

# **THE YOUNG CHELSEA MAGAZINE**

(The Official Newsletter of the Y.C.)

**EDITORS: NORMAN SELWAY AND KAY PREDDY**

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## **W**

♠ KJ6

♥ K52

♦ A8765

♣ A2

## **E**

♠ 102

♥ 83

♦ KJ2

♣ KQ10765

**By dint of some rather aggressive bidding, West plays in the contract of 3NT after North has overcalled in Hearts and led the suit. How can you give yourself the best chance of making the contract after winning the first trick with the King of Hearts?**

( See Inside for solution)

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## **EDITORIAL By Norman Selway**

Welcome to the Young Chelsea Magazine, the first under my editorship. Many thanks to the outgoing editor, the ever popular Mike Durrant, who for several years has had the struggle of bringing out a quality magazine which would be of interest to the hundreds of Y.C. members, at no cost to themselves. He has done a marvellous job and I hope that he will be able to still find time to help out a fledgling editor.

But please remember, the magazine is what you make it. What do I mean by that? Well, this magazine is your forum, and unless you tell me what you would like to see, your views on current issues or merely what competitions you have done well in lately, it will become a series of unrelated articles, that, however entertaining, a club magazine will not make. Members of the club include some of the best bridge writers in the country, and I will be after them to contribute to future issues, but more importantly I need our regular players to contribute. You are there most evenings and you are the lifeblood of the club!

That admonition aside, it is my intention to bring several new features to each issue. The cover will from now on, contain a single dummy problem which will I hope, will tax the little grey cells. Inside, there will be a prize problem that will carry for the winner the dubious award of a free duplicate with yours truly for the first correct solution received. The second correct solution will get two free duplicates with me (no, only joking, I would not wish to inflict that on anybody) - you will receive a voucher for a free Y.C. duplicate as will the third. I will also be buttonholing random club members (no, not just the well known ones), to ask them a little about themselves and their views about the club. I will be running a regular feature on modern treatments and conventions (the first will be written by Jeremy Dhondy who will be well known to many of you), and I intend to start a "Marks and Comments" feature near the back of the magazine. If you would like to be on the panel, and expert status would be a positive disadvantage, please contact me.

Most importantly in my view however, will be the opportunity to air your views on contentious subjects in the letters page. This will be your chance to debate topics that you think are important and to see if other members share your feelings. And here is "your starter for ten", so to speak. In his now regular column in the Times, Robert Sheehan, a many time British International player, wrote, we assume lightheartedly, that the Multi 2 Diamonds "Should not be attempted by women and children". He cannot be serious, to coin a phrase, but what if he was? Does he really think that our "Open" team, in terms of success over the years is anything to write home about? Does he imagine that bridge in clubs operates like many other sports (and if bridge is not a sport of the mind, what is?), golf and bowls being the main culprits, whereby women are merely there for decoration and only to be tolerated? Has not our Women's Team been feared and respected throughout the whole bridge world for decades, not to mention a success rate that should make the men blush? And whatever you may think about the honours system, are not the only bridge players to be recognised thus women - Rixi Markus and Nicola Smith?

What are your views? Should women be kept barefoot in the kitchen or is Sheehan losing his marbles? I know what I think!

My address is 121 Florence Rd, Wimbledon, SW19 8TL - tell me what you think!

## **They Can Also Play You Know!**

**By John Probst**

John Probst, our sometime tournament director, computer - scorer and lunatic player should be well known to most Young Chelsea members. Ever popular and with a "slightly" quirky outlook on the game, John very rarely finishes average and in the process gives, and has himself, a lot of fun with the game. That is not to say that John is not a very good player when he has a mind (not often many would say) and he utterly refutes the old adage that "Those who can play, play, and those who cannot, direct". I asked him to tell me something of his bridge activities and to describe a fairly normal period in his bridge life. This is what he told me .....

"I am in the club alot and I get asked about all types of bridge situations, but on one day in particular I strode into the club intent on wrecking our new scoring programme. It was 9.15 in the morning (Those who know John would think this unlikely. Ed.) and a call arrived from a lady in Switzerland asking how to run a five table, one session Teams of Four for an A.C.B.L. event which would allow half - time scoring. I dictated the movement from memory over the telephone and told her which page of Groner ( the A.C.B.L. book of tournament movements) it was on. She was delighted, and it proved that it doesn't matter when or where you are in the world, the Y.C. knows the answer.

