



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

County Newsletter



Issue 3

DECEMBER 2010

Editorial

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Each year the EBU issues one free voucher to the County to be awarded at their discretion to a member who in their opinion has in some way contributed significantly to bridge in the County.

It entitles the holder to one free entry to an EBU tournament up to the full value of the Autumn Congress entry for the current season.

If you have anyone who you feel is deserving of this award, please contact County Secretary Angus Clark with your nomination within the next couple of weeks (aandsclark@aol.com)

This is the third issue of the current set of newsletters and I am confident that I will be able to produce them regularly every 2 months, but I still need information from you all, players and organisers, about what is happening in your events. It does not matter whether it is a club duplicate or the Tollemache qualifier (we did not get through to this season's finals), if you find it interesting, then other players might as well.

May I take this opportunity to send everyone all the best wishes for the Festive Season and if you have not decided on a New Year's resolution yet, how about 'I must write something for the County Newsletter'.

Llangollen Swiss Teams

This well-established event has always drawn players from our and neighbouring counties along with all areas of Wales. In recent years there has been a drop in the number of participants and the Llangollen Pavilion was no longer a sensible option. This year it was held instead at the Bryn Howel Hotel and the organisers have to be congratulated on both the new venue and a well designed 2 day format. There were 6 matches of 8 boards each day with a break at halfway. The hotel laid on complimentary food before the start on Saturday (very welcome considering the early Winter weather) and during the break on Sunday. The food was good, plentiful and efficiently served. This combined with smooth, genial organisation allowed an 8pm finish on Saturday and prize-giving just after 6pm Sunday. An event run which was mindful of the needs of the players, how refreshing. This year the limit was 40 teams (actually due to a misunderstanding, 41 teams turned up, but the organisers took that in their stride and soon found space for the extra table). I understand that for 2011 the venue will be the same with a hope to expand to 50 teams; even so you should consider getting your entry in early.

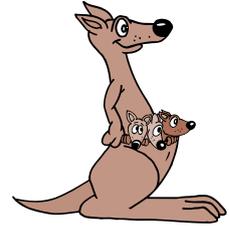
The comfortable winners were Merseyside's Stuart Matthews and Alan Stephenson along with Welsh international team-mates John Salisbury and Mike Tedd. There will be a further report, with some interesting deals in the February issue.

Chester Congress January 15th/16th 2011

At the time of publication, there are still some places available at the Congress for both days. To enter go to the Deva club website www.bridgewebs.com/deva or contact organiser David Armstrong as soon as possible on davidarmstrong959@btinternet.com — don't miss out!!

A HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

By Tim Bourke



Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Double	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

When North failed to bid seven opposite his partner's strong sequence, after being given multiple opportunities to do so, South settled for the small slam. West led the jack of clubs and declarer proceeded to give himself the best chance of making twelve tricks. After ruffing the lead with the ace of trumps, he led the ten of trumps to dummy's jack and ruffed a second club with the king of trumps. After returning to dummy by leading the eight of trumps to dummy's nine and ruffing dummy's last club with the queen of trumps, declarer played the ace of spade followed by a low spade.

As the cards lay, West had to win this trick and found himself endplayed into leading a diamond or a spade into one of South's tenaces or conceding a ruff and discard with a club return. Whichever was chosen, South would have twelve tricks. Of course, if spades had proved to be 3-2, declarer would have discarded dummy's diamond losers on the long spades and ruffed a diamond in dummy. The other easily manageable scenario is when East began with 4 spades to the queen. In that case, declarer would win the diamond return with the ace and cross to dummy with the carefully preserved two of hearts to pick up the spades for 4 tricks. He would make four spades, six trumps, the diamond ace and a diamond ruff.

Look for the 'Snip' by Bob Pitts

In some contracts, especially ones played in no trumps, it can often be necessary for declarer to cut the defenders off from each other. If one of them has a long suit that they are trying to establish, but no outside entry beyond that suit, declarer may have to manoeuvre carefully to achieve the desired result.

Dealer N N/S Vul.

