



County Bulletin

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Editor's News

Most of you have heard about the current accusations of cheating against three top International pairs. If you wish to read more go to www.bridgecheaters.com and www.bridgewinners.com. There have also been articles in some daily newspapers. Until we hear more it is a difficult situation to judge, but I have enormous admiration and respect for players who willingly give up major titles they have won because they feel that their team-mates have not been playing bridge to the highest possible ethical standards.

Dutch players Frank van Wezel and Hans van de Konijnenberg have launched a free website www.bridgedailybulletins.nl. On this site you can find thousands of scanned daily bulletins, both from the digital era and before. They have posted World Bridge Federation, European Bridge League and American Contract Bridge League championship bulletins, as well as many from miscellaneous tournaments around the world. If you have bulletins that they are missing, please get in touch with them. Contact details can be found on the website

The Amicide Squeeze

by Bob Pitts

To save you looking it up, Amicide is the murder of a friend, so assuming that you are friends with your bridge partner (not always the case for some people) then squeezing them as a defender should definitely fall under this heading. Here is an example from a recent Deva club duplicate, though North sadly had no winning options.

Dealer West EW vul.

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

After opening one club, West eventually declared three no-trumps on the lead of the heart four. South won the ace and returned the eight, North following with the three as West won his king. Once the defenders get in they will cash three more hearts so to succeed declarer needed to avoid letting either hand make a trick outside hearts. Even if the spades produced four winners a third diamond trick was required, so after some thought declarer started by playing a diamond to the jack. When that held and South followed with the nine, it looked likely that North had at least nine red cards so the chances of an even break in spades had dimmed. However, if North had held the club king in addition to those red suit holdings he might have overcalled, so placing that king with South, along with the spade length, declarer could see a good chance for his contract. He exited from dummy with a heart, discarding a club from hand. North won and cashed another heart, dummy throwing a spade, South a club and declarer a diamond. North had little choice but to play his final heart and all 3 other players threw clubs. Now North exited with a spade. Declarer won with the king, crossed to the ace of diamonds and played the club ten to the ace in dummy. Now at trick 10, the diamond king was played and South had a choice of poisons, unable to retain both the club king and three spades. Even if North gets off play with a minor suit card the squeeze still operates. South is not actually squeezed by the fifth heart but he has to throw a card that he needs later to avoid that problem. If North had failed to cash the final heart, then as declarer had retained three clubs up till that point, he could safely lead a club up to his queen to establish the ninth trick.

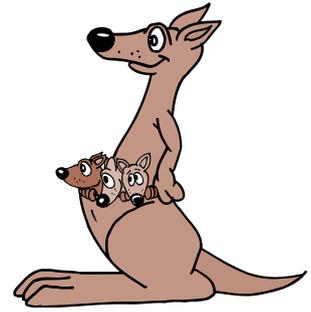
HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer North. E/W vul.

Imp scoring

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



West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a routine auction for a partnership playing a system with a strong no-trump base, South declared four spades on the lead of the heart jack. Declarer called for the king of hearts without too much thought and East won with the ace. East was not hard-pressed to find the switch to the diamond queen and South tried the king. When this lost to the ace and West returned another diamond, declarer had no chance. After ruffing the third round of diamonds he had one discard on the heart queen but still had to rely on the club finesse, which failed. South complained about his bad luck, but North gently suggested a better line of play - can you see it? South should not cover the opening lead as the heart ace is clearly offside. If a heart is continued, the ace of hearts is ruffed out and the other heart honour in dummy provides a parking place for a losing diamond. Then declarer merely loses one trick in each side suit as the fourth club can be ruffed in dummy should that prove necessary. Should East overtake the opening lead to switch to a diamond, then declarer loses two diamonds but now has two heart tricks available to throw losing clubs.

The Chester Bowl - October 18th

Have you entered yet - there are still a few places

The event is being held to support the Chester & District Federation of the Blind

Entry is £30.00 a pair for the bridge. Entry forms and details about the food and it's cost are available on the club website or contact

Sara Miles 07754 326825 saramiles67@gmail.com

North Wales Green-Pointed Swiss Pairs

This popular event is being held at the Holiday Inn, Northop Hall on October 11th. **It is not too late to enter.**

Contact Jean Hand on 01244 830246 or 07947 161224

Isle of Man Congress

by Andrea Knox

Although I have been going to the Isle of Man regularly for 25 years, this was my first visit to the Isle of Man Bridge Congress and I can thoroughly recommend it. The congress is extremely well run and everyone is very friendly. Next year it will be celebrating its 50th anniversary and will take place from 2nd-4th September, at the same time as the island's classic motorcycle festival, so why not give it a go.