Not long after this I wandered into the Barrow - in - Furness Bridge Club and picked up, as you do, a random partner and achieved a 71.5 % session. I didn't go back. Can you imagine the folklore? "Do you remember the man from Young Chelsea who dropped in and did 71.5 % with Mrs. Thingy and rode off into the sunset? I wonder what that stranger's name was." Brilliant!

They can also play you know!

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## **SOLUTION TO COVER HAND:**

**By Kay Preddy**

It all looks too easy you say, six Club winners, two Diamond winners and the King of Hearts - nine tricks. But what if the Clubs don't break? Ah, you say I've still got the chance of the Diamond finesse haven't I? So try it, KH:, AC:, KC: (show out), AD: and a Diamond to the Jack.... holds, KD:..... oops, can't get back for my two winning Diamonds in hand. You will kick yourself when I give you the answer. All that you have to do is to start with a *small* Club to the King, returning small to the Ace. Now if the Clubs break you are home and if they don't then you are in the right hand to try a small Diamond to the Jack without fear of blocking the suit.

Easy isn't it, but when this hand was played in a high powered American teams match some years ago, two "household names" both went down. Did you?

## Convention Corner

There are a lot of conventions about. But which are useful and which are just a waste of time? Here is your opportunity to judge as over the months well known players describe their favourite gadgets. Some will appeal to you and some will not, but to be sure, it will do you no harm to see how they work, and you never know, you might find a really indispensable tool! The first of these will be described by Jeremy Dhondy, who in partnership with Ian Pagan has been one of the country's leading pairs for the past few seasons and who regularly contributes to the official magazine of the E.B.U.

### Smith Peters By Jeremy Dhondy

(a bit of persuasion for those averse to new ideas)

You may start off by thinking I don't want to play this, whatever it is or does, but even if you decide that you don't, you can pick up clues as to how your opposition defend contracts and make some that you would not otherwise.

A Smith Peter is a defensive carding signal designed to tell the opening leader or his partner whether the opening lead has been a success. Most people play it only against No Trump contracts and the rule is that a peter on declarer's first played suit shows a liking for the suit that was first led.

Here is an example of how it works:

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>
S:765	S: AQ2
H:Q1075	H:843
D:J864	D:K953
C:Q3	C:A64

South opened a 12-14 NT and North raised to three. You lead 5H: which goes to the 3, K and Ace. Declarer now plays a Club to the Ace and a Club to his ten and your Queen. What do you do now? If partner has the Jack of Hearts you must continue - if declarer has it, you will at best concede an overtrick, at worst the contract. If you are playing Smith Peters you look at the way partner has played his Club cards. If he has petered he likes Hearts and will have the Jack, if he has not petered then he doesn't have it.

Convinced so far? If you take it up with your regular partner without further discussion it will be worse than not playing it at all. For example what do you do when you can't peter because inconveniently you have only been dealt one card, or what do you do if declarer plays on a long suit where dummy has no entry and it becomes vital to show partner how many cards you have in a suit? These are circumstances where other defensive considerations come first. In the example where declarer wins the opening lead and plays towards a dummy with a good suit but no outside entry, common-sense dictates that you must show your length to help partner to know when to win. In the hand above it is not possible for West to peter without throwing a winner. You may wish to discuss whether in these circumstances a peter in the suit played next is still a Smith Peter.

Some people say that it is solely a peter by the leader's partner that counts, others that they peter from both sides. Some are very sneaky and play reverse Smith Peters i.e. a peter says that I *do not* like the suit led, and do not wish for it to be continued. If you decide that Smith Peters are not for you it still pays to be aware of what your opponents are doing. Look for Smith Peters on their convention card and find out when they apply and how they are played. This way you can form a clearer picture of your opponent's hand.

# **The Swiss Individual**

## **By Vivian Martin**

(The name Vivian Martin will be unknown to many of you, but Vivian was a long standing member of Young Chelsea for many years. He was an excellent player who won many National competitions before the lure of the coffee bean (he now runs at least two successful coffee shops) enticed him away from the bridge world. Vivian noted with distaste the increasing number of Swiss type events that he felt were devaluing the importance of E.B.U. Green Points, and detracting from their importance as a guide to ability. He noted that these events attracted vast attendances and wondered what the E.B.U. would come up with next - a Swiss Individual perhaps?)

This was his vision .....