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

This deal came up in a recent team event. At one table the auction was 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2NT – 3NT. After the lead of the jack of diamonds, North had 2 stops in the suit, and after establishing his clubs, could take the heart finesse for the contract. Unfortunately, when the hand was replayed, South became declarer. The auction began the same and whilst North appreciated that it might be better if any no trump contract was played by the hand with a doubleton honour in the 4th suit, he felt his hand was better than 17 points (his NT rebid would show 13 - 17 hcp). So North also tried 1♠, South sensibly ventured 1NT and was duly raised to game. E/W were playing relatively standard leads, so West's opening of the diamond nine was very likely to be from this sort of holding. If East has no potential entry outside of the diamond suit, then it is possible to prevent him from getting in to cash the long diamonds, as long as declarer is careful to not try too hard to win either of the first 2 rounds of the suit. However, playing small from dummy will not work, East will duck as well and do the same on the second round of diamonds, thus leaving an entry within the suit itself. To succeed, South has to play the king from dummy leaving East with a problem. If he wins with the ace, South ducks the next round and there is no longer a route to East's winners. If the first round of diamonds is ducked, South has 2 stoppers in the suit. Once East is cut off, South can play as declarer did at the other table, feeling grateful when the key black suit holdings are both with West. Incidentally, note that had the E/W diamond holdings been reversed, The declarer at the first table would have had no such 'snipping' technique available to him.



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Latest Results

The Chester Bowl charity pairs event, in support of the NSPCC, was won by David Flacks and Julian Merrill. Second were Gillian McMullan and John Fitzgerald with Joan Marray and Jill Knight third.

In the Lancashire Autumn Congress, Julian Merrill and David Flacks achieved 3rd in the pairs event, then teamed up with Daniel Miller and Peter Hall in the Swiss teams, again finishing third.

Deva BC members Liz Commins and Barry Jones (with David Birt and Philip Feldman of South Wales) won the major event at green-pointed Porthcawl Congress in November, the Championship Teams.

The County Open Pairs event for the Waterworth Cup was won this year by Alan Stephenson and Stuart Matthews. Chris Pope and Peter Kaufmann were second with Ted Reveley and Colin Humphrey third. This event is our qualifier for the EBU County pairs event, the Corwen Trophy.

The Merseyside Cup (Open Swiss teams) took place last Sunday and the winners were Peter and Ann Hall, Ian Stanley and Daniel Miller. Second place went to Gill O'Neill, Joan King, David Howe and Chris Whaley

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.

December		
28th-30th	EBU Year End Congress	Blackpool/London
January 2011		
8th/9th	Manchester Congress	Renaissance Hotel
10th/11th/12th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs (MBC 10 th)
15th/16th	Chester Congress	Deva BC
28th	M&CBA Executive meeting	Merseyside BC
February		
6th	County Trials	Merseyside BC
13th	Merseyside & Deeside Cup	Merseyside BC
20th	Jean Keen Trophy	Merseyside BC
March		
10th	Charity Challenge	Merseyside BC
13th	Eric Howarth GP Teams	Deva BC
27th	Portland Pairs	various venues
April		
3rd	Preece Rosebowl	Blundellands BC
17th	Charity Teams	Merseyside BC
May		
2nd	May Day Pairs	Merseyside BC
11th	Simultaneous pairs	Merseyside BC
19th	Andrew Rosebowl	Liverpool BC
22nd	Green Point Pairs	Merseyside BC
28th/29th	Annual match v Dublin	

Contacts and information

MBC : www.merseybridge.org.uk

LBC : email jo-rogerarnold@talktalk.net

Deva BC : www.bridgewebs.com/deva

Angus Clark (county secretary) : aandsclark@aol.com

Dave Keen (chief selector) : email admin@mcba.org.uk

County website : www.mcba.org.uk

Conventions Corner

A regular feature to help explain popular agreements

Support Doubles

Consider this situation, your partner open the bidding with 1♣ and you respond 1♥. The next hand overcalls 1♠ and partner raises to 2♥. There are times when it would be useful to know if this is showing four card support or merely three, as there may be no better option available to partner than to raise with 3 card support. One way round this problem is to play support doubles. After the overcall, double shows a 3 card raise in hearts whereas bidding 2♥ guarantees 4 card support. The same principle can be applied if your opponent has doubled rather than overcalled; now redouble shows 3 card support. This is worth knowing as after a takeout double, a bad heart split is more likely. This idea of distinguishing between the types of raises can be useful and is very popular in the US. Of course it does mean you cannot double to show another type of hand (e.g. extra strength or maybe a penalty double of spades). Note, as this is not a common agreement in the UK, if your partnership decides to adopt it, it is alertable.