

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Summer 2010

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Words from the Editor

This is the first issue of MetroNews since the introduction of universal membership via pay-to-play. The first thing that must be said is that the actual implementation of the new systems appears to have gone remarkably smoothly. Of course there have been some difficulties, but that is entirely normal for any major new system. I think the EBU, and in particular it's technical whiz, Michael Clark, are to be highly commended in achieving so much in this respect.



But what about the success of universal membership itself? Well, that is much more debatable. On the face of it, London, as a county, has reduced from having 17 affiliated clubs to now having just 9. Hardly universal, then. But our individual membership has increased from a little under 1000 in July last year to just under 1300 now. So that is good news, but things are not quite as clear cut as that. There are some 300 LMBA members who are not actually members of any affiliated clubs, so need to become “direct” EBU members in order to retain their membership. These include a variety of different types of people; some are long-term members who no longer play so much but have retained their EBU membership either through loyalty or perhaps inertia – they may well drop out of membership when they realise they need to take active steps to renew; some are members because they play in League competitions and the like – they will probably renew their membership, but only later in the season when the need to do so becomes apparent. So it will take quite some while before we know what the likely final membership level will be.

However things shape up, it is foolish for anyone to pontificate at this stage about the success or failure of the scheme. The EBU itself is determined to do much to retain its new membership and to attract back the clubs that have dropped out, and must be given the chance to do so. It is developing a new Club Committee to liaise with clubs and ensure their needs are met; it has set up a new Education Working Group to address the important business of bringing new people into the game through teaching – both the young and the more mature, and is providing free teacher training to clubs; it is working on a number of fronts to raise the profile of bridge as a whole in the country; and it is streamlining its operations generally to make the very best use of its limited resources. Many of these are fairly long-term projects, so we must be patient.



Your MetroNews has a slightly new look this issue. Instead of a “Coming soon” section describing the events to be held in the next few months, you will find full details of all the LMBA competitions for the next six months in a special section in the centre of the magazine.

These pages have been located centrally so that, if you wish, you can pull them out and keep them as a separate handy reference document to replace the LMBA

Competition Brochure, which will no longer be produced. You should find all the information you need in these pages, including contact details for the various tournament organisers, and general competition regulations.

One implication of scrapping the Competition Brochure is that we will no longer produce a printed document giving all the London club details. This information is still available on the association's website, however, at www.metrobridge.co.uk. Also on this site you will find full regulations for all the competitions that we run, with much more detail than it was ever possible to include in the competition brochure. We believe that very few people nowadays do not have access to the internet, and use of the technology will allow the information to be more readily updated, as well as saving a few trees!

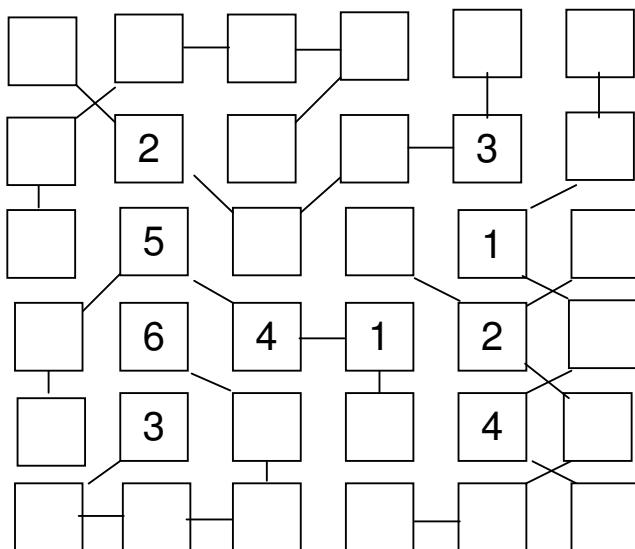
Also new in this issue of the magazine are the first in two new series of articles. Mike Graham has agreed to produce some guidance on card play for the improving player, and I think many will appreciate and benefit from reading and following his clear, step-by-step explanations of how you should be thinking at the table. And finally we have a new tailpiece by Ian Payn, in his own inimitable style. I hope you enjoy reading them all.

Chris Duckworth
 MetroNews Editor
 201 Greyhound Road
 London W14 9SD
chris.duckworth@lineone.net



Puzzle Corner

Yet another variant on the Sudoku them for you. Each row, column and connected string of squares needs to contain each of the numbers from 1 to 6.



The solution can be found on page 30.



LMBA results this year

Ian Gardiner Trophy

The London Championship Teams of Four is played for the Ian Gardiner Trophy, named after a well-respected London player who died a few years ago. It consists of a one-day multiple teams competition, from which the leading two teams qualify for a head-to-head final. As the competition is also the London qualifier for the Pachabo Cup, the national inter-County teams-of-four championships, the multiple teams stage is scored using Pachabo-type scoring. This is sort of hybrid scoring method, combining elements of both pairs and teams scoring, which no-one quite understands but which makes for an interesting event!

This year ten teams competed in the multiple teams stage in January, and when the computer had finally calculated its results, the powerful team of Sarah Dunn, David Gold, Tom Townsend and David Ewart proved to be comfortable winners, with the mixed team of Brian Callaghan, Fiona Hutchison, Chris Duckworth and Guy Hart winning a close-fought battle for second place, just ahead of equal thirds – David Hull, Peter Cogliatti, Brian Kelly, Chris Brewin and Helen Erichsen, Margaret James, Espen Erichsen, Nick Irens.

The Dunn team added Gunnar Hallberg to their squad for the final stage, Tom Townsend being unavailable on the day, and once again emerged as winners. They went on to represent London with great credit in the Pachabo Cup itself, finishing in third place in the large field.

London Championship Pairs

This year saw an increase in the number of pairs competing in this event – a total of 38 pairs entered the qualifying stage, from which precisely 14 qualify to the final, whilst the remainder compete in a consolation event.

At the end of the qualifying stage, the leaders were David Gold and Susanna Gross, just ahead of John Pemberton and Steve Popham, with Anna Roos and Per Arne Karlsson in third place. Susanna has a great record in this competition, having won it three times – a record only beaten by one person, Rob Cliffe, who has won four times. But she and David weren't able to maintain their form throughout the final, and at the end John Pemberton and Steve Popham were the worthy winners. Gavin Essex and Dudley Leigh came second with Heather Bakhshi and Laura Macdougall in third place and the Karlssons fourth. Dudley Leigh's account of the crucial round



John Pemberton (l) and Steve Popham(r)

played between the leaders and runners-up can be found on page 21.

In the consolation event that was held alongside the final, the leading pairs were Victor Silverstone and Brigid Battscombe with 63.89%, followed by Sati McKenzie and Martin Baker on 61.36%, fractionally ahead of third-placed Nick Irens and Espen Erichsen on 61.34%.

Palmer Bayer Trophy

This competition is a “No Fear” Pairs which, whilst being particularly suited to less experienced players, is not restricted to them – anyone who enjoys a very sociable afternoon’s bridge is very welcome to participate.



Palmer Bayer in play

The event is followed by a complimentary glass of wine and a discussion of the hands with an expert player, and this time Brian Callaghan came along to fill the expert’s shoes and to present the trophy. The picture (right) shows him



doing so with the winners, Lorna Vestey and Dave Strawbridge, who won with an excellent 66.99%.

In second place, pictured (left), were Monica Marinescu and Timothy Wilson on 61.11%, whilst in third place were Tom Gunn and Maciej Szczerczak with 60.71%.



Under-19 Pairs Championship

This was a very small event this time. Winners were brothers Chris and Nick Dean, ahead of Toby Nonnenmacher and James Pickford Phimmai in second place and siblings Michael & Christina Alishaw third.

Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

This annual green-pointed weekend was once again held in March in Barkston Gardens, using both the Young Chelsea BC and the neighbouring Barkston Gardens Hotel as venues. There was a small increase in the number of competing pairs on the Saturday but a small drop in the number of teams on the Sunday.

With 38 tables in play, the leading pairs did very well. Ian Budden and Ted Booth (pictured) topped the lists with 112 VPs, followed by Lindsay Geddes and Graham Sadie, second with 108 VPs, Andrew Bannock and David Arundel, third with 103 VPs and David Ewart and Gunnar Hallberg, fourth with 100 VPs.



In the **Swiss Teams** the following day there were 25 teams competing and it was very close at the top. The eventual winners were the team of Ian Pagan, Martin Pope (these two are pictured), Andre Gubbay and Geoff Lederman with 96 VPs.



Equal second on 94 VPs were Graham Pollack, Paul Chapman, Time Chanter & Helen Wildsmith and Mike Davis, Anthony Moon, Tricia Gillham and Helen Beattie.

In fourth place, a great result for a team of junior Under-21 players, were Tommy Brass, Alex Roberts, Mungo Jackson and Rhys Horlock.

Garden Cities

Four teams, two each from the Young Chelsea BC and the Woodberry BC, competed in this year's Garden Cities heat, held to determine which club would represent London in the Regional Finals of the national Inter-Club Teams-of-Eight Championship. The leading teams were:

- 1 **Young Chelsea A** Paul Martin, Fiona Hutchison, Steve Popham, John Pemberton, Janet de Botton, Nick Sandqvist, Ian Payn, Rob Cliffe
- 2 **Woodberry A** Paul Lamford, Stefanie Rohan, Anne Catchpole, Doug Dunn, Nigel Freake, Gill Hutchinson, Ken Barnett, John Stimson

The Young Chelsea team, with some changes of personnel, went on to compete against seven other club teams in the South-East regional final. They finished in a good third place, but just missed out on going through to the final stage of the competition.

London League

Division 1 of the League produced a few surprises this year. The leaders were well clear of the field, the title going to the Tartan team captained by Arni Anidjar Romain, who scored a total of 58 VPs, 5 ahead of Graham Clay's London Duplicate team in second place. Last year's winners, David Ould's Young Chelsea 3 team won a convincing 20-0 in a late match against YC 2 to avoid relegation!

Division 2 also had very convincing winners in the Bury the Hatchet team, captained by Dudley Leigh. They scored a big 86 VPs, 14 points clear of Brian McGuire's YC 5 team, who in turn were 12 points clear of third-placed Punters. It was a similar story in Division 3 – Jonathan Lillycrop's imaginatively named Lillycrop team won with a great 84 VPs, losing only one match by a very narrow margin. August Blue, captained by Mark Davies was second with 69 VPs, with third-placed Slambusters managing only 47.

In the Newcomers League Putney Pirates, captained by Peter Blumer, marauded their way to the top of the table, scoring 89 VPs. There was yet another big gap to second placed Crouch End, captained by Alan Whitehouse, on 68 VPs, followed by Hurlingham on 64 VPs.

Home Counties League

The Middlesex 2 team, captained by Peter Hasenson won the Home Counties League this year by the narrowest of margins, just one VP, from Simon Cochemé's London Red team, last year's winners. These two teams finished well clear of the remainder of the field.

Café Bridge Drive

This was a brand new event for the LMBA, and indeed, so far as we know, a first in England. The idea of café bridge, or pub bridge as it is often referred to in Holland where the idea is very popular, is that you play a few hands in each of a number of venues in a small geographical area, walking from pub to café to restaurant, or whatever, between each round. This event in April was held in the Tonsleys – a "villagey" part of Wandsworth, which is also home to Age Concern Wandsworth, the charity for which the event was run.



Registering with Ned Paul at the Alma

Players registered on arrival at the Alma pub, one of the venues we were using and each pair was given their personal itinerary. This included details of the route to be taken and the venue at which they would be provided with lunch, which was included in the entry fee. TD and chief organiser Ned Paul managed this process which all went remarkably smoothly and the event started promptly at 11.00 am.

We were very fortunate that it was a fine sunny day and only a few players got lost between venues! They were soon sent in the right direction and eventually all made it back to the Alma at the end of the afternoon, where the final business of the day was completed. This included a short talk about the charity from Age Concern Wandsworth's Norma Spence, a draw for a variety of raffle prizes and the announcement of the final event results.



In play at Doukan, a Moorish restaurant, are Maree McDonagh, Linda Major, Viv Harris and June Clifton

The winners were Rex Goad and Mike Daniels with 64.58%, followed by Camilla Hull and Richard Turner in second place on 63.10% and Kate

Woodruff and Wendy Hombersley, third with 62.20%

Fox Shammon Trophy

This popular event is a Seniors Pairs competition held at the prestigious Queen's Tennis Club in April. Participants are able to lunch at the club beforehand, a particularly pleasant experience when the weather is good and the terrace can be used. This year was once again fine and 33 pairs came along to enjoy the whole experience.

The competition was won this year, very appropriately, by the organiser, Steve Eginton, playing with the Queens Club representative, David Sellman. They scored a massive 66.99%, well clear of second placed Malcolm Morris and Susi Berhman on 58.02% and third placed Bryan and Sheila Peers on 56.61%. Last year's winners, Chris Burley and Stephen Gore, were fourth with 56.21%

London Trophy

This knock out event reached its climax at the end of May, when the final stages were played at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. See Paul Lamford's article on pages 11-12 for some of the more interesting hands that arose. The final results were:

London Trophy

- 1 MCC – Nigel Clayton, Richard Cummin-Bruce, Harvey Laurance, Geoff Lane
- 2 Chislehurst Golf Club – John Chapman, Simon Smollett, Bryan Grimm, Jan Green
- 3 RAC – Andrew Kisiel, Arun Suri, Bob Bowman, Bernard Heilpern

4 Leatherhead LTC – Bernard Burbidge, Liz Farrar, Christine Jones, Richard Herbert

Della Porta Plate

(The winners are pictured, right, with organiser Cecil Leighton and the Plate itself)

1 Cameron McKenna – David Reuben, Freda Weiner, Arthur Dyson, Roy Griggs

2 St Georges Hill LTC2 – Wendy Kelly, Lynda Wilson, Bob Wilson, Linda Park



London Trophy Pairs

This pairs competition for players who have participated in the London Trophy was held at the RAC in Pall Mall in June. See Mike Hill's article on pages 22-23 for a write-up of one of the most interesting hands from the event.



The leading pairs were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Bob Bowman & Arun Suri | 70.83% |
| <i>(pictured left)</i> | |
| 2 Chris Wall & Steve Burton | 57.14% |
| 3 Mike Bertini & Ken McClements | 56.55% |

Note the winners huge percentage score, and the size of the gap to the second-placed pair – some achievement!

London News

LMBA Committee

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on Thursday 15th July two long-standing members of the Committee stood down. Cecil Leighton retired after more than 50 years on the committee – an astonishing achievement – and his services will be greatly missed. So too will those of Simon Cochemé, who has been a tireless worker for the Association for the last 8 years.

Two new members joined the committee, both more representative of club bridge than tournament bridge, which will bring a useful perspective to the committee as it endeavours to represent the new balance of the membership, expanded as it has been by the introduction of universal membership under P2P. They are Susi Berhmann from the Hurlingham Club and Julie Bostock, who plays mainly at Andrew Robson's club.

