



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin



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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

LET'S HOPE FOR A GREAT 2018



Molar mistake

by Bob Pitts

You are playing in a Swiss pairs event and the current opposition are good, left-hand opponent being a former World Champion. You are sitting West, partner is the dealer and a typical match-pointed pairs auction takes place.

1♣ - (pass) - 1♦ - (double) - 3♦ - (3♠) - pass - (pass) - 4♦ - (double) - pass - (pass) - pass

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

Partner has certainly taken an aggressive view, as three spades looks to be off if the king of clubs is in the North hand, but what are your chances here? South is likely to have all four missing trumps and you can pick them up for one loser, so along with two spades you might have to lose only three tricks in total. North cashes the spade ace and plays another to South's king. South now switches to a heart, won performe in dummy. You start with the ten of diamonds and after some thought South ducks this, North discarding a heart. You play another trump and South follows with the nine, you winning with the queen. Now you ruff the last spade in dummy and.....! The key moment has arrived. If you lead another trump now, the danger is that South will take the ace of trumps and put you back in dummy, and you will be unable to get back to hand to take his final trump off him. You must extract his remaining heart(s) before the next trump play (the so-called Dentist's Coup). The bidding and play makes it more likely that North started with a 4-5-0-4 shape, so one more round of hearts before playing the last trump from dummy is best. South wins but can do nothing better than play another spade. You ruff, take his trump off him and finesse the club for your contract. One off would be a poor score, making is a complete top. Sadly when this hand came up I spotted my error 3 seconds after failing to cash the heart at the key point in the play. Ah well - all part of the learning curve.

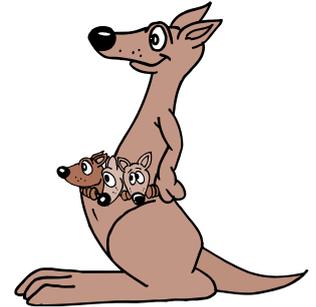
HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke



Dealer West. E/W vul.

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



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

This deal came up in a teams match and after identical auctions both Wests led the heart king.

At the first table, declarer took the trick with the ace and played a trump. After East discarded an encouraging club, declarer rose with the ace and continued with the queen of that suit. West took this with the king of trumps and shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer called for the king but East won the ace, cashed the jack of clubs and continued with a third round of the suit, giving declarer no winning option as the spade ten would be promoted for the setting trick.

At the other table, the declarer saw the danger of the simple line and played to avoid a possible trump promotion. He took the first trick with the ace and continued with the three of hearts, discarding a club from hand. West won and shifted to clubs, but this time South was able to ruff the second round of that suit. He continued with the ace of trumps and then the queen. West took his king and exited with a diamond but declarer won this in hand and drew West's final trump and claimed his contract with six spades, one heart and three diamonds.

CHESTER CONGRESS

This popular Congress is being held over the weekend of January 27th/28th

Pairs on Saturday. Teams on Sunday

Further details are available on the Deva BC website.

Get your entry in while there are still spaces

Super-Moysian fit

by Jean Keen

In the North Wales teams event for the Harold Griffiths trophy, Dave and I managed to make game despite the opponents having more trumps than we did.

Dealer East E/W vul.

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

After a strong club from West and some interference in the spade suit we landed in the delicate contract of four hearts from the East hand - no other game should get through. South began with three rounds of spades and the third round was correctly ruffed in the West hand, East discarding a diamond. Now the other top trump in dummy was cashed, followed by a club to East and declarer played two more rounds of hearts. Now reverting to clubs guarantees the contract, as when North ruffs in there is an entry to dummy to discard the other diamond loser.

Inferential bidding

by Paul Roberts

In a match in the Manchester League I held an uninspiring ♠ x x ♥ x ♦ K 10 x x x x ♣ J x x x. At Love All LHO opens two spades announced as weak and my partner Joan Marray doubles. RHO tries three spades and I of course pass. A pass on my left and Joan doubles again so I try four diamonds, which Joan removes to four hearts.

After some consideration I decided that she had to hold a heart/club two suiter, since with a strong hand with hearts she would have bid four hearts on the second round rather than doubling again. I back my judgement by bidding five clubs which Joan passes (after a little thought).

A heart is led and this strong dummy goes down :

♠ K x ♥ A x x x x ♦ A ♣ A K Q x x

The spade ace was wrong but clubs broke 3-1 and hearts break 4-3 with the hand that is long in hearts having the three card club holding so the contract rolled home. In the other room the club slam went one down. Excellent bidding by Joan, which I'm pleased I managed to read..