The U.B.E.'s newest event, The South - Western Swiss Individual, took place at the Grimsdyke Temperance Hotel, Thurso, on the weekend of the 29th - 31st February. It behoves me at once to state that despite the gloomy prognostications of a certain section of the bridge world, the tournament proved to be a resounding success. No fewer than 8,347 players entered, many of them were new, not merely to the tournament game, but indeed to bridge in any form. The popularity of the event seems attributable largely to the intriguing scoring method designed to provide all players, regardless of experience or ability, with an equal chance of winning. Congratulations are due to the U.B.E. ( Union for Bridge Egalitarianism) for so successfully fulfilling the mandate given to them by the rank and file membership.

Here is a resume of the format of the competition;

- 1) The first qualifying round of the competition would consist of an open lottery in bingo style: - the first 600 callers of house to qualify.
- 2) For the first round proper there would be a draw for position, and at each table nine boards would be played, each player playing three boards with each other player.
- 3) The scores would then be computed and assignment cards issued on the basis that the four most nearly average scores would play at the middle table. The greater the deviation from average the further away from the middle, thus the top and bottom tables would each contain two of the top four players and two of the bottom four.
- 4) The winner, who would receive 150 Green Points, would be the player who after 15 rounds had achieved the most nearly average score. Further green points would be awarded down to half way on a decreasing scale as the players' score moved in either direction away from average.
- 5) In addition to their Green Points the winner would also receive half a bottle of King Victoria Genuine Old Scotsman's Whisky (kindly donated by a Taiwanese sponsor), and a handsomely engraved piece of sponsored U.B.E. plastic. There would also be six supplementary prizes, only available to players below the rank of Club Master, the winners' names to be drawn out of the Tournament Directors hat at intervals during the competition. These prizes would each consist of a free world cruise for two together with automatic selection for the forthcoming European Championships.
- 6) All players of Life Master rank would be required to attend on pain of a lifetime suspension from the U.B.E. These players would of course be ineligible for all prizes, thus preventing them from trying too hard and upsetting the less experienced performers - also ugly rumours of professionalism would thus be averted. They would however be eligible for ultra - violet points, possession of which would guarantee immunity from selection from any National team, thus saving the player a great deal of time and expense.

It can be seen that from the above conditions the organisers have, at a stroke, succeeded in that most difficult of objectives, namely obtaining a strong field without, in the process, reducing any players chance of winning. In the later stages of the tournament, several players who were doing well attempted to bring their score closer to average by deliberate misboarding. This idea was easily foiled by the Chief Director who announced that a) there would be no fines for misboarding, and b) anyone misboarding would be required to attend next year's event.

It is, regrettably, typical of the attitude of certain elements that complaints were heard in some quarters about the delay between rounds. Obviously in view of the complexity of the format, scoring was going to take a little longer than usual, but surely it is a small enough price to pay for all the benefits conferred by this event. Indeed, it seems to me miraculous and worthy of all praise that the highly efficient team of directors succeeded in keeping the wait between rounds to little more than two and a half hours. With rigorous enforcement of the slow - play penalties it proved possible to play 9 boards in 27 minutes which ensured that the evening sessions were completed shortly after 2.30 a.m. The afternoon sessions a trifle earlier than usual at 12.01 p.m. thus providing a break of over an hour between sessions. An early board gave spectators a foretaste of the excitement to come;

<u>N</u> (Troy Weston)			
♠ AJ6			
♥ A102			
♦ 8432			
♣ Q86			
<u>W</u> (P A.Looka)		<u>E</u> (Ida Koone)	
♠ 753		♠ 842	
♥ 654		♥ QJ8	
♦ 76		♦ QJ105	
♣ 75432		♣ KJ10	
		<u>S</u> (Sam Ruby)	
		♠ KQ109	
		♥ K973	
		♦ AK9	
		♣ A9	

The bidding was a trifle optimistic: starting with N (E and W passing throughout), 1D, 2S - 3S, 7S. West led a trump and declarer won in hand, played a Heart to dummy's Ace, a Heart to his King and another Heart, ruffed by West (who had the H:4 in with his Diamonds). West exited with a Spade and Ruby cashed his Spades and AK of Diamonds reducing East to D:QJ and C:KJ. The lead of the 9 of Hearts forced East to discard the Jack of Diamonds whereupon Ruby promptly endplayed him with D;Q, thus emerging with 11 tricks. Meanwhile West's revoke had come to light so the director was called to apply the revoke law and as the revoke trick was won by the offending side, this and one other trick were awarded to the non - offenders thus giving N/S a rather fortunate + 2210. Ida Koone, annoyed by the sniggers of the kibbitzers appealed on the grounds that E/W would have won the revoke trick anyway, but to no avail. Sam Ruby thus joined the select band of players who have made a Grand Slam on a throw - in.