In the teams it had been arranged for me to partner a very good player, whom I had never met before, let alone partnered. In the first session the opposition opened one no-trump and partner overcalled two clubs. I had one of my 'blonde' moments (*note - I am not blonde and these moments can happen to any bridge player!*) when I completely forgot our system and simply could not recall what the bid meant. I had a pretty flat hand and four clubs so after a long pained pause, decided to pass, choosing to stay in that hole rather than dig a possible bigger one. The two club bid was Astro and he turned out to have hearts AND clubs - how jammy was that?!! But the scene was now set for him not to have complete confidence in my ability to remember our newly cobbled together system.

Dealer North Game All

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

Roll on to session two where the above hand fell into our laps. I was sitting North and opened with two no-trumps, as we had agreed to play that to show at least nine cards in the minors with less than a normal opening bid. Imagine my partner's feelings opposite this as he struggled with his nine cards in the minors opening hand to know whether or not I had had another 'blonde' system forgetting moment and wondering if he was sitting across from a traditional 2NT hand!!

Partner decided that a four diamond bid would cover all possibilities and the bidding escalated quite quickly, with him finally taking the correct view to continue over the making five hearts, though there was much laughter at our table when the explanations were given. Six diamonds was only one off but there was no happy ending for us as our other pair had defended five diamonds, and with their declarer also getting the trump position correct we lost 13 imps on the board.

Even more amusing was the fact that in that round we had another bad board but when our team-mates were about to play it, someone had dropped the board whilst 'sending' it to them, and when all the cards fell out the board had to be voided. How lucky was that?

Playing with me - well it is bridge.....but not as you know it!!

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.

October

10th	Northern Bridge League round 4	
11th	WBU green-pointed Swiss pairs	Northop
18th	Chester Bowl (charity pairs)	Deva

November

1st	Merseyside Cup	
9th-12th	Children in Need simultaneous pairs	Clubs
14th-15th	WBU Swiss Teams	Llangollen
29th	Waterworth Cup (County pairs championship)	TBC

December

27th-29th	End of Year Congress	
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Northern Mid-Week Congress

by Alan Stephenson

I played on a largely Merseyside and Cheshire team in this Congress at Clayton-le-Moors on Thursday 27th of August. I partnered an old school friend Bernard Burns, who has recently returned to competitive bridge after a long absence. Team mates were Stuart Matthews (also at school with Bernard and I) and Mark Weeks. We had all warmed up in the two day championship pairs on the Tuesday and Wednesday with Stu/Mark a creditable 7th and Bernard and I slightly above average in 15th, but having steadily improved finishing with third place in the final session with almost 59%. Thus we were optimistic of a reasonable run in the teams.

Sitting South I thought Bernard showed good judgement in the bidding on the following hand, played against Helen Wildsmith/Tim Chanter of London who teamed up with Liz Commins/David Stevenson.

Board 8 Dealer West Love All

	♠ A Q 8 3		
	♥ 10 6 5		
	♦ Q J		
	♣ Q J 6 4		
♠ K		♠ 10 6	
♥ Q J 4		♥ A 9 8 7 3 2	
♦ K 9 8		♦ 10 7 3	
♣ A 10 7 5 3 2		♣ 9 8	
	♠ J 9 7 5 4 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ A 8 4 3 2		
	♣ K		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Double
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

1. Precision club 2. Natural non-forcing

Bernard did well to find the raise to game on his shapely hand. As you can see the play wasn't challenging and the result a non-vulnerable game swing of six imps when Liz/David stopped in 3S+1.

This was one of a number of favourable results in the match and we managed a "shut out" and 20 VP's to get us off to a good start. We won our second match 17-3 and headed the field at the break. We then lost narrowly to the star studded team of John Holland playing with Pat Davies partnering Warner Solomon and Ian Walsh, but still had a narrow lead which was extended with a 16-4 win over the Wattleworth team. Another small loss in the fifth match meant we retained a narrow advantage going into the last match against the Gronau team who were lying fourth. Suffice it to say our team was not at its best and a missed slam and a poor view in 2NT leading to -300 led to another 8-12 defeat and second place overall. Well done to the winning team from Derbyshire and thanks to Mike and newly promoted National Tournament Director Sarah Amos who ran the event with their customary efficiency and good humour.