



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

Issue 12

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Latest Results

The County Women's pairs for the Preece Rosebowl was won by Joan King & Gill O'Neill. Karen Lloyd & Gill Jones were the runners-up.

The winner's of the County mixed pairs event for the Andrew Rosebowl were David Stevenson & Liz Commins.

Liz Commins also won the Mayday Swiss pairs in partnership with Paddy Murphy.

At the Shropshire Congress in April, David Stevenson & Liz Commins won the Swiss pairs with Julian Merill & Paul Roberts in second place.

Paddy Murphy & Chris Pope won the 2012 North Wales pairs event.

Merseyside League results : Swiss teams Dusty Millers Blue Div. 1 Sutton Div. 2 Peninsula Div. 3 Green Team KO Cup Sutton Consolation Cup Aigburth Championship Pairs John & Pauline Rudolf.

County GP pairs (in May) 1. Bob Pitts & John Hampson 2. Peter Hall & Danny Miller 3. Phil Nuttall & Maureen Borley

Editorial

I have been a regular on Wednesday evenings at the Deva club for quite a while and one of the differences I have noted over the years is that whilst in the past it was not unusual for there to be an appeal to be judged on at the end of the evening, these days that very rarely happens. The most recent time that I recall was last year and then the appellants changed their mind before the appeal could be heard (I was asked to assist with the judgement and in fact it was obvious that had the ruling gone either way it would have not have made any difference to final position either pair). Is this change because everyone is behaving better or are we just more easy going at the table these days? I think it is a mixture of both and players are more used to accepting the decision of the T.D. as that has become more of the norm at Congress events. Rather than forming an appeals committee, T.D.'s at Congresses are more likely to consult senior players in order to evaluate the likelihood of the appeal being successful and this principle seems to work well. However, one area where I think many of us still fall down is a reluctance to accept responsibility when we have done something wrong. If you think that you may have committed an infraction you should call the T.D. yourself and not leave the onus on the opposition to do so. If you were one of the non-offending partnership, wouldn't you prefer it that way?

Lady Connell Final

The final of the County teams event for the Lady Connell trophy was won by David Stevenson, Liz Commins, Daniel Miller, Peter Hall. The runners-up were Julian Merrill, Paul Roberts, John Hampson Matt Foster. On this deal the winners gained a game swing.

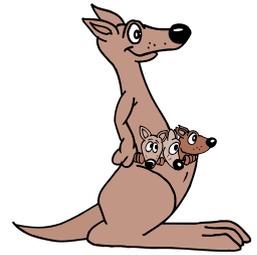
	North	
	♠ 10 6 3	
	♥ 9 5 4 3 2	
	♦ A 9 3	
	♣ A J	
West	♠ A 9 4 2	♠ K Q 8 7
	♥ K Q 6	♥ A 8 7
	♦ Q J	♦ K 6 5
	♣ Q 10 9 6	♣ 7 4 2
	South	
	♠ J 6	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ 10 8 7 4 2	
	♣ K 8 5 3	

Both tables played 4 spades from the East hand. At the table where Peter Hall was declarer, he won the heart lead, drew trumps and then knocked out the ace of diamonds. North could do no better than play back a red suit, and Peter eliminated the rest of the red suits and led a club to the nine. North was endplayed and after cashing the club ace, was forced to give a ruff and discard to eliminate declarer's third club loser. When the board was replayed, the lead was a small diamond. Foreseeing the possibility of being endplayed later, David Stevenson, won and switched to the ace then jack of clubs. The resultant ruff beat the contract before declarer had a chance. Note that 3NT is an easy make and perhaps both West's might have considered raising the weak NT opening to that game without seeking the major suit fit.

The consolation competition for teams knocked out in the first round of the Lady Connell is the Cheshire Salver event. This season it was won by Barbara Serres, Gareth Thomas, Roger Allison and Peter Richmond.

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke



Dealer West. E/W vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♥ ¹	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. Weak, six card suit and 6-10 hcp

West leads the king of hearts and you win with the ace. As you may be in dummy only once, at trick two you lead a club to the jack, which holds. After that promising start to proceedings, things go awry when you play the king of trumps, as West discards a low heart. As taking the ace of trumps would allow you to enter dummy with the queen of trumps and finesse the eight on the way back, rather meanly, East follows with a low trump. Despite this, can you see a way to make 10 tricks?