An interesting consequence of the format was that in many cases the members of a partnership found themselves in direct conflict. If for example a player was well over average, he would need poor scores to bring his score back to average but his partner

might be below average and need good scores to get back into contention. This unusual situation inevitably brought about some intriguing problems in bidding and play. One South player found an imaginative bid as dealer, Vul. Vs. Non/Vul on, S: 432 H: 5432: D: 432 C: 432. He was below average and needed a good score but unfortunately his partner was well above average and hoping for zeros. South accordingly opened 7NT on the grounds that he, at least, would play the contract (doubled and redoubled by his partner) to make as many tricks as possible while his partner would clearly play it misere. Dummy produced a fair hand and South's score of - 4600 was slightly over average. Unfortunately North called the Director who ruled that South's bid was psychic and N/S were given an adjusted score. The Director reported South's action to the U.B.E. and a meeting of the Fools and Pathetics Committee was hastily convened. Fortunately for the offending player, the Committee, perhaps bored into submission by an impassioned 12 hour speech by Jason Hurd, decided that there were mitigating circumstances and accordingly contented themselves with a life ban on the offending player rather than bringing to bear the full weight of the penalties for psychic bidding. The following results are provisional as there are still many appeals to be heard, it is hoped that the official results will be available some time within the next 3 months. It seems clear however that Mr. Sam Ruby's perfect score of 67 clear tops, 67 clear bottoms and one board averaged following a misboarding, must have contrived the most average score in the event, though not perhaps, in the manner anticipated by the organisers.

## PROVISIONAL RESULTS ( AV. 20115)

1ST: S. RUBY	20115
2ND: M.MOUSE	20116
3RD: MRS. GUGGENHEIM	20111
4TH: H. HORNBLOWER	20110
5TH: = S. HOLMES	20109
D. WATSON	20121

It has since come to the U.B.E.'s notice that Sam Ruby opened a weak No Trump on a 4-3-3-3 13 count. It is the opinion of the U.B.E. that this is so far from the normal bid for this to constitute a psyche and it is likely that his score will be adjusted. The event was such a success that the U.B.E. are considering Jason Hurd's proposal to allow the counties to hold their own Swiss Individuals with their own Green Point awards. Of course we eagerly await their decision on this matter.

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### Did You Know? By David Martin

....that if you think that you have been given misinformation, you should not call the director until the play of the hand is complete unless the issue relates to dummy's hand, in which case you can call the T.D. as soon as dummy's hand is exposed. Calling the T.D. too early may give your partner unauthorised information!

....that Dummy *can try* to prevent Declarer pointing the card in the wrong direction provided that he attempts to do it before Declarer has let go of the card and quitted the trick!

## Bids and Comments By Kay Preddy

I thought long and hard about how to select the panel for this competition and decided after much heart rending to choose the panellists on the basis on the most important criterion - they were prepared to do it. Just a joke - I have a pre-eminent panel whose bids and comments will at least help you to understand why the results slips at the Y.C. have such a wide range of different contracts.

I would like to thank all those that provided the Marks and Comments and ask them to accept my apologies if I have (slightly) modified their comments. If you would like to appear on a future panel or if you have any hands that you think should be featured, please contact Norman.

### 1. IMPS, Game All

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u> <u>IC</u>	<u>E</u> <u>P</u>
1H	P	1NT (12-14)	P
3D	P	3S	P
?			

South Holds:            ♠ 9 7 6 3  
                             ♥ A J 10 5 3  
                             ♦ A K 10 8  
                             ♣ None

*The panel don't seem to be on the same wavelength here. There is very little consensus in the interpretation of North's three spade bid. Starting with the most frequent interpretation that North is showing 4S and seeking to play in spades if South has support:*

**Sue Lishman - 4S:** I suspect my partner to have bid 1NT with 4 spades (I wouldn't) and think my hand good for spades with the club void.

**Brian Ransley/ Mike Fletcher - 4S:** Playing a strong no trump in 1958 (the problems came from British Bridge World published in 1958) the style would be to bid like this with 4333 12-14 count. North seems worried about his clubs anyway.

**Julie Bacon - 4S:** I think partner is 4/4 in the blacks, but it would be easier to investigate the North hand with a 2 club checkback bid rather than 3D which consumes a lot of space.