At the committee meeting immediately following the AGM, Mike Hill and Chris Duckworth were re-elected as County Chairman and Secretary respectively, and Sati McKenzie took on a new role as Treasurer. Chris and James Smith continue to be two of the County's three EBU shareholders; the third share was held by Simon Cochemé and will be transferred to Susi Behrmann.

Meet Eleanor Ewart

Many congratulations to two of London's finest players, Sarah Dunn and David Ewart, who were delighted by the arrival of the newest member of their family at the end of April. Eleanor Nancy Rose Ewart was born on 30th April, her due date, although her mother had optimistically planned to play in the Spring Foursomes that day! She wasn't able to compete, but her father still managed to be there!

Here is Eleanor enjoying the summer sunshine.



Tollemache

Sadly, once again this year the London team did not make it through the qualifying stage to the finals. It has to be said they were really unlucky this time however, finding themselves drawn in "the group of death" – the quarter of the field containing a large number of the strongest county teams competing in the event. In fact the two teams that qualified from their group, Middlesex and Manchester, ended up as the leading two teams in the final, proving this point.

We can only say - better luck next time!

London Trophy Finals

by Paul Lamford

There were three hands that caught my eye at the finals, and two of them featured a difficult defensive decision.

EW Vul. Dealer North.

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

North-South should perhaps have competed more in the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Cumming</i>	<i>Grim</i>	<i>Clayton</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>-Bruce</i>			
	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

I would have raised to Three Hearts on the North hand, and South might well then have gone on to Five Hearts at the form of scoring. Aggregate scoring, which is used in the London Trophy, is nearer to IMPs than anything else, with the difference that it always takes at least ten minutes longer to agree the total score, with the standard error being 50. It reminds me of a sign I once saw on the M1 "Delays: aggregate scoring in progress".

Still, the play's the thing as they say, and South, not unreasonably, led her singleton diamond. Declarer won and drew trumps in three rounds then advanced the five of clubs. South ducked and that was the end of the defence, as declarer could concede a

diamond and ruff them good. Should South have got this right? North thought so, of course, but I cannot see why East could not have ♠AKQJx ♥10xx ♦AKx ♣Qx. The only defence now would be to duck – even winning and underleading the ace of hearts does not work.

♣♦♥♠

When only one pair out of six reaches a slam, it is noteworthy, and Danny Roth, who produced the excellent handouts with potted comments on the hands, surmised that nobody would on the next deal. You are East, and you are playing four-card majors and a weak NT, and your style is to open the major first.

E-W Vul. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Griggs</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Dyson</i>	<i>Park</i>
		1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Griggs and Dyson, representing leading European law firm Cameron McKenna, who specialise in financial and legal services throughout Europe and Russia, used a simple auction to the excellent slam.

After East opened One Heart, West evaluated his hand as seven losers and bid game. Andrew Robson would

approve, as he is always extolling the virtues of the ninth trump between the two hands, as well as the merits of simple bidding. East valued his hand as five losers, and asked for aces before bidding the superb slam. In this event, which is designed to attract non-bridge clubs, splinters are not allowed – in fact very few conventions are, so it was a good effort to reach this slam without any gadgetry.

♣♦♥♠

My final hand also featured a critical decision in clubs, and one that maybe only Mystic Meg would get right:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

North managed to get the board played from the right side in a sense here, but



Winners MCC with the Trophy

it was the MCC who achieved a swing:

West	North	East	South
Laurance	Grim	Lane	Green
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North chose to bid 3NT on his second turn, rather than the Three Diamonds chosen in the other room, and East led a normal spade. Declarer won in dummy and played on diamonds, but East won the first round and cleared the spades.

East did well now to pitch two hearts on the run of the diamonds (if North has the king of hearts he has at least nine tricks) and the defence were able to keep their five winners. In the other room, South was declarer, and West led a spade, but East switched to a heart when winning the first diamond. Declarer could rise and play on clubs, and the defence could not get at their three heart tricks. Again this defence could have been right on another day.

But the Chislehurst declarer, Grim, should have made it harder for his opponents. If he had won the first spade in dummy and played the *jack of clubs*, it would have been very tough for Laurance, West, to rise with the ace of clubs. If he did not, then declarer could play on diamonds for nine tricks.

Next year, bridge clubs will be allowed to take part in the London Trophy, in a bid to increase the number of teams competing, but it is also hoped that there will be more entries from companies or other clubs. Any organization is encouraged to take part in this sociable competition – and even if you don't have a venue, many London clubs will be able to host a match for a moderate fee. You will enjoy it!

Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated in the competition detail, all competitions are played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 0EN (Tel: 020 7373 1665), with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. All competition organisers' contact details are at the end of this schedule.

London League & Newcomers League

Entries close **1st September 2010**

Holders: Division 1 *Tartan* Capt: *Arni Anidjar-romain*
 Division 2 *Bury the Hatchet* Capt: *Dudley Leigh*
 Division 3 *Lillycrop* Capt: *Jonathan Lillycrop*
 Newcomers *Putney Pirates* Capt: *Peter Blumer*

These league competitions are for teams-of-four, although up to 8 people may play for any one team during the season. Matches are played in home or away venues, which may be homes, clubs or other suitable premises. There are currently three all-play-all divisions with end of season promotion and relegation plus the Newcomers League. The latter is designed particularly for those with little experience of competitive bridge. The winners of the Newcomers are eligible to be promoted to the London League, but may choose to compete again at the lower level.

In Division 1 only, any systems are permitted, provided reasonable notice is given. The lower divisions of the London League are played at Level 4, whilst in the Newcomers League EBU Level 3 systems and conventions only are permitted.

New teams are always welcome and will be considered for entry at any level, although it would be exceptional for a new team to enter Division 1 directly. All players in the London League must be EBU and LMBA members, but non-members are allowed in the Newcomers League. Teams in this league are restricted to only one player of National Master rank or above, however.

Entry fee: £20.00 per team in the London League, £16 per team in the Newcomers League. Entries and enquiries should be directed to **Sati McKenzie**.

London Trophy & Della-Porta Plate

Entries close **1st September 2010**

Holders: London Trophy: *MCC – Nigel Clayton, Richard Cumming-Bruce, Harvey Laurance, Geoff Lane*
 Dell-Porta Plate: *Cameron McKenna – David Reuben, Freda Weiner, Arthur Dyson, Roy Griggs*

The London Trophy is a knock-out teams of four competition for club teams, which this year has been opened up to teams from all types of clubs, including both bridge and non-bridge clubs. Teams eliminated in the first match enter the secondary Della-Porta Plate competition, also run on a knock-out basis.

Matches are played in home or away venues, which may be homes, clubs or other suitable premises. Early rounds are regionalised to minimise travel. The final stages of both competitions will be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall on 5th June 2011. All participants are also eligible to play in the London Trophy Pairs, to be held this season on 27th February 2011.

Simple systems only are allowed in this event – full details of what is permitted will be sent to all participants and may be found on the LMBA website at www.metrobridge.co.uk. No team may have more than one player of National Master or above and no pairs of regular high-level tournament players are allowed. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

Entry fee: £20 per team

Entries and enquiries should be directed to **Kit Jackson**. Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

Mixed Pairs Championship

Sunday 19th September 2010 starting at **1.00pm**

Holders: *Simon Cope & Marion Robertson*

A single extended session, match-pointed, mixed pairs event. All players must be EBU members, but LMBA membership is not necessary.

Entry fee: £22.00 per pair.



Advance entry is not required but a phone call to the Young Chelsea guarantees your entry! Contact **Nigel Freake** or the Young Chelsea BC for further information.

