



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin

Issue 44

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Editor's News

Inside this issue:

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| Editor's News | 1 | We are just coming towards the end of the annual series of matches in the Northern Bridge League. There have been times when the selectors have been struggling for players. There are opportunities at all levels of play, so again can I appeal to anyone, regardless of how experienced you are, to let the selectors know if you are available to play in any matches for the County. Taking part will definitely help your game as well as the County. |
| Welsh Foursomes
by Bob Pitts | 1 | |
| Hand from Down Under
by Tim Bourke | 2 | |
| Declarer play of the Year
by Paul Linxwiler | 3/4 | |
| Calendar | 4 | As this is the time of year that both clubs and the County are starting their 'year' of events perhaps you might also consider entering something this year that you have not tried before. Go on - be brave. |
| Quiet night at the club
by Bob Pitts | 5 | |

Welsh Foursomes

by Bob Pitts

The Welsh Foursomes took place over the weekend of 23rd/24th September and despite a disappointing entry it was an excellent event which I thoroughly enjoyed. The winners were Diane and Filip Kurbalija, Peter Goodman, Jeremy Dhondy. When my team met them in round 10 we were undefeated, but they soon put a stop to that.

Dealer South Game All

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

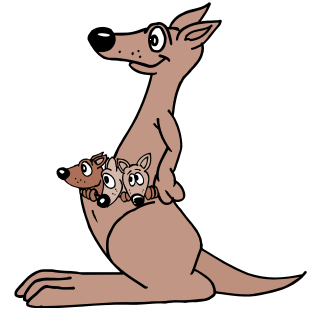
Diane opened the South hand with one diamond and soon found herself playing slam in that denomination. As West I led my trump, which she won in hand. A spade to the ace and a spade ruff were followed by a heart to the queen. East won and returned a trump, won on the table. Another spade ruff failed to bring down the king, so Diane ruffed a heart in dummy and ruffed a further spade in hand. Now she took out the missing trump and although the heart jack did not fall under the king she just continued diamonds for a classic double-squeeze. Neither of us could retain our major suit winner and also hold on to three clubs, so the club nine took the twelfth trick.

HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke

Dealer East. Both vul.

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



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

1. 2+ clubs; includes all balanced 12-14/18-19 hands
2. 4+ spades; transfer if opener is 12-14 balanced
3. 4-card spade raise, 18-19 balanced
4. Re-transfer

This hand is from round 7 of the Venice Cup - the women's world championship, held in Lyon during the Summer. At most tables North declared four spades on the lead of the ten of hearts. The above auction is from the England - USA encounter with Sally Brock of England sitting South partnering Fiona Brown. Sylvia Shi and Beth Palmer of the USA sat West and East respectively. West led the queen of clubs and declarer was given a chance to show some good technique when West followed with an encouraging five. South played the eight of clubs from hand and won the club continuation with the ace. She then cashed the ace of trumps and led the two of trumps to dummy's ten. After that she played the final club from dummy and ruffed it in hand. Next she played the two of hearts to the ace and another back to the king in hand. Whilst she planned to ruff the jack of hearts in dummy, when West covered the jack with the queen she adopted a different course, discarding a diamond from dummy. This endplayed West who cashed the ace of diamonds and Sally had fulfilled her contract.

East does better to play the king of clubs at trick one, however the contract should still get home. Declarer wins with the ace and draws trumps ending in dummy and leads a low club. East must rise with the ten and play a diamond to declarer's ten and West's queen. After ruffing the club exit, declarer cashes the ace and king of hearts, then ruffs the jack of hearts in dummy. Now she plays a diamond to the king and ace but West is endplayed: the enforced ruff-and-discard allows declarer to throw the final diamond loser from dummy whilst ruffing in hand.

Declarer Play of the Year

by Paul Linxwiler (USA)

This deal arose in the round of 16 of the Vanderbilt, one of the major teams events in the USA and Norwegian Boye Brogeland was the star. This was judged the best played hand of the year from those submitted to the members of the International Bridge Press Association.

Dealer East Love All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
		1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the two of spades (third and fifth best) which went to East's ace and was ruffed. Declarer unblocked the ace of hearts, crossed to the king of diamonds and ran the queen of hearts to East's king, West and dummy pitching spades. On the club return (a spade is no better, as we shall see; declarer will ruff a spade himself shortly), Brogeland won with the king and played the jack of diamonds to the queen and ace. The count of the defenders' hands was complete; the fifth-best lead meant that West had started with a 5=1=4=3 pattern so Brogeland crossed to the ace of clubs, and returned to his hand with the queen of clubs to create the ending shown overleaf.