*Others think that North is just showing a 3 2 3 5 shape:*

**John Probst - 3NT:** I don't believe that North will believe that I'm 4 5 4 0 if I bid 4S and he may be 3 2 3 5 direction asking.

**David Martin - 3NT:** Partner's most likely shape is 3 2 3 5 and if he is as good as AKx, xx, xxx, AKxxx then game is almost certain. To pass on the grounds that this is a misfit is too risky at IMPS and 4S is unlikely to make on a cross-ruff - especially on a spade lead.

*Others think that North is agreeing diamonds but proceed in different routes to the diamond contract:*

**Norman Selway - 5D:** Partner is showing a control in spades and good diamonds. Partner has at most 2 hearts and probably a singleton. 3NT will probably be short of tricks with no fit except diamonds. On the other hand playing in diamonds will benefit from a cross ruff. Although six diamonds may make if partner has the right hand, it is irresponsible to start looking for one as partner will think he has a suitable hand when six has no play e.g. A Q x, x, Q J x x, A x x x x.

**Andrew Abelson - 4D:** Presumably North is showing the Ace of spades and a diamond fit in case South is strong and suitable for a slam. It is just possible that North has the right cards - heart King, Spade Ace and Q/J of diamonds - despite his minimum hand. If north shows the king of hearts then I go to six diamonds. Otherwise I expect North to sign off in 5 diamonds.

**Andy Smith - 4H:** My regular partner would have bid 1S over 1H with 4 spades and I wouldn't have this problem. If partner has opened 1C with 2, 2, 4, 5 then he can bid 5D over 4H.

## 2. Pairs, EW vulnerable

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
		1H	2D
?			
South Holds:	♠ 7 4 ♥ A 10 8 7 ♦ A J 6 4 ♣ K 5 2		

*Much more consensus here; either bid our way to 3 or 4 Hearts or try for the penalty double. Let's see what the doublers have to say:*

**Probst - double:** if penalties. 4H if playing negative doubles - I bid what I think I can make.

**Bacon - Pass:** If partner reopens with a double then I hope to get 500 from it. If they run to 2S or partner reopens with a bid then I can support hearts to game.

*And those that don't fancy the penalty:*

**Abelson - 3H:** A penalty double might bring 500; but my diamonds are not that good and I have too many hearts. The standard limit raise to 3 hearts is right. If North can bid 4 we would not have done well out of 2 diamonds doubled.

*From the pessimistic to the optimistic:*

**Selway - 3D:** then 4 hearts showing a good raise to 4 hearts. My assumed extra trick in 3NT doesn't compensate for my desire to explore a slam not for the extra tricks in hearts. Never would I look for a penalty double on this hand - too many hearts and diamonds too poor.

*to the middle of the road:*

**Martin - 4H:** expecting it to make as the diamonds and club K are likely to be well placed.

*to the cowards:*

**Lishman - 4H:** despite their vulnerability, I can't double and dare not pass.

*to the educated:*

Smith - 4H: It may be better to pass and wait for partner to re-open with a double, could be like waiting for Godot.

*to the schizophrenic:*

Ransley/Fletcher - 4H: Brian likes playing 2NT is this kind of sequence to show 4+ card support to at least 3H - Mike doesn't, so our consensus is 4H.

### 3. IMPS, Game All

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
P	P	1S	P
?			
South Holds:	♠ A 2 ♥ K 8 6 3 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ A 10 5 2		

*A straight split here between a natural 2NT and a natural 2C.*

Bacon - 2NT: Natural. I think it is more descriptive than 2C although we might miss a 4-4 heart fit if partner is minimum and does not bid 3H.

Martin - 2NT: 10-11 HCP's and balanced. This avoids pinpointing a diamond lead should we end up in 3NT.

Ransley/Fletcher - 2C: We don't play SNAP (*oh dear, I don't know what that is*). We don't like 2NT opposite a third in hand opener holding three high cards and no diamond stop. 2 Clubs seems the best bid - it could be passed but not usually.

Smith - 2C: Partner may have 4 hearts, will bid 2NT over 2 spades.

### 4. IMPS, Love All

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
P	P	1S	P
2C	P	2S	P
?			
South Holds:	♠ 8 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A Q 8 4 ♣ A J 7 3 2		

*Pass is a very popular bid here and some feel quite strongly about it:*

Selway - Pass: Partner is 3rd in hand here and although this does not preclude him from having a reasonable hand the lack of a Heart stopper and no real Spade fit argue against bidding.

