



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

Issue 16

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Latest Results

Ted Reveley and Stuart Matthews were part of the foursome that finished second in the teams event at the Manchester Congress in January.

In the Chester Congress the pairs title was won by John and Julia Dearing, with Chris Pope and Peter Kaufmann second. The consolation event was won by Julian Merrill and Paul Roberts. The Swiss teams winners were Catherine Draper, Andrew Petrie, Ollie Burgess, Andrew Woodcock from Lancashire

Editorial

If you have been paying close attention to the results section of the newsletter during the last year, you will have noted a lot of mentions for the partnership of Liz Commins and David Stevenson. During 2012 they won eight green pointed events and several black point ones in partnership. It did not seem to matter whether they were pairs events or teams they were equally successful. I tried to persuade them to reveal their secrets in order to help you all with your aspirations to emulate their achievements and David has kindly written an article which will appear in the April issue - so look out for that. They do feel that their success is down to plenty of practice together and a preparedness to constantly work on the system to improve it. If something goes wrong they talk about it after the event to ensure that the misunderstanding does not happen again. They also like to get into auctions early and not give their opponents an 'easy ride', so aggressive opening bids, especially when pre-empting are a norm. If you have played against them you will have encountered this and so appreciate the effectiveness of that approach.

Of course suggesting that you get plenty of practice with your partner and talking regularly about improvements to your system is not groundbreaking stuff, but nevertheless it is a principle that is well worth repeating. Also bear in mind that feeling comfortable with your bidding can take away some of the mental strain and give you more energy to focus on the other main aspect of the game - card play.

So, having been given your first helpful nudge along the route to success start thinking about how this can help you to improve your results and after reading David's tips, perhaps you will be out there preventing them from winning as many events this year

P.S. I am always happy to publish useful tips, so if you have anything that you think might be helpful, send it in.

Blackpool end of year Congress

by Bob Pitts

M&CBA players had a lot of success at this 3 day event with pride of place going to David Stevenson, Liz Commins and Paddy Murphy, who with Tracy Capal of Manchester won the Swiss teams. Well done also to Margaret Howe and David Burrows, who won a prize in the Swiss pairs as the highest placed category B pair.

The Open Pairs was won by Geoff Cowie and Rob Roberts who gave me this hand, where surprisingly only one other pair reached the excellent 6D.

Rob held ♠ J ♥ void ♦ A K J 10 9 7 4 3 2 ♣ A Q 9 and Geoff had ♠ A 8 7 3 ♥ K 8 7 5 4 ♦ Q 5 ♣ J 3

They play a 'Barcelona' 2 Club opener which is game forcing and asks for controls (as in the old C.A.B. system), which was useful here. Once responder showed the spade ace and some side values, which was known to include a king, Rob felt the slam had to have excellent chances. It looks easy but how would you confidently bid this with your regular partner?

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

By Tim Bourke

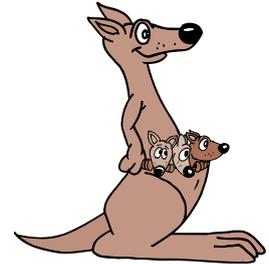
Dealer South Love All

♠ 9 4
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ Q J 6 5
♣ J 7 3

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ -
♦ 9 8 4 2
♣ 9 8 6 4 2

♠ A 7 6 5 2
♥ A Q 9 7
♦ 10 3
♣ 10 5

♠ K 3
♥ K 8 6 5 3
♦ A K 7
♣ A K Q



West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

South judged that he was too strong to open either one heart or two notrump but he was not strong enough to open two clubs and rebid a game-forcing two hearts. Instead he chose a sequence that showed a balanced hand of 23 or 24 hcp.

West led the queen of spades and East played an encouraging card. Declarer won the king of spades and crossed to dummy with a diamond to lead the heart jack. East rose with the ace of trumps and exited with the ten of diamonds. Thanks to East's withholding the ace of spades at trick 1, declarer could no longer make his contract. Even if he cashed two top clubs before playing a trump to the ten and queen, East would have got off play with a low spade and received a minor suit ruff.