Home Counties League

Entries close **1st October 2010**

Holders: *Middlesex 2* *Capt: Peter Hasenson*

This is an inter-county teams-of-eight competition for London and the Home Counties. It is aimed at county second team players who would not normally be expected to represent their counties in events such as the Tollemache Cup. Teams are allowed to field at most two Grand Masters in any one match. Matches are of 24 boards and are normally played at the YCBC on weekday evenings starting at 7.00 pm. Players must be members of the county that they represent but allegiance is not required. Green points are awarded.

Current participants are Middlesex, Surrey and London (each with two teams), so there is room for additional counties to join in - anyone interested should contact **Sati McKenzie** for more details. Players interested in representing London should contact **Simon Cochemé** (London Red) or **Nicole Cook** (London Blue) – individuals may join a team at any stage during the season.

Entry fee: £16 per team.

Champions Cup

Sunday 3rd October 2010 starting at **1.00pm**

Holders: *London League (David Ould, Michael Hill, Rolf Alexander, Bill Hodgkiss)*

This is a single session, multiple teams event for the 2009/2010 season winners of the highest divisions of leagues organised in London and the home counties. (Please note that this event is now just one session in length). New leagues are always welcome to apply - contact Sati McKenzie for further information. Anyone who is a bona fide member of the league that they represent, including non-EBU members, may play.

Entry fee: £32.00 per team.

Entries should be sent to **Sati McKenzie** to arrive no later than 26th September.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

Saturday-Sunday
30th-31st October 2010

Holders: *Ireland (Tommy Garvey, Adam Mesbur, John Carroll, Nick Fitzgibbon)*

This prestigious event for eight invited teams of international players provides a marvellous spectator event for anyone interested in seeing how the experts' minds work at the bridge table. You can rub shoulders with the top stars from this country and abroad as they compete for the trophy. Whilst this is a very hard-fought competition it is always played in the best of spirits, so you will enjoy the great atmosphere. Check out the website at www.metrobridge.co.uk for the latest news on who will be playing this year. An event that is not to be missed!



Nick Fitzgibbon and Tommy Garvey with the Lederer Memorial Trophy



Lederer 2009 in play – Norwegians v. Zia Mahmood & David Bakhshi

Play starts at 1.00pm each day. On Saturday there are four matches finishing at about 8.00pm; on Sunday there are three matches, followed by a wine reception for all present (players and spectators) at around 6.15pm, immediately following which is the prize giving ceremony.

Entry fee: £10 for Saturday (£6.00 after 4.30pm), £8 for Sunday, £16 for the whole event, payable on arrival. Free to YCBC members. Contact **Stefanie Rohan** for more information.

Teltscher Cups - Lederer Satellite Pairs

Saturday 30th October 2010

Holders NS: *Juliet Scott & Aline Sandberg* EW: *Patti Gamble & Denis Bennett*

This is a parallel satellite event to the Lederer. Players at participating clubs play the same hands as are played in the Lederer itself on the Saturday afternoon, scoring up as team mates with the results achieved by two of the star pairs in the main event – one NS and one EW. The winners are invited to attend the Lederer on the Sunday to meet their team mates and be presented with the Teltscher Cups. Clubs that wish to hold heats should contact organiser **Stefanie Rohan**.

Entry Fee: £1 per player

Junior Teams of Four Championship

Sunday 7th November 2010 starting at 1.00pm

Holders: *Shivam Shah, Tommy Brass, Kieran Tilley, Jakub Gembicki*

A single extended session teams-of-four competition for junior (Under 25) players – that is players who were born on or after 1st January 1985. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

Entry Fee: £20.00 per team.

Entries and enquiries should be directed to **Chris Duckworth**.

Under-19 Pairs Championship

Sunday 28th November 2010 starting at 1.00pm

Holders: *Chris Dean & Nick Dean*

This single session match-pointed pairs competition for junior players born on or after 1st January 1991 is also a qualifying heat for the national Under-19 Pairs Championship. Qualifying pairs will be eligible to compete in the national final to be held on Easter Saturday 23rd April 2011, and will also be offered free entry to the London Easter Festival of Bridge. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

Entry Fee: £2.00 per player.

Entries and enquiries should be directed to **Chris Duckworth**.



Note to junior players: In addition to these special events, the LMBA offers reduced rates for juniors in most of its competitions. Please ask the organiser in each case for further details.

Ian Gardiner Trophy

Sunday 16th January 2011 starting at **11.30am**

Holders: *Sarah Dunn, David Ewart, Tom Townsend, David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg*

This is the major London Teams of Four Championship, which is played as a single day two-session multiple teams event from which the leading two eligible teams qualify for a head-to-head 48-board match to determine the winner of the Ian Gardiner Trophy. Green-points will be awarded for both stages of the event, and the winners will be eligible to represent London in the Pachabo Cup, the national inter-county teams championship, on 11th-12th June 2011 in Hinckley.

The multiple teams is scored using the same method as the Pachabo itself – a combination of IMPs and point-a-board. Note the early start of the one-day competition which, combined with only a short break between sessions of approx 30 minutes only, will allow an early finish on Sunday evening.

Note also that all players must be LMBA members and, in order to be eligible to go through to the final, all players in a team must have London as their primary County of allegiance before playing in the event.

Entry Fee: £60.00 per team.

Entries should be sent to **Sati McKenzie** to arrive by 9th January 2011.

Palmer Bayer Trophy

Sunday 30th January 2011 starting at **1.00pm**

This single extended session, match-pointed, 'No Fear' pairs competition is for those who would like to play tournament bridge under more relaxed conditions than often apply in other events and for those who particularly want to enjoy a social atmosphere when playing. Improvers and tournament novices are most welcome and more experienced London members may find this the ideal way to introduce family, friends and colleagues to organised bridge. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

The principal aim of this event is to have fun, so the pace of play is a little more leisurely than usual. Simple systems only are allowed, but including weak two opening bids and transfers in response to 1NT openings. (A fuller description of allowed systems and conventions is published on the LMBA website at www.metrobridge.co.uk and will be made available at the event.) A complimentary glass of wine awaits you at the end of the session to be enjoyed whilst discussing the hands that you have just played with an expert, who will be happy to answer any questions.

Entry fee: £16.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not required but a phone call to the Young Chelsea guarantees your entry! Contact **Chris Duckworth** or the YCBC for further information.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 20th February 2011 starting at 1.00pm

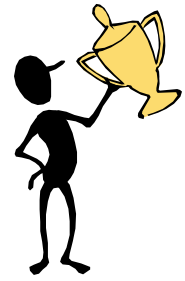
Holders: *John Pemberton & Stephen Popham*

As the major County pairs championship, this competition is green-pointed and is also the qualifying event for the Corwen Trophy, the national inter-county pairs championship. The competition comprises a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs event. The top fourteen pairs from the first session will compete in an all-play-all final with carry-forward scores whilst the remainder of the field competes in a consolation final

All players must be LMBA members, but only the leading four pairs with London as their county of allegiance (before playing in the event) will be eligible to play in the Corwen Trophy on 4th - 5th June 2011 in Hinckley.

Entry fee: £30.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not required but a phone call to the Young Chelsea guarantees your entry! Contact **Nigel Freake** or the YCBC for further information.



London Trophy Pairs

Sunday 27th February starting at 2.00pm

Holders: *Bob Bowman & Arun Suri*

This is a single session pairs competition open to players who have participated in the London Trophy in the current season. The event is held at the Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS (Tel: 020 7747 3295). The rules regarding permitted systems and conventions in this event are the same as for the London Trophy. An opportunity for pairs to practice and improve, so progress further in the Trophy itself!

Entry Fee: Free!

Advance entry is required for this event. Entries should be made to **Kit Jackson** no later than 13th February 2011.

