

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Autumn 2013

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Words from the Editor

It is the start of the new competition season very shortly, and now is the time to think about entering one of the League or Knock-out competitions organised by the LMBA.

If you haven't tried entering one of these before, you really should. Teams of Four offers what I believe to be the most enjoyable form of bridge and is particularly suitable for club players who haven't tried much in the way of other competitive bridge. It is where I personally developed as a bridge player, way back in the 1970s playing in the London Business Houses League and The Civil Service Bridge League – both of which competitions still run. And I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything.



A teams-of-four match is usually a very sociable affair. Most often, it is you and three friends playing against another group of four friends. If your match is "at home" you may play in your local club or at home, as you prefer, or indeed anywhere that can accommodate two bridge tables – it used to be my office in the early days when I was working centrally - and if you are drawn away, you will visit the opposing team wherever they choose to play. All matches have a break for refreshments half way through, an opportunity to experience a wide variety of offerings – usually sandwiches and cakes, but I have been given the most delicious curries and other delicacies in my time. This is also an opportunity to socialise and chat. It is great fun visiting different places and meeting new players – regardless of whether you manage to win the match or not!

Apart from the social nature of teams-of-four, it is also a very easy form of bridge to play, less stressful than regular club pairs. In Pairs, you are ranked against the other players in the field, and if you fail to make an overtrick when everyone else is doing so, you will get a bottom. So you have to concentrate very hard to get the very best from every hand. In teams, it is the size of your score that matters, and one little overtrick doesn't count for very much. It is important to bid your games so as to be sure of getting those important game bonuses, but if you are only in a part-score, all you need to do is try to make it.

The two main events run by the LMBA offering head-to-head teams-of-four matches of the type I have described are the London League and the London Trophy. The London League has several divisions, and new teams generally join in one of the lower ones. There is promotion and relegation each year, so teams quickly find their own level. The lowest division is known as the Newcomers League and is especially suitable for less-experienced players. You do not need to be an EBU or LMBA member to play in this, so it is a good way to introduce new people into an enjoyable form of competition. Many of these teams have a more experienced captain who gets the team together, fixes matches and so on, drawing in less-experienced team-mates. Only one player of National Master rank

or above is allowed in a Newcomers League team and there are some system restrictions to protect the inexperienced.

The London Trophy is a Knock-out competition, but teams who lose their first match automatically enter the Plate event, so all teams are guaranteed at least two matches. The Trophy is for teams representing clubs of all kinds, and many of the teams are from non-bridge clubs such as golf clubs, tennis clubs etc. The event is open to teams from all over the South East of England, so you are very likely to meet some new faces and find some attractive clubs to visit (though we try to regionalise in the early stages to minimise travelling distances).

The London Trophy has had a slightly chequered history over the last few years, with different organisers not always organising things very well! But this year it will be run by Kath, who did a terrific job of picking up the pieces last year and we are very confident it should and will have a new lease of life.

So if you are a member of any kind of club, why not have a go at putting together a team and entering this competition – you will really enjoy it. And if as, say, a bowls player, you visit another bowls club to play bowls, why not tell them about this bridge competition and encourage them to join in.

More details of both the London League and London Trophy can be found on pages 15 & 16 of this issue of MetroNews.

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Annual General Meeting

The 2013 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 12th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, Queen's Club, Palliser Road, W14 9EQ, (**note the new address**) starting at 7.00pm.

Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies & apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 6th September 2012
(**Note.** These can be found at www.metrobridge.co.uk)
- 3 Matters arising from these minutes.
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Adoption of accounts for 2012
- 7 Subscriptions (direct and Pay-to-Play) for 2014-2015
- 8 Elections to the Executive Committee
- 9 Appointment of honorary auditor
- 10 EBU shareholders' Report
- 11 Any other business

LMBA results this season

Ian Gardiner Trophy

This year showed another small increase in the entry to this event, the London County's major Teams-of-Four competition which serves as a qualifier for the Pachabo Cup – the national inter-County Teams-of-Four championship.

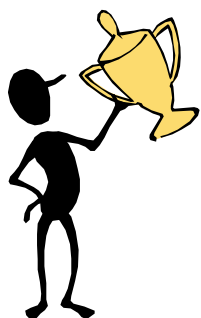
Eighteen teams competed in the two-session event in February and the leading team on the day was the multi-national quartet captained by Norrie Buxton (Irish), with team members Kieran Dyke (Australian), Terry Hewett (American) and Kiril Delev (Bulgarian)! But whilst this team took the prize for coming first on the day, the players were not all primary-allegiance to London, so they could not qualify to the play-off for the cup and the right to represent London in the Pachabo.