Lishman - Pass: Every time!

Probst - Pass: No fit, bad shape.

*Some go for the responder's reverse to try to explore further and find the right spot. It describes the hand shape quite well but perhaps will lead us too high.*

**Bacon - 3D:** Allows partner to rebid 3S, or 3NT (protecting his heart stop) or 3H (fourth suit) allowing me to bid 3S.

**Martin - 3D:** A responder's reverse showing 5 clubs and 4 diamonds and 11+ HCP's - Also forcing for 1 round. Partner can now show 6 spades (3S) or a heart stop (3NT) or use FSF.

*And the final selection of 2NT but Andy doesn't sound too sure about it:*

**Smith - 2NT:** pass may be right

## 5. Pairs, Love All

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1H	1S	1C	P
?		double (pen.)	P
South Holds:	♠ 7 ♥ A 8 6 4 3 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ 10 7 6 2		

*Do we assume that partner knows what he's doing or assume that he'll expect me to take action if I'm unsuitable for playing 1S doubled?*

**Abelson - Pass:** I have my bid! *(there's a first time for everything.)*

**Martin - Pass:** I've got everything that my 1 heart bid promised i.e. 7 HCP's. 5 hearts and two defensive tricks. The four clubs are worrying as partner's club tricks will get ruffed but if partner is something like K J 9 x, xx, xx, A K x x x then he won't thank me for removing the double. Pulling his double with this hand also shows a distrust of his bidding.

*Well, what do the pullers have to say:*

**Probst - 3C:** 8 losers and they have an 8-card fit.

**Smith - 3C:** ready to apologise if they're going 2 off or we only make 2C.

**Lishman - 2C:** time to show support, I suspect the points are evenly divided.

**Selway - 3C:** too many clubs to pass, 2C is a bit wet and unless partner is 5 - 5 they have an 8 card Spade fit and we are therefore not getting very rich, if at all.

**Ransley/Fletcher - 2C:** we have two likely tricks in defence of 1S. Even if partner has 5 tricks (i.e. a good hand) he probably wouldn't have opened 1C with less than 4 clubs. Thus we can't pass and 2C is the only sensible alternative.

## 6. IMPS, Game All

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1D	P	1H	P
1NT (12-14)	P	2C (*)	P
2H	P	3C	P
?			

\* Natural and non-forcing

South Holds:            ♠ A J 8  
                               ♥ J 5 2  
                               ♦ A Q 8 5 3  
                               ♣ Q 7

*Is partner weak or invitational and how many hearts and clubs is he showing - the panel is undecided.*

**Probst - Pass:** Partner is 4H and 6C limited.

**Selway - Pass:** partner has 4H and 6C - this is to play.

*Well that's their view but others have very different ideas of partner's hand:*

**Abelson - 4H:** This may be pushy, but everything is working. I hope partner's hearts are as good as K 10 9 xx, and he has an honour in clubs. May need a finesse or two.

**Martin - 4H:** Partner is at least 5 - 5 in hearts and clubs and game is therefore very likely e.g. give partner: x, KQxxx, xx, KJxxx - an ace-less 9 HCP's but with only 2/3 losers and a certain game opposite my hand.

**Smith - 3NT:** Partner could have passed 2H, I'm maximum with good cards in his suits and the lead into my hand.

**Lishman - 3NT:** Don't understand partner's club bid at all, but expect a spade or diamond lead into my hand.

The full set of bids are:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ransley/Fletcher	4S	4H	2C	Pass	2C	Pass
Selway	5D	3D	2NT	Pass	3C	Pass
Smith	4H	4H	2C	2NT	3C	3NT
Lishman	4S	4H	2NT	Pass	2C	3NT
Abelson	4D	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	4H
Probst	3NT	double	2C	Pass	3C	Pass
Martin	3NT	4H	2NT	3D	Pass	4H
Bacon	4S	Pass	2NT	3D	2C	Pass

Many thanks to Kay for undertaking to organise this feature, and for her sympathetic commentary (she didn't call me stupid once!). Kay has been selected to play for Great Britain in the European Championships in Portugal this June, and if they do well, they will qualify to play in the Venice Cup (The World Championships) in Beijing in October. I, as I am sure you do, wish them every success.

