



# County Bulletin

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## Editorial News

A little short on content from local players this issue, so thanks to Tim Bourke for permission to reproduce another of his fine articles and also to England's Junior coach Michael Byrne for his contribution.

If you have anything you want to send in for the August issue, then I would be pleased to receive it - no rush as I will not be working on it till late July, so think about a contribution from all those Summer events you are participating in. If you do send me something, it would be helpful to have it as an attachment rather than just as part of an email, as it is then easier to copy into the bulletin.

## Helping partner

*by Bob Pitts*

Successful bridge partnerships are very good at helping each other with the correct decisions, especially in defence. This deal is an example of one way of doing just that. West opened with a weak two hearts and North doubled. East raised lazily to three hearts and South was relieved to be able to pass, but when North doubled a second time, he had to bid three spades, which North had the sense to pass.

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

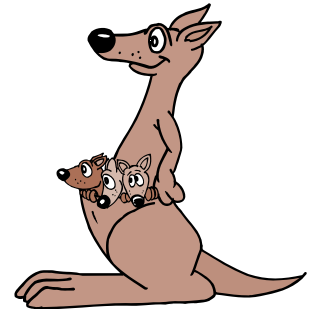
West kicked off with a top heart which declarer ducked. A switch to a club was now reasonable and this was ducked to East's jack. Declarer won the heart return in dummy and crossed to a diamond in hand to finesse the trumps. After two rounds of that suit the position was likely to be the one that existed, so South now cashed the rest of the diamonds and even though East refused to ruff the fourth round, he was soon thrown in with the trump ten to either concede a trick to the king of clubs, or give a ruff-and-discard. Had East bid three clubs over the double (a fit showing bid) West would have got off to the winning club lead at trick one.

# HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer South. Both vul.

Imp scoring



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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the queen of spades. Declarer ducked the first spade and won the spade continuation with his ace. He then had to decide how best to combine his chances in the minors to get a total of six tricks in diamonds and clubs. As usual with combination plays, the basic idea was to cash both top honours in one suit and finesse in the other. As there were fewer diamonds in the defender's hands than clubs, declarer decided that diamonds were the suit in which to cash the two top honours. First though, he cashed the ace of clubs in the remote case that there might be a singleton queen lurking in the hand of one defender.

When the club queen did not appear, declarer broached diamonds by playing a small one towards his king, in case East had a singleton queen. (Declarer could see that if West had a singleton queen of diamonds he would still require the club finesse to reach nine tricks). In this case, East's queen of diamonds appeared and declarer took it with the king. After cashing the diamond jack, South finessed the nine of diamonds to take a third trick in the suit and the diamond ace plus the two top hearts gave him his contract.

If the diamond queen had not appeared after declarer had cashed his two top diamonds, he would have re-entered his hand twice (if necessary) in hearts to try to pick up the hoped for club queen in the West hand.

## How sneaky are you?

A quick quiz about how deceptive you are. Starting with the hand on your left, the opponents bid uncontested to four hearts, via 1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♥. Your partner leads the club ten and dummy comes down with: ♠ J 10 5 ♥ A K 5 4 ♦ J 9 8 2 ♣ A Q and your hand is ♠ Q 8 4 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ K 7 6 5 4 2. Declarer goes into a very long trance, checking your lead methods before winning with the ace, he follows with the eight, draws two rounds of trumps, and exits with the club queen under which he plays the jack and partner with the three. So, having won with the king of clubs, what do you do and why?

Solution in the next issue; just ask yourself, what problems might declarer have?

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# The John Armstrong Trophy

by Bob Pitts

Each May, the County hold an Open one-day green-pointed Swiss pairs event the winners of which receive a trophy in memory of probably our most successful bridge player. The winners this year were Stuart Matthews and Alan Stephenson, with John and Pauline Rudolf runners-up.

Whilst we all know that the fight for over/undertricks are vital in this type of event, accurate slam bidding should not be ignored; if you bid and make a slam you are almost certain to get a good board. On this deal, I thought that my partner, John Hampson, did well to get us to the best spot.

Dealer West N/S vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Sitting North I started with a 'top of the range' weak no-trump. Once Stayman had established the heart fit, John jumped to four clubs which we play as either a splinter or a doubleton ace control. I cue bid the diamond ace and John continued with a spade cue, though even if he had signed off I would have continued with a further club cue as I had a maximum. RKCB identified that a key card was missing, so I settled for the laydown six hearts. As the cards lie six no-trumps also makes, but this is somewhat fortunate and just bidding the heart slam was worth 73% of the matchpoints.

This is an excellent event, look out for it next May.

**Don't forget the JIM DAVIES SWISS TEAMS at Heswall Hall  
on June 11th, start time 7pm. Cheaper to enter in advance!  
Contact Chris Wentworth on 0151 608 1677**

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**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.

### June

11th	Jim Davies Swiss teams	Heswall BC
18th	County Annual General Meeting	MBC
25th	Bridge4Fun	MBC
30th	Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs	Deva BC

### July

27th-31st	British Summer simultaneous pairs	clubs
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### August

1st	Northern Bridge League round 1	various
29th	Northern Bridge League round 2	various

## Czech Corkers

by Michael Byrne

*There are far fewer youngsters involved in Bridge these days than we would like, but those that are playing are no slouches. Here England Juniors Coach Michael Byrne reports a hand from the recent Under-20's event in the Czech Republic [editor].*

The England under-20 had a tough tournament. With only two pairs and some days as many as 96 boards played they found the event quite tiring but still managed some excellent bridge. Look at Ben Norton and Freddie Illingworth in action here against Hungary.

Dealer West. Both vul.

		♠ J 7 5		
		♥ A 8		
		♦ J 9 8 4		
		♣ K 10 4 3		
♠ Q 9				♠ A
♥ K 10 5 2				♥ Q 9 7 6 4
♦ Q 5 3				♦ A K 10 2
♣ J 9 6 5				♣ Q 7 2
		♠ K 10 8 6 4 3 2		
		♥ J 3		
		♦ 7 6		
		♣ A 8		
West	North	East	South	
Norton	Bence	Illingworth	Attila	
		1♥	2♠	
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass	

On the seven of diamonds lead to the jack and ace, declarer played a heart to the three, king and ace and a diamond came back. Watching as NPC I was slightly concerned that declarer might win this in dummy and get the trumps wrong, but Freddie saw that this was unlikely to be the layout and he won the diamond in hand and cashed the queen of hearts.

In his own words, "when opponents with ten spades let you play in four hearts and give no thought to sacrificing, the trumps rate to be 2-2. Also South was unlikely to lead a short suit holding only one trump." This was very well reasoned.

Now followed more good technique: Illingworth cashed the ace of spades and crossed to the diamond queen to ruff the queen of spades. Next came the ten of diamonds to discard a club. Declarer crossed to dummy with a trump and led the jack of clubs. As the cards lay there was no guess to make as the defence were endplayed to take care of declarer's potential third round club loser.