsurprisingly West did not – though one round seems obvious. She led the club king, I won and ruffed a club, then led a heart. East panicked, but eventually played low, looking even more panicky when I won my queen. I led a club, West ruffed with the diamond jack and failing to cash her trumps again, led a spade to her partner's ace, spade back ruffed by me, another club, ruffed by West with the trump king. Have they never heard of drawing trumps? Apparently not, heart to partner's ace and now I could get in to lead my last club to be ruffed by West's diamond ace. They got three ruffs, two aces, -300, 8 imps and that was the Oxford Congress Teams.

On both hands the opponents could and arguably should do better. But Liz and I love pressurising opponents since they get things wrong a fair amount of the time!

(David fails to mention that of the 99 pairs taking part he and Liz were 2nd on cross-imping, which is very impressive)

A TALE OF TWO SLAMS (in the Corwen Trophy)

by Paul Roberts

On the first board of session 2 we faced competent opponents who'd had a poor first session.

Holding ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ K Q J 10 6 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 7 5 at love all I opened with a multi two diamonds. Left-hand opponent bid three clubs and partner bid three hearts (willing to play at the 3 level in either major opposite a weak two bid). Right-hand opponent now called six no-trumps. What do you lead? With nothing to go on I led the king of hearts and declarer cashed 13 tricks, six clubs, six diamonds and the ace of hearts. Julian held A K in spades so this was literally a top or bottom hand. Partner had no way of telling me to lead a spade as a double would be Lightner asking for a club and I have no way that I can think of to know to lead a spade.

In session 4 at game all I picked up : ♠ A 9 7 6 4 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ A Q J 9 2 ♣ void

Partner opened one heart, right-hand opponent overcalled one spade and I bid a quite two diamonds (forcing to at least two no-trumps in our methods). With the opponents silent thereafter, Julian bid three hearts (game forcing). So what now?

I decided to bid five hearts. This says that I am not interested in aces but need to know if partner's hearts are good in the light of the bidding so far; certainly requiring two of the top three honours.

Julian bid six hearts and the full deal was:

Dealer North Game All

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

The club ace was confidently led and ruffed in dummy. Julian led a heart at trick 2 and inserted the queen, bringing the jack from his LHO. He crossed with a diamond to the queen and led another trump intending to finesse but the player on his right played the ace and tried a club. Julian won this and could draw the remaining trump having a trick to spare. Not surprisingly this was a near top for us.

(Paul and Julian got a 91.86% board, and in fact making 12 tricks in game was worth 64.31% as several players failed to make the slam, and 2 went off in five hearts!! The Corwen Trophy is the national final for the top pairs of each County - Paul and Julian finished a very creditable eighth out of the 100 pairs that qualified)