## **Prize Problem**

**Contract: 6S by S**  
**Lead: KC**  
**No opposition bidding.**

N  
♠ Q652  
♥ 642  
♦ AJ  
♣ AJ64

S  
♠ AKJ1097  
♥ AQ7  
♦ K86  
♣ 7

**How can you guarantee the contract?**

**Please send your solution to Norman Selway at the address metioned in the editorial.**

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## **Did You Know? By David Martin**

**....that North is responsible for playing the correct boards, in sequence and with the correct orientation but is NOT responsible for ensuring that this is against the correct opponents!**

**....that in England (but not in many other places), it is quite permissible to play badly deliberately provided that it is part of a strategy aimed at improving one's overall success in a competition. For example, if there is a qualifying session of teams matches from which the top two teams will play together on a head-to-head final and if Team A is so far ahead that it must qualify for the final then it can quite deliberately lose 20- 0 to team B in order to increase its chances of meeting Team B rather than Team C in the final!**

**....that in Europe, if one defender asks his partner about a possible revoke when he fails to follow suit and such a revoke has occurred then it is now established and cannot be corrected unless it occurred on the twelfth trick! In the US either defender can freely make revoke enquiries.**

**....that insufficient bids are dealt with differently in Europe than in the US!**

**"Ah .... Meester Runslee and Meester Flesher, two Life Masters, heh, heh, heh"**

**By Brian Ransley**

( I asked regular club member and Life Master, Brian, if he would help out with the bids and comments feature in this magazine. Not only did he oblige with that, he also contributed this article with the words, " I don't write very much so I will understand if you don't use it " Once you read it I hope that you will agree with me that I would have been foolish not to.)

It's the Y.C. Friday night Butler scoring duplicate. This is my first hand, sitting West:

Dealer North. Game All:      S: A764  
   H: AQJ54  
   D: J10  
   C: Q10

The bidding goes: 2S\* - 3C - ?    Hmm, looks like a vulnerable game here. 2 Spades was alerted but Mike ( Fletcher) didn't ask. Matthew (Tan), for it is he, has a new toy. His card says 5 Spades + 5 of another suit weak, or various stronger hands. Well, any new suit here must be constructive Mike would probably say forcing, so I'll try 3H, with 3NT to follow his expected 3S; Strangely though it goes pass, pass, pass. Mysterious.

Now what has happened? Mike wouldn't bid 3 Clubs with rubbish, have I forgotten that 3 Clubs is conventional? Nope. A wheel has come off already. Matthew leads the 7 of Diamonds and with a shrug of his shoulders Mike puts down;

S: Q8  
H: 32  
D: AK9  
C: KJ9763

Yes, even I'm favourite to make 3NT on these cards! 5 Clubs looks like it may also be on and I've been left in 3 Hearts and my Hearts not really in it, but I suppose I had better try to make it. Now, what's this Diamond lead?- I expected Diamonds to be his other suit, but this does not appear to be 4th best so it looks like Clubs are his second suit. If it turns out to be Hearts, the contract may prove a little difficult to make but as Matthew did not consider doubling for an instant it has to be Clubs. I win the Ace of Diamonds and lead a Heart to the 6, Q and 10. I can make the hand now by leading to the King of Diamonds and taking another Heart finesse ( they are 4 - 2 with the King onside and immediately knocking out the Ace of Clubs, just losing 1 Heart, 1 Club and probably 2 Spades. Needless to say I carve the play and try a small Spade towards the Queen and am caught in a deadly cross - ruff and have to go one down.

The remaining two hands are routine games that are bid and made in double quick time, unfortunately leaving ample time for a lengthy post mortem on the first deal. Fortunately, nobody seemed to have noticed my lack of talent on the first hand.

"What would you have bid after 3 Hearts if I hadn't passed in first seat?"

"That would be forcing, 3 Spades I suppose, and you would bid 3NT."

"But I didn't pass in first seat!"

"You must have passed out of turn then"

"No, Matthew started with 2 Spades"

"I could swear that you had a pass card out"

"Eureka! I've caught you out at last, haven't I?"

Having played with Mike for more than 10 years in Gold Cup, Spring 4's and other tournaments with some success, I have got used to passing a lot. In the course of our last 48 board match we had occasion to be defenders 32 times. This may be because we do not make risky overcalls or very light opening bids, it certainly leads to some very long matches as even when we are winning the opposition never seem to be very far behind. Mind you, the matches might not go on so long if we made the right bids when we *did* have the opportunity. However, all this means that the pass cards do become rather worn, and, as we all know, when that happens the card's dull pink undercoat peers through - just the same colour as the Y.C. regulation issue bridge tablecloth.