Advance notice

Full details of the following events will be included in the next issue of MetroNews, but you may wish to note the planned dates:

Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend Saturday-Sunday 12th-13th March 2011

Swiss Pairs on Saturday at 1.00pm, Swiss Teams on Sunday at 11.30am.

Garden Cities Heat Thursday 14th April 2011 at 7.00pm

Inter-club teams-of-eight competition.

Fox Shammon Trophy Sunday 17th April 2011 at 2.00pm

Seniors Pairs at the Queen's Club.

Tournament Organiser contacts

Sati McKenzie for Leagues, Champions Cup, Ian Gardiner Trophy
sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com 020 7627 0977
Flat 11, 31 Clapham Common Southside, SW4 9BW

Kit Jackson for London Trophy, London Trophy Pairs
Kitjackson@ntlworld.com 020 7326 4418
57 Fawnbrake Avenue, Herne Hill, SE24 0BE

Stefanie Rohan for Lederer Memorial Trophy, Teltscher Cups
stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk 020 8800 9005 or 07891 747273
8 Arbor Court, N16 0QU

Chris Duckworth for Palmer Bayer Trophy, Junior events
chris.duckworth@lineone.net 020 7385 3534 or 07768 693168

Nigel Freake for Mixed Pairs, London Championship Pairs
gelohnake@waitrose.com 020 8801 2884

Simon Cochemé for London Red team in Home Counties League
simonx@simonx.plus.com 020 7603 3032

Nicole Cook for London Blue team in Home Counties League
nicole@nicoleanncook.com 07944 744899



Competition venue

Young Chelsea BC 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 0EN
020 7373 1665 info@ycbc.co.uk

How to get there:

By Tube: Take the Piccadilly Line or the District Line to Earls Court Station. Come out via the Earl's Court Rd exit, cross the road to the right, and turn left at the Blackbird Pub. It's about 3 minutes walk.

By Bus: The 74, 328, C1 & C3 buses all stop at Earls Court Station.

By Car: Parking is possible with care. You may park on single yellow lines or metered bays after 6.30pm on Mondays to Saturdays, but you must not park in residents bays until after 10pm on weekday evenings. On Saturday afternoons (after 1.30pm) there is free parking on yellow line and in metered bays if you park one block or more east of the club (take care to check the signs). On Sundays there are no parking restrictions. Note that the club is within the congestion zone but it is not operative after 6.00pm and at weekends.

General Competition Information & Regulations

Entries are generally accepted on the day where possible, but when needed in advance, as specified in the competition description, they may be made by post or email, or by phone if time is very limited. Payment on the day is generally acceptable, except for events played at non-central venues, such as Leagues and Knock-out competitions.

Payment on the day may be by cash, by EBU voucher, or by cheque made payable to LMBA. Electronic transfer of funds is also possible – please ask the event organiser for the LMBA account details – but debit and credit card payments are not accepted.

Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the competition description. All members of clubs affiliated to the EBU are automatically members of the EBU. If players are members of counties other than London, they can become LMBA “dual” members in order to comply with a requirement for LMBA membership, by the payment of our dual membership subscription, which is £5 per annum. If players are not EBU members by virtue of their club membership, they may become members of the EBU and LMBA by the payment of a direct membership subscription, which for the current season is £28 per annum.

Direct and dual membership subscriptions may be paid along with competition entry fees, making sure that full contact details for the individual are provided, including email address and existing EBU membership number if appropriate. Alternatively, they may be sent directly to the LMBA Membership Secretary, Roger Morton, at 43, Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5LG. He may also be contacted at rhl.morton@blueyonder.co.uk or 020 8643 4930.

New members, defined as those joining the LMBA and the EBU for the first time, receive a £5 voucher which may be used for entry into any LMBA competition.

Seating policy. Players may be allocated a starting position by the TD on arrival at a venue, or may be required to draw a starting position or cut for North-South. Players who require a stationary position for medical or mobility reasons should if possible notify the organiser or venue in advance.

Competition regulations. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2007) apply to all competitions. Where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee also apply, as contained in the current Orange Book and other published documents.

Regulations for matches played privately can be found on our website www.metrobridge.co.uk. In such matches, reference may be made if necessary to an external referee. It is recommended that the Young Chelsea Bridge Club is contacted on 020 7373 1665, where access is usually possible to a suitable person.

The decision of the LMBA Executive Committee in any dispute is binding and final.

London Championship Pairs

by Dudley Leigh

"No-one comes to the Young Chelsea to pass"

I partnered Gavin Essex. We were pleased to finish second, close behind John Pemberton and Steve Popham who had a storming qualifying session and a big carry forward going into the final. These are the two boards we played against them in the final, with N/S playing five card majors and a game forcing two level response.

NS Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A K Q 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 4 2
♦ –
♣ K Q 6

♠ 8 6
♥ 10 7 5 3
♦ A K Q 7
4
♣ 10 4 3

♠ J 7
♥ A 9
♦ J 8 5 3 2
♣ A J 7 5

EW Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ A 8 6 4
♣ K 2

♠ J 10 7 4
♥ Q 10 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A Q 7

♠ K 9
♥ K 5
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ J 9 8 6 4

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ J 8 4
♦ Q J 5
♣ 10 5 3

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
<i>John</i>	<i>Gavin</i>	<i>Steve</i>	<i>Dudley</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

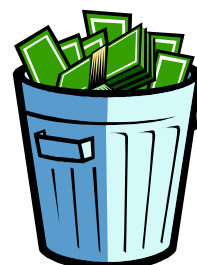
1NT showed up to 12 HCP and later bids were cue bids.

No-one else bid the spade slam (or the unlikely grand in clubs) so that was good enough for a top – but then came along nemesis, in an unlikely form.

That result was decisive, gaining John and Steve enough to secure top spot – must remember to discard the Pass cards next time we play there!

This hand was passed out in no time at all. "Flat?" I asked Gavin as he put in the score. "Well, no..... we seem to be doing very badly on that one". In fact once anyone opens N/S are bound to get a good score, whether declaring or defending, and the board was opened at nine out of thirteen tables.

"Can you understand that?" we asked our opponents. "Yes, easy" John replied. "This is the Young Chelsea. People don't come here to pass!"



London Trophy Pairs - 2010

by Michael Hill

On 20th June, the London Trophy Pairs took place at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. This event is open to pairs from teams who won at least one match in the London Trophy or in the Della-Porta Plate. Given that there is no entry fee, the entry of only sixteen pairs was again disappointing. Next season, however, it is planned to hold it earlier in the year and perhaps this, together with the expanding of the London Trophy itself, will enlarge the entry.

The event is renowned for the wide variety of scores achieved on each board and this year was no exception. Indeed, seventeen of the twenty four boards, all of which were played eight times, had at least six different scores! This, I think, must be a record.

This board showed the opportunity for good card-play technique.

Game all. Dealer West.

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

Everyone managed to make at least twelve tricks although four pairs did not manage to bid beyond game. After 1♦ – 1♥, one West managed only 2♥ as his rebid and then passed his partner's raise to 4♥. Another West had more of an excuse for passing 4♥ as he had rebid 2NT instead of 2♥.

A small slam was bid at two tables. Once this happened when, after 1♦ – 1♥ – 2NT, East marked time with 3♥ and, after this was raised to 4♥, essayed Blackwood (but, surprisingly, did not explore further after finding three aces opposite him although, to

be fair, he would not have had the mechanism to find out how good East's trump support was). The other small slam was bid in spite of (or perhaps helped by) a 1♠ intervention from South. West rebid 1NT over this and, after East's jump to 3♥, tried Blackwood from his side of the table. He, too, signed off in the small slam after finding one ace opposite, with perhaps less excuse.

