



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

Issue 18

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Editorial

Sadly, our County inter-club teams of eight event has not been contested for some years, as it seems that the Deva are the only club willing to enter. I realise that there are quite a lot of events in the calendar and organising four partnerships for a local event and perhaps the subsequent rounds can be a headache, but it is shame that each season we send a team to the Northern final who have not needed to qualify to do so (I am not biased here, I am one of the beneficiaries of this system as I get to play in it each year). The County committee attempted to address this issue recently by offering the winners of the County trials the opportunity to raise a team from their club, but this 'carrot' was not widely publicised in advance, which has raised some objections. The winners of the trials have been unable to raise a team from within their club and so the Deva have again become our representatives in the Northern final. It would be sensible to have some means of deciding who qualifies for this National event and some suggestions have been sent to the County committee, but you might also have a view. If you have some ideas then please get along to the County AGM on June 13th (note there has been a venue change) and perhaps help to find a solution to this anomaly.

This month it is a delight to include an article from a man who is one of the foremost bridge teachers and writers in the world, not to mention being a top class player. A very warm welcome to Ron Klinger. Ron has now joined our mailing list so if you send in any articles they will now get analysed by a true expert.

The Merseyside Bridge League need more teams for next season. This is the major teams league in the County and taking part WILL improve your game. The next season starts in September, so please register for it now with Earl O'Keeffe earlokeeffe@yahoo.co.uk

Bridge at the Top, Part 1 *by David Stevenson*

Dealer W	♠ A 10 8 7 3	West	North	East	South
Love All	♥ 10	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
	♦ A J 6 5 2	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
	♣ J 7	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
	♠ Q 2	All Pass			
	♥ A Q 7 4 3				
	♦ K Q 4				
	♣ A 10 2				

In the Premier Grand Masters Ian Pagan, playing with Chris Jagger, held the South hand. He was in 3NT. He asked what 9 leads meant, since the lead was the 9 of diamonds, but soon realised that, with spades lying well, 11 tricks were easy.

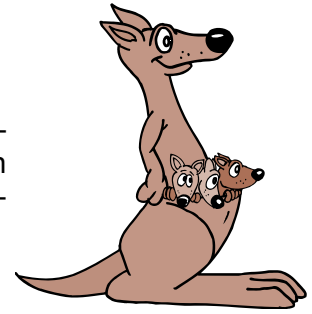
Nothing to it, you think? Wait for the second half of the story!

OZ BRIDGE

By Ron Klinger

www.ronklingerbridge.com

The recurring theme of this year's Gold Coast Congress was "Helping Partner" and this deal from round 6 of the Swiss Teams qualifier was a case in point. East was able to use his trump spots to guide West to the killing defence.



Dealer North EW Vul.

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

♠ K 10
♥ A K 6
♦ J 10 9 7 5
♣ A 3 2

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

The lead was the heart nine to the two, eight and ace. South played the king of spades, five, three, four and the spade ten, jack, ace, two, followed by the spade nine, six, club two(!), won by the queen of spades. What message has East tried to send to West?

North had misunderstood the auction, thinking South's one-spade bid promised spades and had landed South in a 4-2 trump fit. One needs to capitalize on these opportunities. East had played his spades in the order four, two six. What can that have meant? If East had wanted a heart, East could have played six-four-two, highest each time. If East had wanted a club, East could have played two, four, six, lowest each time. East played the four of spades, second highest, followed by the two of spades, again second highest.

East's signals showed strength in diamonds and West should shift to a diamond at trick five to create another trump trick for West. The diamond ace followed by the king and queen will work on this deal, but West should shift to a low diamond in case East holds the king-jack-ten of diamonds. With no message to send, East could have played his spades in the order four, six, two, middle-top-bottom.

(Ron's team won the teams title at this very tough event. In the final they defeated a squad which included Fiona Brown and Hugh McGann, who were in the team that won the Llangollen Swiss teams in November.)

Examination Time by Bob Pitts

As the school examination period is upon us, here is a short test for you. Both hands come from a recent multiple teams event

Question 1 This one will see if you have been paying attention to the newsletter.

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

South opens one spade and as West you have to make a decision. You could try a light 1NT overcall, but you know when you do that, partner is bound to drive ahead in your short suit. So you pass and hope to get another chance. Fortunately, North passes and partner bids two hearts. You now have an easy jump to 3NT, and North leads the spade five to the four, seven and your jack. So you have 6 tricks in the black suits and only need 3 from the red suits. How to go about it safely? If you play diamonds first, they might split 3-3 or the ten might fall. Alternatively you can hope to get 3 tricks from hearts, but whichever suit you play on, South can win his ace and clear the spades hoping to get in with the other one to defeat the contract. Well, you may recall a few issues ago we discussed the principle of a Morton's Fork and this is another example (full marks to those who spotted it). At trick two you should cross to the club ten and lead a diamond towards your hand, playing through the hand that is virtually certain to have the ace. If South takes the diamond ace, you have your three red suit tricks and if he ducks, you win in hand and attack hearts to knock out the ace and develop two more tricks there. Completely safe.