The first point to note is that the contract cannot be made if clubs are not 3-3. So you cash the ace and king of those. After they hold, cash the ace of diamonds and exit with a heart or a diamond. The defenders can do no better than cash a trick in each red suit and force you with a diamond. This is where you have to be very careful, for you must ruff the diamond with the five, eight or nine of trumps (you will see why in a minute). If you ruff with the five, these cards will be left:

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

Now you lead the eight of trumps to dummy's queen. East takes his ace of trumps and exits with a heart. As you have carefully kept the two of trumps, you ruff with it and overruff in dummy with the four. Now a card from dummy trump coups East's remaining ten-seven of spades.

Minibridge Masters by Dawn Herbert

Heswall Hall looked resplendent in all its new-found glory, awaiting its next challenge which soon arrived; they came in two by two proudly wearing their team colours, the Reds and the Yellows. Today was their day; some were happy, some nervous and some excited but they were not the usual Reds and Yellows: they were the Hawks, the Hippos, the Hornets, the Heroes, the Aces and the Chocoholics. This was to be their final effort of the season – to win a medal in the Heswall primary schools' minibridge challenge of 2012.

The director called for silence and the six teams, aged eight to ten seated themselves eyeing the pre-dealt boards placed in front of them. The dealer, as declarer, counted his/her own and partner's points, decided after looking at their hands and joint longest suit, what contract to play in. After four boards it was break-time they demolished refreshments at a fantastic rate whilst edging up to where the scores were being compiled.

Twenty minutes later it was back to serious bridge – four more boards against different opponents. There was a slam hand:

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

Two declarers managed to contract for the slam, others settled in five. How would you have bid it? (North Dealer)

The morning ended with drinks (orangeade) and more food and then the moment arrived: the scorer stood up, silence reigned and they waited with baited breath while the results were announced and the medals awarded: 4th 5th and 6th together, then the bronze medal, silver medal and finally the gold medal and the trophy for the Hawks who had won for the second year running! The winners were a Red team and the runners-up a Yellow team. Everyone cheered as the teams received their medals amid great excitement.

All good things come to an end and so it was back to school; back to mathematics where perhaps some of the lessons learnt in minibridge may be of some help

(If you are interested in teaching minibridge to children and wish to get some advice on how to go about it contact Peter Wright on 0151-342-8156).

Our game will not survive if we do not encourage more people to take it up, especially youngsters. So if you have any interest in teaching the game, this could be a good starting point.

Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

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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.

June

14th	Jim Davies Swiss teams	Heswall BC
21st	County AGM	MBC
26th	Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs	Clubs
30th/July 1st	President's Cup	MBC

July

8 th	EBU County leagues finals	
30 th /31 st	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs

August

4 th	Northern Counties League round 1
25 th	Northern Counties League round 2

Plan ahead - start getting your team organised for the Lady Connell qualifiers Oct. 9th LBC Oct. 12th Deva BC Oct. 18th MBC

Several M&CBA players travelled to the recent Killarney Congress and were very successful — there will be a full report (hopefully) in the next issue. Check the County website for their results.

Don't Panic by Bob Pitts

♠ K Q 9 3

Dealer South E/W Vul.

♥ Q J 10 7

♦ 9 7

♣ 10 4 3

♠ 8 4

♠ J 10 7 6 5 2

♥ 9 8 5 2

♥ 4 3

♦ A 5

♦ 10 3

♣ K 9 7 6 5

♣ A Q J

♠ A

♥ A K 6

♦ K Q J 8 6 4 2

W N E S

♣ 8 2

1♦

P 1♥ 2♣ double

P 2NT P 5♦

Here is a familiar situation. You have not found the best opening lead, and as a consequence declarer has the opportunity to discard some losers. As soon as you get in there can be a tendency to panic and try to cash any tricks still available in the suit declarer has discarded, which often turns out to be futile. Next time this occurs (and believe me there will be a next time) before you make a play, think about the deal as a whole and you may find a way to recover. Look at this example from the recent Women's Home international event for the Lady Milne trophy. The bidding was as shown, though I find East's weak jump overcall at unfavourable vulnerability on such a poor suit quite amazing. This did not get her partner off to the best lead, and after taking the spade ace, South crossed to dummy with a heart to the queen and threw both her club losers on top spades. West ruffed and made the knee-jerk play of trying a club, which was unsuccessful. Declarer ruffed and knocked out the trump ace to claim her contract. West needed to stop and think about the whole deal. The play in the heart suit marks East with only two hearts and at least two trumps, so a switch to a heart, instead of the fruitless club allows the defence to obtain a heart ruff when West gets in with the ace of diamonds. Note that to safely succeed on this layout, declarer should only discard one club and then tackle trumps.