After an auction beginning 1♦ – 1♥ – 2NT – 4♥, one other West tried Blackwood but, after learning that East had the missing ace, enquired for kings and duly bid 7♥. One other pair bid to a grand slam but this time it was East who used Blackwood after 1♦ – 1♥ – 4♥ and, learning of three aces opposite, he promptly bid the hopeless 7NT.

But of course, the play's the thing. Declarer won the ♠Q lead and ran all his hearts, discarding a club and three diamonds from dummy. He then crossed to the ♦A, threw a club on the ♠A and cashed the ♣A. North, alas, thought he needed to keep the ♣K, so pitched a diamond on the ♠A, and declarer's pseudo-squeeze had duly turned the ♦6 into his thirteenth trick. A

broadly similar line was followed at most tables, sometimes delivering thirteen tricks, sometimes only twelve when North managed not to discard a diamond.

It was left to Cecil Leighton to show how the hand should be played. He won the spade lead, and cashed the ♦K before drawing trumps ending in

dummy. Now the ♠A was cashed for a diamond discard and, after cashing the ♦A, he was able to ruff the suit good and return to dummy to discard his losing club on an established diamond. Alas, he was only in 4♥, so his reward for accurate play was to score no more than average.

Trump Control

by Mike Graham

In this, the first of a new series of articles on card play for the improving player, you are taken clearly step by step through the planning and play of the trump suit.

Once the bidding is over, and dummy comes down, then as declarer it is vital to take a few moments to assimilate the important evidence - the defensive bidding (or lack of it), the opening lead, the number of winners available, and, perhaps most importantly, what the contract is and how many tricks we need.

Another consideration is the type of competition. Is it a teams match, or a pairs event? In a pairs, some risks might be taken, perhaps endangering the contract, but yielding a valuable top if the manoeuvre is successful; but in a teams competition, never. In teams play the important thing is to try to secure your contract; overtricks are usually of little importance.

In a trump contract, it is worth taking a little time to assess the trump situation. Sometimes you have enough trumps that you can draw them straight away. At other times there may be other considerations; for example, you may need the trump suit to provide entries. There may also be losers in the trump suit, and you will have to consider how to play the suit to best advantage.

Playing teams, partner opens 1♣ and you hold: ♠KQ8543 ♥KQ73 ♦65 ♣A. You have an easy bid of 1♠; partner rebids 2♣, you bid 2♥ and partner surprises you with a jump to 3♠.

This is good news. Game is certain, and possibly a slam. You bid 4♣, a cue-bid. Partner returns a cue-bid with 4♦. You can try Blackwood now; partner responds 5♥, showing two aces without the ♠Q. An ace is missing, so you sign off in Six Spades. West leads the Q♦ and you face this problem:

♠ A J 10
♥ 10 4
♦ A 8
♣ K Q 10 9 8 6

♠ K Q 8 5 4 3
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ 6 5
♣ A

You are missing the ace of hearts and there is the threat of a diamond loser. Clearly you cannot play a heart immediately, as the defenders would

win and cash a diamond. There is also the matter of the trump situation.

You cannot duck the first trick, so you win with the ace. At the table, declarer decided that he could afford to play a round of trumps, so he led the ten from dummy, playing low from hand. Both defenders followed.

This made it attractive to try to set up the club suit for discards. Declarer crossed to the ace of clubs, and played a trump to the jack. On this trick, West showed out. The king of clubs was cashed for the diamond discard. Declarer then tried the queen of clubs, but East ruffed; the clubs were not established, and there was only one entry left in dummy.

Declarer failed to count the available tricks. There are six spade tricks, three clubs, a diamond, and a heart. That makes eleven, so only one additional trick is needed. That extra trick can be established in clubs, so we need four club tricks. Thus, we can afford to cater for a 5-1 club break. We shall need three entries to dummy for this, so we cannot play any trumps just yet.

First, after winning the ace of diamonds at trick one, we play a club to the ace. Now we play a trump to the ten. We ruff a club high, with the king or the queen, and return to dummy with a trump. Another high club ruff establishes the suit, and the ace of trumps is in dummy as an entry. We have three discards on the king-queen-ten of clubs, so the losing diamond and the two losing hearts go away, and we lose only to the heart ace.

As it happened, the clubs were 4-2 (48%) rather than 5-1 (14%). This line would only lose to a 6-0 club break (1½%) and 4-0 spade break (9%).

This was the full deal:

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

On this deal, we had to think about a number of things – drawing trumps; setting up a side suit for discards; and possible entry problems against certain splits. These considerations had to be catered for in the right order. We also had to bear in mind that the contract was Six Spades, which required twelve tricks – we did not need to attempt to make thirteen.

♣♦♥♠

The way the trump suit is played can also depend upon the entry situation. For example, with this trump layout:

10 7 3
A J 9 8 6

The best line for only one loser is to take two finesses, losing only to KQ or KQx in the West hand. However, there are alternate lines. We can start with ten from dummy – small, small, king. To take the second trump finesse we cross to dummy and play the seven; small, small. Let us say that West discards – he started with the singleton king. East still has Qx, but as we have had to play the eight to the previous trick we must cross over to dummy again.

This is all right if there are plenty of entries, but if not we must exercise more care. When we run the ten of spades we play the eight from hand, not the six. West wins; when we get the lead we cross to dummy and run the seven of trumps, following with the six from hand. West shows out, but the lead is still in dummy, and we can pick up East's Qx by leading the three into our ace-jack.

These combinations where there are plenty of high cards in each hand allow some flexibility – here, it is best to start by leading the seven. When we later run the ten, the lead is still in dummy when West shows out.

Of course, other considerations may apply. Let us look at the full NS hands:

♠ 10 7 3
♥ Q 10 8
♦ A 6 4
♣ A K Q J

♠ A J 9 8 6
♥ K
♦ K Q 8
♣ 8 6 4 2

Playing against a good pair, you reach 4♠ after the auction 1♠-2♣-3♣-3♠ (forcing)-4♠. West leads the three of clubs, and the trick is won in dummy as East follows with the nine.

It looks a straightforward hand. We must lose the ace of hearts; we can take two finesses in trumps, making four if West has KQ and five if the king-queen are split. This would be an acceptable line in a pairs, as you can expect 4♠ to be a standard contract, and you want to maximise the number of tricks you take.

As it happens, this deal was played in a qualifying round of the Tollemache Cup, the inter-county teams of eight competition. It is teams scoring, so you do not have to worry about overtricks. Your priority is to make your contract.

There is another consideration to take into account besides how you should go about playing the trump suit. What is this lead? Leading a singleton in a suit bid and supported by the opponents is not usually a good idea – partner's holding will get chewed up. West is a good player, so a singleton club would be an unlikely lead. More normal, on the bidding, would be a red suit.

So at once we should start to be highly suspicious of this club lead. What are West's motives? He has been watching the bidding, and knows that we have bid and supported clubs. Now the light begins to dawn.

West must be long in clubs, and knows from the bidding that East is short. So there is a danger – if West gets in, he will lead another club for East to ruff. If East has three trumps and West has the ace of hearts, East will get two club ruffs, and we will be one down.

Can we do anything about this? We must count our tricks. Four clubs, three diamonds, and a heart by force – that makes eight. What about losers? We must lose the ace of hearts, but the minors are solid. That's only one. Therefore, we can afford two trump losers, and there is a strong inference that we need to draw the enemy trumps as quickly as possible in order to avoid an impending ruff.

The play is clear. We must play the ace of spades at trick two, and follow with a spade at trick three. If the

enemy trumps are 3-2, they are welcome to two spade tricks. This line will only lose to KQxx of trumps in the hand that has a singleton club, with the ace of hearts in the other hand.