In case you ask, Leaping Michaels (i.e. four clubs by Joan's hand over the opening bid would show a strong club/heart two-suiter) is not part of our armoury.



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.

December

28th-30th Northern Year End Congress Blackpool

January

27th/28th Chester Congress Deva BC

February

4th County trials Deva BC

25th Jean Keen trophy (Ladies teams) Deva BC

March

4th Eric Howarth GP (Swiss teams) Deva BC

May

20th John Armstrong trophy (Swiss pairs) Deva BC

Deva Fund-Raiser



by Annie Mead

The Deva Bridge Club recently hosted a fund-raising Chicago Bridge Drive in collaboration with the Christleton Parish Hall fund-raisers. The £1000.00 raised will help towards the refurbishment of the local Parish Hall.

The expert tournament directors, Fred Dixon and John Dawe ensured that the Bridge ran smoothly

The Parish Hall fund-raisers led by Christine Abrams provided an enjoyable lunch. Jane Jones helped the fund-raising with a raffle, with the first prize of a meal being donated by the Ring O' Bells in Christleton.

The Deva President, Annie Mead, thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the day. The atmosphere was warm and friendly and it was good to see so many people entering the event.



Llangollen Swiss Teams Quiz

by Bob Pitts

The deals in this year's event had many 'to sacrifice or not' situations so for those of you who were not there (why?) here are a few for you to contemplate :

1. You hold ♠ K 9 8 5 ♥ K 9 6 3 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 7 6 5 with nobody vulnerable. Partner opens four hearts and after two passes you hear four spades on your left, back to you?
2. The very next hand. You have ♠ K J 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ 3 ♣ 10 7 6 at favourable vulnerability. You open three spades, four hearts on your left, four spades from partner and RHO bids the heart slam? Your call?
3. This time you have ♠ Q 7 ♥ A 7 6 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A J 6 5 4. It is favourable vulnerability again and partner opens four spades. RHO bids 4NT. What is your plan?
4. Looking at ♠ A 9 5 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ 9 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ K at Love All you open one diamond. LHO doubles and partner jumps to three diamonds (showing a weak hand). The hand on your right calls four diamonds. Over to you.

Solutions (or to be honest what worked).

1. Your spade holding is under the bid and is unlikely to provide too many tricks, and partner has not promised much, so bidding on is almost automatic. When your five heart call gets round to the player on your right (who holds ♠ 10 7 6 ♥ Q 8 ♦ Q J 10 8 ♣ A K 10 3) she opts to double which is not a success as your partner has a 0-7-5-1 shape with the king of diamonds and that suit sets up nicely. Just another example to demonstrate that when in doubt bid on.
2. This problem can be solved if you are playing negative slam doubles. With no defence you would double so you can pass here to show a defensive trick (if partner has no defensive prospects he has to save). Here partner held the diamond ace so would know what to do. Having just gone -650 on the previous board our opponent decided to bid on without consulting partner and six spades was doubled for -500. (Despite these two deals this lady was on the winning team so most of her decisions were successful)
3. The 4NT bid shows a two suiter and whilst you have two likely defensive tricks you need to know if partner has any help in that department. If you double 4NT then partner should double anything that LHO bids just to show his defensive possibilities. When five clubs was called on my left and partner passed I decided it would be sensible to save in five spades when the expected five diamond call came on my right. This was doubled and two off, but five diamonds was rolling in for our vulnerable opponents.
4. This is not a real sacrifice situation as you have too much defensive strength, though I can construct some hands for partner where five diamonds would have play. However, five diamonds was chosen by our opponent and that went three off doubled. Everyone had their bid - LHO has a 4-4-1-4 11 count and RHO has an opening bid with both majors, but they cannot make more than eight tricks in either major.

Finally, a sacrifice that never happened. A sort of bad news/good news/bad news story.

An intrepid lady held this, vulnerable against not ♠ 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ J 9 3 2

One of my team-mates opened with a strong club and she dived in with a one spade overcall. The bad news was that her LHO held a solid 7 card spade suit and she was about to make no tricks in one spade doubled for -2000. Now the good news, the hand on the right felt he was too strong to double (he held a 0-3-5-5, 23 count) so began bidding his suits. After a few rounds of bidding they settled in seven spades. How often have you made an overcall in a genuine suit and the opposition have opted to play in a grand slam in that denomination? Very rare. And the final bad news? Your other pair have stopped in the small slam so you just lost 11 imps but..... it could have been worse.