So I could definitely appreciate Mike's problem except that this was the Y.C. where pass cards are rarely used and as such are in pristine, glossy condition. Ah well, let's move on a couple of tables to another disaster.

Dealer West: E/W Vulnerable:

W  
S: 109  
H: ----  
D: QJ98743  
C: AK84

I should think it's right, even at this vulnerability, to ignore the 4 card suit and bid to the limit, i.e. 5 Diamonds. Even if Mike has only one useful card like the Ace or King of Diamonds or Spades, we will make ten tricks and the opposition may still be cold for a game. Following this impeccable strand of logic I open one Diamond ( he might have a good hand I suppose) and North overcalls 2 Hearts. Mike has not got a good hand and passes, East raises to 3 Hearts. Well, freed from the cares of the Gold Cup, I try 4 Clubs..... What! I can't believe that I'm doing this - 4 Hearts from North, I'm saved! Oh no, Mike's got a fit and surprise, surprise, it's in Clubs, 5 Clubs quoth he, please god don't let anybody double.... Double!

If ever a hand proved the saying about ignoring 4 card suits when holding a seven card suit this was it. Mike quite reasonably expects the contract to make and tables his dummy expectantly, is he in for a surprise.

S: J843  
H: Q742  
D: K  
C: QJ52

Everything breaks kindly but the hand falls apart on repeated major suit leads. I go 1100 down, I could have got out for 800, needless to say 5 Diamonds only goes one down with 4 Hearts cold.

Moving sheepishly on a few more tables: Dealer was West and the score was game all:

S: A7  
H: 8  
D: QJ10873  
C: AJ54

No problem here, I start with 1 diamond, North overcalls 1 spade and Mike doubles, South bids 2 Spades and this comes round to Mike who bids 3H. What on earth does that mean? Our agreement is to play sputnik doubles after a minor, one spade to show a hand that would have bid one heart if allowed; new suits being forcing. I bid 3S (FSF) and Mike 4D. As it's Butler and we're vulnerable, I try five. Then the penny drops - partner's bidding must show 5+ hearts without enough points to bid 2 hearts on the first round. Oh well, perhaps they won't double - too late, -500.

It's the last chance saloon and we need something special to bring us up to zero! It's game all and I'm South and the dealer. I pick up

S: 8  
H: A10972  
D: K4  
C: AK972

I open one heart and surprisingly partner bids 2 clubs. What to do..? I think that we play a jump in a new suit shows a splinter - Mike may not be sure but if he bids three no trumps over 3S I can continue with 4C. However an ethical point arises as Mike doesn't alert my 3S and I therefore now have the illicit knowledge that Mike probably thinks I have hearts and spades. When I bid 4 clubs he gets the message and alerts my subsequent cue bids.

(How many times have you played against a pair who get into a muddle with a sequence that they haven't discussed properly, only for them to be baled out by the alert system? Might they not now be getting the bad score that they're bidding deserved? Isn't it time to scrap the alert system altogether?)

Anyway, back to the bidding.

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>
1H	P	2C	P
3S*	P	3NT	P
4C	P	4D	P

Great, he has first round diamond control. Well I have first round heart control - 4H. Partner cue bids 4S and having a second round diamond control I bid 5D. Partner shows second round heart control with 5H. Absolutely spiffing! Mike wouldn't co-operate so freely unless he had very useful cards - 7C.

East leads the club 10 and the play presents no difficulties. Partner draws two rounds of trumps East throwing a diamond. Then KH, AH and a heart ruff, bingo they're 3-3. As i enter 2140 on the scorecard Mike tables his cards and indicates that W can take the queen of clubs at her convenience! Six clubs making is about +10 as those in the normal Y.C. contract of 3NT fail after a spade lead.

I'm going out for a walk. I may not be back for some time. Ah ..... Meester Runsee and Meester Flesher, two Life masters? heh, heh, heh.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The club has been successfully running a form of bridge called *Speedball* after the main duplicate on certain nights and it has been extremely popular. The idea is to play 16 boards an hour and it can be very exciting. The table money is £1 if you have played in that evening's duplicate - normal table money if not. There are prizes available. The date for the next Speedball is Fri. 28th April, call Warwick for further information.

This year's *Marathon* will take place on the second weekend in November - first prize £2000. The event is traditionally oversubscribed so watch the club notice board for further information.

The *Lederer Memorial Trophy*, the most prestigious invitation teams event in the country, will be played at Y.C. on the last weekend of October. Dont' miss it!