



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin

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Editor's News

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Last year the Heswall club announced that it was unable to continue running the Jim Davies Swiss teams. This was disappointing news as the event has been incredibly popular over the years and the club had done a great job promoting it. Happily, this competition is to continue under the guidance of David Stevenson. It will take place this year on June 14th at Liverpool Bridge Club starting at 7pm. There is a discount for entering in advance and full details are available on the County website (the entry fee includes hot drinks and biscuits).

Please try to go along and help it to remain a permanent fixture on the County calendar.

Which Card?

by Bob Pitts

Barry Jones and I were fortunate to be selected to play in the recent Senior Camrose, which was held in Mold. With Wales hosting they were fielding 2 teams to ensure no sit-outs, which helped us to sneak in. We did not play well but this deal brought in some points. We were playing England and I was sat North, David Kendrick was East and Tony Forrester (who played every board in the event!) was West.

Dealer East Game All

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

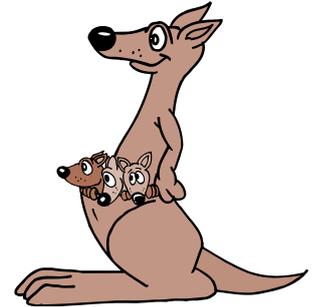
After a competitive auction the 'music stopped' with East doubling Barry in five clubs. Tony led the ace of spades and David had to decide which card would get the necessary diamond switch. The two was his selection (would the queen have been better as East cannot want a heart switch?) but the message was not received and a spade continuation let the contract home. Galling for them as best play makes 12 tricks in a spade contract for East/West.

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer South. Love All

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



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

1. Michaels cue-bid, promising 5+/5+ in the majors
2. Limit raise or better in clubs

West led the king of hearts. Declarer could count 11 tricks and saw that as the spades were undoubtedly 5 - 1, the twelfth would have to come from an elimination and endplay. So, declarer won the first trick with the ace of hearts and ruffed the three of hearts at trick two. Declarer continued with a low trump to the ace. After West discarded a heart, declarer continued by cashing dummy's ace and king of diamonds (this was perfectly safe from the auction as East was marked with at least four diamonds).

Next, declarer drew East's remaining trumps with the king and then the queen. He could then cash the queen of diamonds, throwing a spade from the table. Then the nine of diamonds was ruffed in the dummy eliminating that suit. As West had shown up with three diamonds, his original shape had to be 5=5=3=0. Declarer led a spade from the table and when east played the nine the six was played from hand. This gave the defenders no winning option.

If East is left on lead he has to play a heart giving declarer a discard for the queen of spades whilst ruffing in dummy. If West overtakes he has the unpalatable choice of also giving the ruff-and-discard or leading into the spade tenace.

There is an alternative endplay: declarer could have cashed the ace of spades before throwing East in with the fourth round of diamonds. This would also produce the same ruff-and-discard position allowing the contract home.

The County Annual General Meeting takes place on June 21st at Liverpool BC. Please try to attend if you can, especially if you have any views about the organisation of the County. You won't necessarily be 'roped in' to serve on a committee by being there (though they are always on the look out for volunteers).

Garden Cities Qualifier

by Paul Roberts

Having had rubbish cards and no luck all day, in the last set, with Deva needing a very big win to stand any chance of qualifying, vulnerable v non-vulnerable sitting South I picked up :

♠ K J 8 4 ♥ A ♦ 10 ♣ A K Q 10 7 4 3

I was playing with John Hampson - an occasional rather than a regular partnership. After East passed (the opponents were silent throughout) I opened two clubs, the only unconditionally forcing bid in our methods. John replied two spades, no agreement but clearly natural and a good hand, so I jumped to four no-trumps (Roman Key Card Blackwood agreeing spades). John's five spade response showed the two missing key cards plus the spade queen so I now bid the obvious grand slam in spades, expecting it to be laydown for a flat board.

John won the diamond lead, drew trumps in 3 rounds (I was very surprised to see that he had only four cards in spades), then claimed, correctly stating that if clubs broke 4-0 he could ruff the fourth round of the suit and re-enter dummy which would then be high.

The full deal :

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

We hadn't discussed our responses to two club openers, beyond agreeing a response of two hearts would show a near 'bust' (no better than one queen) so that a two diamond reply would be virtually game forcing, with at least a king or two queens. He had decided to respond two spades because he felt it was essential to show the strength of his hand despite the suit length.

As you can see, with clubs 4-0 the club grand has no chance and seven spades played by South would go off on a club lead. If John does not bid spades immediately it is difficult for us to play in seven spades from the North hand.

Clearly this worked brilliantly at the table, but maybe we were a bit lucky !?

The other Deva N/S pair made six spades doubled whilst our E/W pairs had each of the black suit small slams bid against them. This was a great board for the team.

Deva qualified with 4 vps to spare. Our team was John Hampson, Paul Roberts, David Stevenson, Liz Commins, Keith Shuttleworth, Seb Jones, David Flacks, Peter Hall.

[The Garden Cities is the EBU inter-county event for the club champions of each County. There are 4 area heats with the top 2 at each of those going through to the National final. Well done to the Deva team for making it to the finals once again - Editor]

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

6th	Liverpool Open Pairs	LBC
21st	County AGM	MBC
26th	Bill Hughes simultaneous pairs	various clubs inc. Deva BC
30th	President's Cup	

July

14th	Northern Bridge League round 1	
17th	Liverpool Open Teams	LBC

August

5th	Friendly match v Derby	Blundellsands
11th	Northern Bridge League round 2	

September

11th	Andrew Rosebowl (County mixed pairs)	tba
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Odd Hand

by Julia Dearing

This odd hand came up at a recent duplicate session. On the card that my late husband Ric and I used to use (Benjaminised Acol) we stated that a two club opener showed 8 playing tricks and 14+ hcp. That seemed to be OK in the past but I was not sure if it was allowed now?

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

Fearing that my partner might pass one spade with perhaps just the heart queen or spade king, I opened two clubs. After two diamonds from partner I jumped to four spades where things ended. We (or I) obviously got it wrong, but so did everyone else as they all ended in four spades.

Everyone was going around at the end asking how it should be bid. As we were playing teams I did not worry about looking for 12 tricks, and just played the spade ace at trick 2. If you are in the slam then it is best to take the finesse for the trump king and thus you should cross to dummy with a heart to the jack to do so and amazingly will then finish with all the tricks.

It was pointed out to me that I was not strong enough to open two clubs under the new rules, but I had nine spades! Maybe I was wrong, but so be it.

(As I understand the new guidance, this hand is OK for a 2♣ opener as declarer has 12+ hcp and 5+controls, but I do feel the recent advice from the EBU on this type of bid is confusing - Editor)