This was the full deal:

<p>♠ 10 7 3 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ A K Q J</p> <p>♠ K 2 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ 10 9 7 3 ♣ 10 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ A J 9 8 6 ♥ K ♦ K Q 8 ♣ 8 6 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 4 ♥ J 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 9</p>
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If you run the ten of spades at trick two, West wins the king and plays another club (probably the ten); East ruffs and plays a heart, and gets another ruff. West has made a very good opening lead; well, it was the Tollemache.

It was rather annoying to learn that one of our team-mates, sitting South, went down on a club lead; he ran the seven of spades, and emerged a few tricks later as a sadder, but hopefully wiser, man.

♣♦♥♠

Of course, you can also use trumps for ruffing. Sometimes, the question is when to ruff.

In a county match, at favourable vulnerability, you pick up: ♠AKJ974 ♥106 ♦AKQ10 ♣2. Your right-hand opponent deals and opens 3♥.

You can expect this to be a fairly solid pre-empt. Players do not usually pre-empt vulnerable against not on bad

suits. Your hand is quite good, so you are going to overcall. Three Spades would be a possibility. The problem with 3♠, though, is that you need so little from partner to make 4♠ playable – after all, ♠Q and ♦J would do. If that is all partner has, he is going to pass 3♠, and we will miss a playable game. There must be a case for taking the pressure off partner and simply bidding 4♠ ourselves. If it goes double, all pass, well, that's too bad.

Four Spades is passed out. West leads the ♥Q and this is what you see:

<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ J 9 6 4 ♣ K J 8 4</p>	<p>♠ A K J 9 7 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 2</p>
--	--

Well, partner might have raised Three Spades to Four, but then again he might not have done. Our jump to 4♠ has worked well; certainly we are in a good contract. East overtakes the ♥Q with the ace and follows with the king, on which West discards a low club. East then plays the jack of hearts.

That's inconvenient. If we ruff low, we will certainly be overruffed. If we ruff with the nine, we may be overruffed with the ten. The odds are high on West having the spade length, as he has one heart to East's seven. If West has all five outstanding trumps we are going down, so we can forget about that – if the trumps are 5-0, there is nothing we can do.

If trumps are 3-2, we can ruff high. However, the opposition bidding

indicates that this is not particularly likely, so we must cater for a 4-1 break. East may have the singleton ten, enabling us to ruff high, but that is against the odds. More likely West has four to the ten, if they are breaking 4-1.

In that case, we are in a slightly amusing position; we cannot ruff low, as that would be instantly fatal – West would overruff and cash the ace of clubs. If we ruff high, with the ace, king, or jack, we establish a trump trick for West, as he will simply discard, and we will not be able to pick up his trumps.

This is all very awkward. We cannot ruff low, and we don't really want to ruff high. Is there anything that we can do about this?

Yes, there is. We can not ruff at all. Remember what the contract is - it is Four Spades. Our requirement here is to make ten tricks. There is no law that says it has to be the first ten. We can afford, therefore, to lose three tricks, and we have already lost two. We have another loser in our hand – the two of clubs. On this jack of hearts, then, as we are not going to ruff, we simply discard our club loser. On any further heart leads, we can ruff in dummy.

The full deal:

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

Discarding the two of clubs on the third heart was the only way to make the hand. As it happens, this is not a completely 100% line; if West started with only two diamonds, he could discard both of them on the king-jack of hearts and then get a diamond ruff. However, the first discard of a club made this unlikely. Also, East may have had a void diamond – then, West could ruff the ♥J and give East the ruff. With a void diamond, though, East would have led a lower heart than the jack, possibly the seven, to indicate the possibility of a ruff to West.

Of course, West could have defeated the contract by leading the ace of clubs before switching to the ♥Q, but that's another story....

Partnerships are made in heaven

Know the difference between a serial killer and a bridge partner?
You can reason with the serial killer.

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

My partner is 20 years behind the times. Nowadays you pay your money to bid. My partner still thinks you need high cards.

Congratulations

to the following LMBA members who have done well in national and international events over the last few months.



Tony Forester was a member of the winning team in the national Premier League.

Zia Mahmood won the ACBL Reisinger teams and **Andrew Robson** was fourth in the same event.

Gillian Fawcett won the Lady Milne trials and went on to represent England in the Lady Milne. **Susanna Gross**, **Chris Duckworth** and **Nicole Cook** also did well in the trials and were selected to represent the EBU in the main event, which they went on to win. The picture shows Susanna (*far left*), Nicole (*second from right*) and Chris (*far right*) with team mates Sandra Penfold, Sally Brock and Nevena Senior and NPC Simon Cope.



Gunnar Hallberg and **Ross Harper** were members of the winning team in the Seniors Trials and went on to win the Seniors Camrose for England.

Alice Kaye was a member of the England U25 team that won the Channel Trophy for the first time in 20 years. Laura Macdougall was also selected to the England U25 women's team in this event.

At the Year End Congress **Gunnar Hallberg** was a member of the winning team in the Swiss Teams A flight and the team of **Ros Nanayakkara**, **Michael Alishaw**, **Timothy Wilson** and **Jon Lillycrop** came third in the B flight. In the Swiss Pairs **Bernard Teltscher** was second and **Gunnar Hallberg** & **David Ewart** were fourth. **Sarah Dunn** & **David Gold** were second in the Mixed Pairs and **Simon Pollack** was third in the Open Pairs.



Ross Harper won the Swiss Pairs at the Harrogate Spring Congress in February in partnership with Paul Hackett (*pictured left*). The same pair won the Swiss Pairs at the Shrewsbury Congress in April. Also in Shrewsbury, **Tim Chanter** and **Helen Wildsmith** won the Swiss Teams.

David Bakhshi won the National Swiss Teams by a big margin, playing with Ben Green and Irish internationals Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann.



At the Easter Festival in London, **David Gold** (pictured left) won the Mixed Pairs in partnership with Catherine Seale. **Fiona Hutchison** was third in the same event with Nick Sandqvist and **Helen and Espen Erichsen** were fourth. **Alice Kaye** came an impressive second in the Championship Pairs behind the winning Bulgarian international pair. **Graham Ormond** and **Jackie Fairclough** were second in the

Swiss Teams and **Gordon Rainsford & Dom Goodwin** were second in the Swiss Pairs A flight. **Gordon** and **Dom** were also third in the Premier Life Masters Pairs a month earlier.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress **David Gold** was second in the Swiss Teams A final. **Nick Boss** and **Richard Johnson** won the Pairs B final with **David Bakhshi** second in the same event, and **Ted Booth** was third in the Swiss Pairs.

At the Cheltenham Congress **Richard Harris** won and **David Schiff** was third in the Morgan Banks Cup.

The London team of **David Ewart, Gunnar Hallberg, David Gold** and **Tom Townsend** came an excellent third in the Pachabo Cup.

Anne Catchpole won the Oxford Green-Pointed One-Day Swiss Pairs.

At the Riviera Congress, **Alice Kaye** won the Swiss Teams and **Alex Hydes** (*right, with Yorkshire's James Thrower*) won the Swiss Pairs.

