



# Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Newsletter

Issue 20

OCTOBER 2013

## Editorial

### Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Northern Bridge League	1
Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2
Just when you thought... by Bob Pitts	3
With a little help by Bob Pitts	4
Calendar	4

It looks like you have all been playing less Bridge during the Summer months judging by the quantity of articles that have been sent in for this edition. I am sure things will get back to normal for the December issue (I already have some promises of material), but don't be afraid to send in those interesting ideas and deals as I would be happy to produce a larger end-of-year newsletter.

Reminder - the County Pairs championship for the Waterworth Cup is being held earlier than usual this year so that it does not clash with other major events. It will take place at Merseyside BC on November 17th and entries are to go to Ted Reveley - note HALF PRICE entry if you have never played in it before.

**Congratulations to John and Pauline Rudolf who were the winners of the Great Northern Swiss pairs at the weekend. A magnificent performance from them. The full list of results are available on the EBU website.**

## Northern Bridge League

*by Our Roving Reporter*

The third round of the 2013 competition took place on September 14th. The A squad were unable to turn out a team, so it was left to the B and C teams to carry the flag. The selectors had immense problems getting even 8 pairs out, and it even resulted in me being dragged in to play in a very occasional partnership for the Bs. Now until I turned up this squad had been leading their section, but not any longer. None of our pairs were able to produce a big set and the team finished equal third, which dropped them down to second overall in that division. The C team however, had a wonderful win led by John Gibb and Paul Mathews who finished top of the Butler scores.

Not all of the B team results were disappointing - have a look at this hand ♠ A 7 3 ♥ J 10 4 3 ♦ 7 3 ♣ J 8 7 6.

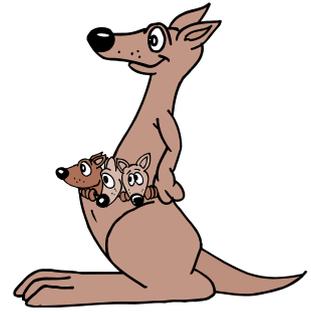
No one is vulnerable and your right-hand opponent deals and opens a weak two spades which you of course pass. The guy on your left bids a forcing/enquiring two no-trumps and your partner jumps to four hearts. RHO passes as do you of course, but leftie is still there and jumps to five spades, which is raised to six spades on your right. Some polite questioning from you discovers that the pass over four hearts showed a minimum but the raise to slam showed decent trumps (which is what the five spade bid asked for). So what do you do now? You would have to put a gun to my head to make me bid, and if they have misjudged you are unlikely to beat it by more than one, so a double is hardly worthwhile, thus pass seems correct. But what do you lead? It might be best to lead a passive heart, but what if dummy has a long minor suit plus spade support to justify his enthusiasm? Looking at your hand does not help too much, but there is a slight hint that he may have diamonds rather than clubs, so perhaps you need to try for a club trick quickly. Well...that was the winning lead, dummy holding ♠ J 9 2 ♥ A ♦ A K Q 8 6 4 2 ♣ A 2 and partner has the club king in a 1-7-2-3 shape hand.

Well against us the Manchester player holding this hand afterwards admitted he would have led a heart, but instead he tried the effect of saving in seven hearts. That was doubled for +1100 to the good guys and 12 imps against the 450 conceded by our other pair. Around the room the slam was bid at half of the tables and made at all of them, so finding the winning lead was just too difficult.

The final round of matches is this coming Saturday - Good Luck to everyone, especially the B team (without me)

## HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke



Dealer South. Game All

	♠ J 10 8 6 3		
	♥ 5		
	♦ A 6 3		
	♣ A 9 7 3		
♠ 5 2		♠ 4	
♥ Q J 10 4 2		♥ K 9 7 6 3	
♦ Q J 10 8 2		♦ 9 7 5	
♣ 2		♣ Q J 10 5	
	♠ A K Q 9 7		
	♥ A 8		
	♦ K 4		
	♣ K 8 6 4		
West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After North's splinter raise of four hearts, South checked with Roman Key card Blackwood and settled for the small slam. West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer saw that his only problem was to avoid two club losers and he found a neat way to circumvent that outcome.

After winning the opening lead in his hand, he drew two rounds of trumps and then cashed the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed the eight of hearts in dummy, cashed the diamond ace and then ruffed dummy's last diamond in his hand. Next he led the four of clubs and after West followed with the club two, declarer called for dummy's seven!