Question 2 This will check if you are a trusting soul

Like all bridge players, you listen very carefully to the bidding before making your opening lead, so how about this one? You hold ♠ A J 9 4 ♥ 10 8 6 2 ♦ void ♣ K 10 9 8 4 and the quick auction is one diamond on your right, two clubs on your left, three clubs on your right and a leap to the diamond game from LHO. Ignoring the feeble pass by you on the first round, what do you lead? Well partner is marked with very few clubs, so you look no further hoping to give him an early ruff. Are you happy with this choice? Decide before continuing..... Here is the full deal :

Dealer South Game All

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

Declarer wins the first trick and knocks out the trump ace. When partner puts you in with the spade ace you try again to give him a ruff but as you can see that was not the correct defence. North's odd bidding has led you astray as the contract always goes off as long as you don't give declarer an easy club trick. You are likely you get a club trick anyway against five diamonds along (possibly) with your spade ace so perhaps this was not the time for banking on club ruffs to beat them. Had you held five clubs without an honour the lead has more attraction. No marks for a club lead, well done for anything else. I would like to give full marks to those who would have also doubled on the first round but that might tip off N/S to avoid game, though I would like to be in it vulnerable.

It's OK if you got both wrong - no need to report to Mr. Gove or Mr. Garozzo

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

6th	Liverpool Open Teams	LBC
7th	Worldwide simultaneous pairs	MBC
20th	Jim Davies teams	Heswall BC
25th	Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs	Clubs

July

6th/7th	WBU GP Swiss Pairs	Llandudno
21st	Manchester GP Swiss teams	
July 29th - Aug. 2nd	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs

August

3rd	Northern Bridge League round 1
31st	Northern Bridge League round 2

September

1st	Anniversary Pairs event	MBC
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Latest Results

The winners of the North Wales Spring teams Congress were Ted Reveley, Bill Niccol, Stuart Matthews, Alan Stephenson

The annual Charity Pairs event at Merseyside Bridge Centre was won by Joan King and John Griffith.

At the Shropshire Congress in April, the teams event was won by Dave and Jean Keen, Liz Commins, David Stevenson. Only 1 vp behind were a team containing three M&CBA players - Marks Weeks, John Hampson and Paddy Murphy.

The winners of the Preece Rosebowl (County Ladies Pairs) were Lollo Murthwaite and Pat Crossley - well done to them. Joan Marray and Avril Thompson were a close second.

Merseyside League - with the season now completed the winners were Div. 1 *Sutton* Div. 2 *Green Team* Div. 3 *High Hoppers* KO Cup *Sutton* Consolation cup *Acolytes* Swiss Teams *Dusty Millers* Blue Pairs *Richard Davies and Stuart Scholes*

In the Armagh Congress that took place in late April, David Stevenson and Liz Commins firstly won the Mixed Pairs title and then with NI internationals Robin Burns and Ian Lindsay, finished at the head of the field in the Championship Teams event.

The County teams for the Lady Connell trophy was won by Dave Shaw, Bernard Krasner, Steve Downes, Richard Davies, Chris Raymond and Stuart Scholes. The consolation event for the Cheshire Salver was retained by Barbara Serres, Gareth Thomas, Peter Richmond, Roger Allison.

The May Day Swiss pairs was won by David Howe and Chris Whaley. Duncan Ault and Brian Perry were the runners-up.

The Andrew Rosebowl (County Mixed pairs) was won by Rekha Gatfield and Chris Whaley

The County one day green pointed event for the John Armstrong trophy was won by Pete Foster and John Roberts.

The Deva team were 2nd in the Northern final of the inter-club teams of 8 and so qualify for the National final (details on website)

Bridge at the Top, Part 2

by David Stevenson

Dealer E	♠ Q 2	West	North	East	South
Love All	♥ A Q 7 4 3			Pass	1♠
	♦ K Q 4			Pass	2♠
	♣ A 10 2	2♣	2♥	Pass	4♦
		Pass	3♦	Pass	
	♠ A 10 8 7 3	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
	♥ 10	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
	♦ A J 6 5 2				
	♣ J 7				

About nine boards later in the same match Ian Pagan found himself declarer again, and asked about 9 leads: this time it was the club 9. However, as you can see, this is far from a good contract. While Deep Finesse makes it [Deep peeks!], Ian struggled and struggled, playing a very strange line – he even lost a diamond trick! Eventually that was two off.

But the scoring presented a difficulty. Eventually it was realised that the same board had been played twice, but twisted round. North and South were switched, as were East and West. There was no way for the other three players to realise this, with different auctions, and a different dummy, but Ian had played two hands looking at the same 26 cards!

There was no happy ending for Liz and myself, sitting East-West: our superb score of 5Spades -2 was taken away from us since that was the second time the board was played. Anyway, that is how bridge is played at the top level!