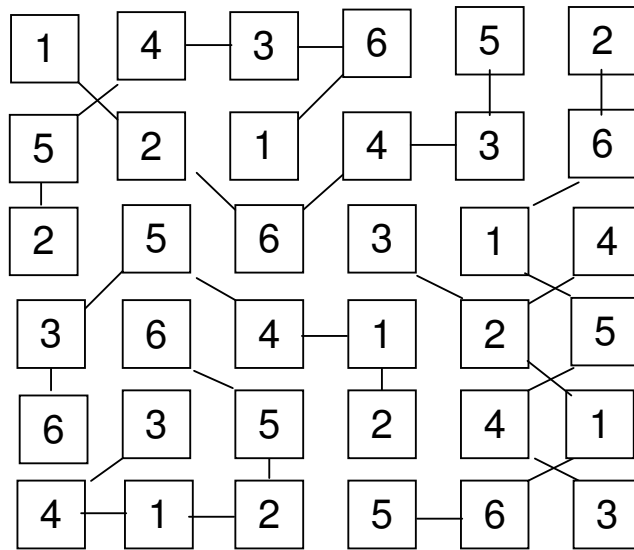
At the Summer Seniors Congress, in the Swiss Pairs, **Martin Hoffman** was first and **Peter Cogliatti** came third. In the Championship Pairs B final at the same event, **Mandie Campbell** and **Benji Hackenbroch** came third.



At the Scottish Summer Congress in Peebles, **John Matheson, Chris Duckworth** and **Brian Callaghan** (*pictured left with team-mate Trish Matheson and SBU President Michelle Alexander*) won the Consolation Teams.

Puzzle Solution

(See page 3)



The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

After Veronica Thicke announced her retirement in the last edition of this newsletter, the editor approached me about stepping into her shoes. We kicked around a couple of ideas. One was to create a fictitious columnist who was the worst bridge writer in the world, a self-opinionated smug result merchant who had no idea what was going on (no resemblance to any bridge writer living or dead etc. etc.). This might have been quite amusing for a while but might have been a bit much like hard work. There was also a problem with the character's name – my suggestion was deemed obscene if read out loud but nothing else really appealed. So we knocked that one on the head. The next suggestion was a bidding panel, with answers supplied by people from history rather than real bridge players. Unfortunately the graft required for this was also going to be considerable. Someone had to find some interesting hands, for starters, and I was bugged if that was going to be me. Then there was the selection of characters. I could only think of Hitler and Dolly Parton. Comments along the lines of "You vill bid Four Spades!" and infantile jokes about large breasts rendered in a Southern accent, replete with lots of "y'all"s were going to try the patience of the reader. And the writer.

*So, for the tail-end article in the magazine I've come up with a novel solution. I'm just going to write a column. Under my own name, about things that happen to me at the bridge table, people I know or knew and...well, whatever else occurs to me. A few years ago the comedian Steve Martin published a book of essays called *Pure Drivel*. I would like to assure the reader that the editor and I have set our sights higher than that. We just haven't set them much higher. The title of the series reflects both the position of the pieces – at the end of the magazine – and the attitude. You'll get no earnest tournament reports or investigations of obscure theory here. Just pull up a chair and relax. And welcome to the Terminal Cafe.*

About ten years ago I used to play a fair amount with David Burn. We were a regular feature at the Young Chelsea on Wednesday evenings, playing a deliberately ridiculous system, fully documented with plastic wallets for the

convention cards. It was supposed to be satirical, a blow against those who were obsessed with system at the expense of sense. Fell completely flat, of course – everyone thought we meant it, and frustratingly we usually did quite well (despite the system, not because of it – most good boards came from doubling the opponents whenever they had the temerity to bid anything). David now spends quite a lot of time working at TGR and playing professionally, so I don't see much of him other than socially, but we did play against each other in a NICKO match a week or two back. I was playing with Rob Cliffe (a blameless man who through no fault of his own will turn up in this column quite a lot), and David was playing with Nick Sandqvist. Rob and Nick used to be regular partners, and I think it's fair to say that Burn and I know each other's style as well as anyone. On one board, I opened a Weak Two in Spades. David showed a balanced 20-22 with Two No Trumps, and Nick, with Q 10 to eight clubs and sod all else put him in Three No Trumps. Rob duly led a Spade, and David won the trick. Then he went into the tank. Nick went outside to have a cigarette, finished it, came back and sat down again. Still no card had been played to trick two. The seconds turned into minutes. I wondered if Burn had gone mad. He'd never taken anything like this to formulate a plan of campaign. And either he had AK and another Club or he didn't. Still, not mine to reason why, but it struck me as most peculiar. Out of the corner of my eye I could see him look upwards and then glance at me. He must have noticed my vacant expression, because the next thing he said was "You do realise it's your go, don't you?" He'd ducked the first trick. Now, you might claim that I could have been paying more attention, but the Ace and the Three look very similar when played quickly. I blame Burn. In all the time he's known me have I ever taken more than five seconds to play a card? Have I buffalo. Thank God he noticed, though. We could have been sitting there awaiting each other's pleasure all evening.

A couple of weeks later I was playing in a league match. Every year we play against one particular pair of opponents who always bid a slam off two Aces. This year was no exception. Rob Cliffe (yes, it's that man again) and I chalked our plus 100 into our scorecards then embarked on an over-enthusiastic auction (pointedly using Blackwood) to a slam ourselves. More to teach the opponents a lesson in case it made rather than through any genuine expectation. Here's the full hand:

The lead was the Ace we knew we didn't have. The contract wasn't cast iron but if Spades were 4-4, Diamonds 3-2 and Q x (x) of trumps were on my right, we were off to China on a boat. RHO led his Ace and switched to a Spade. I won in dummy and took a Heart finesse straightaway. When this succeeded, with the layout as it is, I was able to play the right cards in more or less any order to make the contract, and I

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

did (discard two Diamonds on K Q Spades, ruff a Spade low and a Diamond with ♥K, making sure to finesse in Hearts on the way back). Rob wondered why, with some justification, I'd played the Heart to the Jack at trick three. It was, alas, nothing to do with seeing a schematic of the hand in my head and planning immaculately. It was because I wanted to know if I was going off as quickly as possible, and that it was all going to come down, more or less, what I did in Hearts. Thinking that I'd be none the wiser at trick ten than at trick three, I just decided to get it over and done with. It was only when I'd found out that I hadn't gone off yet that I actually came up with a proper plan. Burn would have realised that. Or at least he would have in the old days, before he got this damned fool notion that I might actually spend some time thinking about things into his head.

Some players do, however, see bridge hands when they're playing them from as if from above – they have an instinctive grasp of the 52-card layout, what it needs to be, or what it's likely to be. Norman Selway, with whom I used to play a fair amount of rubber bridge is one. He too wasn't a great one for sitting staring at a dummy waiting for inspiration. Instead, you'd almost feel a spirit rise out of him for a moment, and assess the situation from on high. A successful player, and one of England's finest. He has that special oversight of a hand which leaves the rest of us standing.

Another player who has this ability is Gunnar Hallberg. I've never been able to get past him, and often make foolish errors because I know he's going to get me. Once, the boot was on the other foot. Almost. Gunnar was declarer, and was short of a trick for his contract. He knew what the layout was, and conceded one down. He turned to his LHO and said "Well, I think you hold all the important cards, so you're not going to go wrong, are you?" Said LHO was a regular partner of mine (see above or take a wild guess). I felt Gunnar had rather flattered him, which was nice. From the rueful expression on Gunnar's face, alas, it was clear that had I been the one holding all the important cards, he'd have been running off his long suit like a madman, waiting for me to sling the wrong thing. At least he had the good grace not to say so out loud.

So, there we are. Join me again at my table at the Terminal Cafe, where the newsletter has run its course, the results of county events have been published, reports have been read, and the letters answered and there's nothing left to do other than tell a story or two, and have a laugh, usually at my expense. Unlike my predecessor I can't undertake to answer reader's queries or visit random bridge clubs dotted around the Greater London area, but if you have a tale to tell let me know, and if it's any good I'll pass it on. And if it's really good, I'll take the credit. Of course.

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