In the diagrammed deal, east had to win this trick with an honour and if he did not wish to concede a ruff-and-discard, had to return a club. A low club would just be giving up, so he tried the jack in case declarer was asleep, but this card was run to the ace and a club finesse against the East hand for the remaining honour gave South his contract. He made five trumps, the ace of hearts, a heart ruff, two diamonds and three clubs for a total of twelve tricks.

If West had followed to the second round of clubs, then the suit would have broken 3-2 giving declarer a routine three tricks. Finally, if East had begun with a singleton club honour, he would have taken the seven of clubs with it only to find himself endplayed and forced to concede a ruff-and-discard.

*No prizes, but can you spot the difference in the presentation of Tim's article this time (answer on page 4)*

## Just when you thought.....by Bob Pitts

It is always good to have a trump stack in defence, but sometimes the result is not always as wonderful as you might have been hoping when you come to compare with the score at the other table. Let's start with a hand from the teams event at this year's EBU Summer Congress in Brighton (I am not revealing the names of the East/West pair as I am hoping they will wish to buy my silence with alcohol).

Dealer North Game All

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

After a quiet start to the auction, once West found a spade fit opposite, he blasted into game, doubled by North. This was very unwisely redoubled by West who obviously thought his shapely hand would be a surprise for the opponents. This contract went 3 off for 1600 to N/S who were expecting a big gain. Sadly in the replay, West was less skilful (but wise enough not to redouble) and he managed to go 5 off in 4S doubled, which translated into a mere 5 imp gain against the result at the other table.

Dealer West E/W vul.

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

The second deal comes from the teams at the Varna Congress held in Bulgaria during August. West started with a multi two diamonds, and East made the strong relay bid of 2NT, when perhaps a raw blast into four spades would be better. South came in with a somewhat wild jump to four hearts (I think he is distantly related to our West in the first deal). West doubled this, as who wouldn't, but the result was a disappointment. West led a spade and East tried to cash two rounds. South ruffed and could play a diamond to the ace, to then ruff a diamond. He followed with a trump to the ace and another diamond ruff. He then exited with a club and West found he was trump-bound. He could discard a diamond on one of East's club winners but at trick eight he had to ruff whatever card was led and lead a trump into South's K J holding. The result was 500 to East-West which was a 4 imp loss against the 650 at the other table (East-West can be beaten in the spade slam by a diamond ruff, but they had wisely avoided that problem). Sometimes as a defender you can have too many trumps.

## Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

### Contacts and information

Newsletter editor : Bob Pitts

Phone : 01352 771304

E-mail: bob.pitts1@btinternet.com

Richard Alcock (county secretary) :  
ralcock@altrad.com

John Hampson (chairman of selectors) :  
john73hampson@btinternet.com

County website : www.mcba.org.uk

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.

### October

7th - 11th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs
12th	Northern Bridge League round 4	
20th	Chester Bowl - charity pairs	Deva BC

### November

10th	Merseyside Cup - new format	Deva BC
	Children in Need simultaneous pairs	MBC 11th, BBC 13th
17th	Waterworth Cup (County open pairs)	MBC
30th - Dec. 1st	Llangollen Swiss Teams	

### December

3rd	EBU National Pairs qualifier	Deva BC
-----	------------------------------	---------

### January

6th - 10th	EBU simultaneous pairs	Clubs
18th-19th	Chester Congress	Deva BC
26th	Merseyside & Deeside Cup (Pivot teams)	MBC

## With a little help from his friends opponents

by Bob Pitts

Dealer South Love All

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

One of the most satisfying pieces of declarer play consists of forcing a defender to provide an entry to tricks that would otherwise be out of reach. Consider the way in which declarer handled this deal forcing one opponent to help him out. South opened with a strong two clubs and received a negative response of two diamonds. He continued with two hearts and North chose to show his balanced shape with two no-trumps. South decided to repeat his hearts which North raised to game, thus missing the easy no-trump game. West started with the queen of clubs and East had no problem overtaking and returning the jack. When declarer covered with the king, West had some temporary joy when he ruffed. West now exited passively with a heart and South drew three rounds of the suit, extracting all of the defender's trumps. Declarer knew that West had only diamonds and spades left in his hand and if that included the diamond king there was a route to success. So he now cashed the ace of diamonds, played the spade ace and then the jack, overtaking with the queen in dummy. This was followed by the diamond queen from dummy on which South discarded the king of spades. West won with the king but now had to give the lead back to the dummy where the spade and diamond winners took care of declarer's losing clubs. This was a good combination of end-play and unblocking by South more than making up for the misjudgement in the bidding. Of course, had East held the king of diamonds, declarer would have gone down, but then there would have been no play for the contract anyway.

Did you spot the difference? The Kangaroo is facing the other way round to all previous articles.