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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.

October

7th Northern Bridge League round 4

8th North Wales Swiss pairs Northop

15th Chester Bowl (Charity pairs) Deva BC

November

5th Merseyside Cup MBC

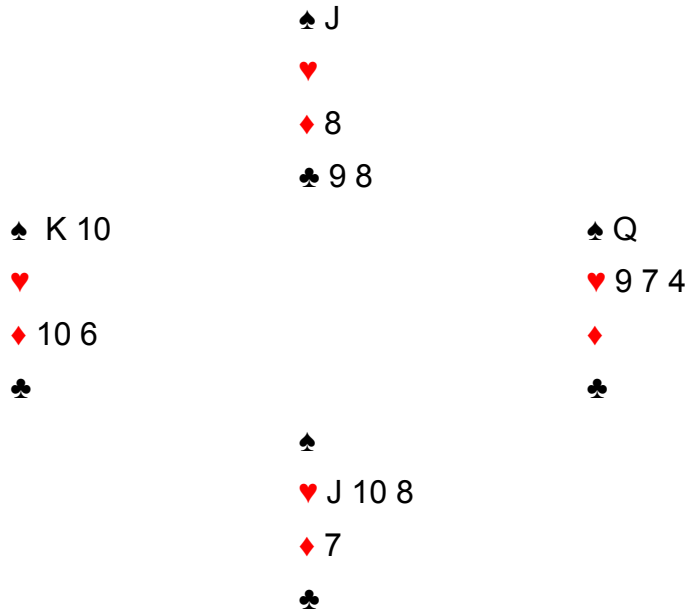
25th/26th Llangollen Swiss Teams Llangollen

December

3rd Waterworth Cup MBC

January

27th/28th Chester Congress Deva BC



This is the position that Brogeland foresaw earlier in the play, and it shows why declarer (not dummy) needs to be on lead at this juncture. West had no answer when declarer played the jack of hearts. If West pitches a spade, declarer does likewise from dummy. If West ruffs low, declarer overruffs in dummy and plays the established clubs, holding West to one more trick. If West ruffs high and plays a trump, declarer wins in dummy and runs the clubs.

Making five diamonds doubled was worth plus 550 and a 4 imp gain when five clubs made at the other table for plus 400. Had Brogeland failed his team would have lost 11 imps and the match as this was the last board of the match and Boye's team was ahead by only 8 imps at this point.

CHESTER CONGRESS

This popular annual Congress takes place on the weekend of 27th/28th January. The Pairs event takes place on Saturday and Teams on Sunday.

Get your entry in early to avoid disappointment

A QUIET NIGHT AT THE CLUB

by Bob Pitts

It is a normal duplicate night and you sit down against two of the club's more optimistic bidders. You are the dealer and pick up ♠ A J 10 6 4 ♥ K Q J 8 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ 10. No problem, you start with one spade. Your left-hand opponent comes in with two no-trumps showing the minors. Partner doubles showing some interest in a penalty and the ever optimistic bidder on your right jumps to four clubs. What is your plan now?

As you have a minimum of high card points, it is probably best to bid four hearts but does this show a minimum or will partner see it as forward going? If the latter should you pass to see what partner does, but then if he doubles and you pull to four hearts is that a stronger option? A good idea to have discussed this situation, though personally I reckon it is intuitive to treat bidding immediately as weaker, showing a shapely hand with no real slam interest.

Now, if you decide to pass and partner doubles for penalty and you decide to leave it in, what do you lead? Everyone that I showed the hand to led the heart king (even though few wanted to leave in the double). What is your opinion on what to lead?

Well.....the heart lead is a disaster, as the contract will now make. In fact any of the other eleven non-trumps in your hand will work equally badly as you can see from the full deal.

Dealer East EW vul.

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

On a trump lead, partner can play three rounds of the suit and North-South have lots of losers. On any other start, declarer takes the heart ace and can ruff five major suit cards in dummy whilst ruffing four diamonds in hand as East cannot over-ruff on the third or fourth round of the suit, so contract made! How would East-West get on playing the hand? Well, settling for game was successful but slam in either major was too much because of the (advertised) bad breaks. Double-dummy six no-trumps is makeable by either of them but when it was played only one pair managed that and one South 'saved' in seven diamonds for a cool -2000.

Just another quiet deal on a club night.