"You could afford to lose one spade and two hearts," said our intractable dummy. "If trumps were no worse than 3-1 and there is no defensive ruff, then just about any approach works. Instead you should have been concerned about a 4-0 trump break. The best line at trick two is to lead a trump towards dummy. Here West shows out and dummy's jack is taken by East's queen. No doubt East would then cash the ace of spades and switch to a club. You would take that with the ace and play a low trump to dummy's ten. East would take this and play another club, which you would win. Next you can cross to dummy with the queen of diamonds to finesse the eight of trumps. Your king would draw the last trump and you would have the rest of the tricks and your contract. You would also have made the game if West held all the outstanding trumps as long as he could not get a ruff, as he would only make the ace and queen of trumps to go with the defence's spade trick. Even simpler is a spade exit by you at trick two which severs the defensive transportation lines."

Lying to partner by Bob Pitts

There is a TV programme from the US that I occasionally watch called 'Lie to Me'. It stars Tim Roth as Dr. Cal Lightman, a specialist who observes the facial expressions and body language of people to discover whether they are lying or not. We aren't allowed to use such techniques at the table on our bridge partners, though some players do find it very hard to disguise their emotions during a hand.

Of course there is no rule against lying to partner in the play in order to get him to do the right thing and bearing this in mind seat yourself South on this deal.

You are vulnerable and the opposition are not. West opens a strong club and East jumps to 2♦ which shows a balanced hand of 8-10 points.

You have not discussed with partner how to show both minors in such a sequence, so you pass. West's 2♥ is raised to 4♥. Partner leads the 2 of clubs, which shows 3 or 1 card in the suit. How do you defend?

♠ 10 5 3
♥ K 7 6 East
♦ A 10 3
♣ Q 10 8 3

♠ 9
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 7 5 4 2
♣ A K 7 5 4
South

Declarer plays small from dummy and when you take the king, the nine appears on your left. On the bidding, the chances are that West has only one club rather than North, so continuing with the club ace would set up 2 tricks for declarer. Assuming that, what is your best chance to defeat the contract? If partner has the ace of spades you can get a ruff and pray that the North hand can provide another trick, and this seems like your best shot. So you switch to the spade nine; partner wins with his hoped for ace and returns.....another club. Declarer ruffs, plays the ace and king of trumps and has the rest of the tricks apart from conceding a trump to North (he held Q 10 3). So why did he go wrong?

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

As he is looking at a certain trump trick and he knows you have the club ace, North was going for the immediate defeat of the contract. Of course if declarer has another club loser there is nowhere for it to disappear to, but why give partner the chance to go wrong? If you lie to him about the club position and win trick 1 with the ace, he will have no choice other than to correctly try to give you a spade ruff. Even Dr. Lightman might fall for that one.

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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.

February

10th	Merseyside & Deeside Cup	MBC
17th	Jean Keen trophy	MBC

March

2nd/3rd	EBU Ranked Master Pairs	Daventry
7th	Charity Challenge sim. pairs	MBC
10th	Eric Howarth Cup (teams)	Deva BC

April

8th-12th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs
14th	Annual Charity Teams	MBC
21st	Preece Rosebowl	Blundellsands

May

6th	May Day Swiss pairs	MBC
7th-10th	EBU simultaneous pairs	Clubs
16th	Andrew Rosebowl	MBC
19th	GP Swiss pairs	MBC

The best hand you've ever put down as dummy

by Matt Foster

This deal occurred during the Swiss teams event at the Chester Congress in January.

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

I was partnering Tracy Capal of Manchester and playing a strong NT, five card major system, our unopposed auction was 1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♦ - 5♣ - 7♣. The opening bid could have been a doubleton but as it is rarely a good plan to start with a jump shift on a two-suited hand, I decided to take it slowly at first to find out as much as I could about the hand opposite. When Tracy rebid one spade I felt it was sensible to fall back on the 'pitiful crutch' of using the fourth suit as this would set up a forcing situation and if she rebid in NT I would know what to do next. Tracy remarked that she thought she had made it easy for me by bidding five clubs, but it still took 3 minutes for me to make the final decision and table this stunning hand as dummy. Sadly partner had the diamond queen as well, so 7♥ and 7NT were also makeable (though in 7NT on a diamond lead, you have an entry problem. The solution to which is to discard the club ace on the ace of spades and pray clubs break 3-2). At the other table they had stopped in 6♥ for a nice gain for my team. I was not the only person in the event to correctly choose to play in the club grand on this deal and like them putting this lovely collection down as the dummy was not high in my thoughts when I first picked up the hand.