The next two teams, who did qualify, were Sati McKenzie's team of herself, Mahmoud Sadek, Justin Wickens and Andrew Clery, who finished second, and Anita Sinclair's star studded third-placed team of herself, Fredrik Bjornlund, David Bakhshi and Ben Green. In a close fourth place were 2011 winners and 2012 losing finalists, John Pemberton, Seve Popham, Paul Martin and Tim Gauld

The Sinclair team made the top three last year, but on that occasion her team did not qualify to go forward, but this year she made sure all her team had London allegiance (Ben Green having relatively recently moved to the capital and joined the County). The two qualifying teams played each other in the final in May (with Glyn Liggins, another recent recruit to London, substituting for David Bakhshi), which was won by the Sinclair team. They therefore took the Ian Gardiner Trophy.

Anita took the same team as played in the final through to the Pachabo, where they finished in a very respectable 9th place.

London Championship Pairs



In contrast to the Teams Championship, the entry to the Championship Pairs was slightly down this year, with 29 pairs competing. At the end of the first session, the partnership of Tom Peer and Keith Clow were in a commanding position, 5% ahead of the second-placed pair. But they weren't able to hold on to this lead and after the second session the convincing winners were John Pemberton and Steve Popham. This was the third time Steve has won this competition, and a second win for John.

Susanna Gross has a great record in the event, and she finished in second place in partnership with Barry Myers. In third place were Victor Silverstone and Brigid Battiscombe with Stefanie Rohan and Paul Lamford fourth.

As the second and third placed players did not all have London allegiance, the other two leading pairs were joined in qualifying for the Pachabo by Chris

Duckworth and Brian Callaghan (5th) and Tom Peer and Keith Clow who hung on to take 6th place.

In the consolation event held alongside the final, the leading pairs were

1	Mahmoud Sadek & Sati McKenzie	58.27%
2	Corneliu Rimboiu & Mike Landon	57.63
3	Nick Boss & Claire Robinson	52.95

Palmer Bayer Trophy

A total of 17 pairs competed for the Palmer Bayer Trophy this year. The winners were Sue Bedford and Denise Grimstone (*pictured right*) with a highly creditable 67.82%. They were well ahead of second-placed Rica Hene and Mary Anne St Clair-Ford on 62.04%, with Julian Cotton and Tim Bell third on 57.87%.



Swedish and English international Nick Sandqvist gave up his time to come along and discuss the hands with the players after the event over a complimentary glass of wine – a session which was much appreciated by all the participants.

Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

The annual green-pointed weekend was once again held at a new venue, this time St Paul's School just south of the river in the Hammersmith/Barnes borders. The event took place on one of the coldest ever weekends in March and unfortunately the heating in the hall that was used proved to be inadequate, so the players mostly had to play wearing their coats. Nevertheless 70 hardy pairs competed in the Swiss Pairs on Saturday and 35 teams played on Sunday

Pride of place in the **Swiss Pairs** went to Andrew and Anne Stimson, well known as the organisers of the popular Lavender Bridge Cub in South London. The leading places were as follows:

1	Andrew & Anne Stimson	101 VPs
2=	Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne	99
	Sue & Richard Millard	
4=	Mark Westley & Sheila Evans	98
	Kamil Matusiak & Millie Jones	
	Richard Bowdery & Steve Root	

The team comprising Roger O'Shea along with three members of the Hackett family has a terrific record in the **Swiss Teams**, having won outright in 2011 and achieving joint first place in 2012, though last year they lost the title on a split tie. This year they once again proved their mettle with another clear win, 7 VPs ahead of the second-placed team.

These were the leading positions (*with the winners pictured right*):

- 1 Paul Hackett, Roger O'Shea,
Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett 107
- 2 Gill Hutchinson, Nigel Freake,
Doug Dunn, Ken Barnett 100
- 3= Graham Pollack, Paul Chapman,
Helen Wildsmith, Tim Chanter 98
- & Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden,
Graham Osborne, Gunnar Hallberg



Garden Cities

This year's Garden Cities heat was once again fought out between teams from the Young Chelsea and Woodberry bridge clubs. The winning team contained several of the same players as won the national title two years ago and they and the Woodberry team beat last year's heat winners into third place.

The leading teams were:

- 1 **Young Chelsea** John Pemberton, Stephen Popham, Malcolm Todd, Paul Martin, Trevor Mathews, Mark Davies, Mark Lehto, Guy Hart
- 2 **Woodberry** Nigel Freake, Paul Lamford, Graham Pollack, Paul Chapman, Gill Hutchinson, Doug Dunn, Anne Catchpole, David Schiff

Mark Lehto, Guy Hart and Paul Martin were unavailable for the next stage of the competition, so were replaced by Tim Gauld, Dom Goodwin and Gordon Rainsford in the Regional Semi-Finals and this team qualified for the finals in fine style, well-ahead of the second-placed team.

Unfortunately their luck ran out in the finals and they did not manage to bring home the national title once again.

Fox Shammon Trophy

Despite the fact that the average age of our membership continues to increase, there was once again a reduced entry to this Seniors Pairs event. This meant that just 12 pairs competed for the title.

The holders could only manage third place this year, the leading pairs being:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Gilly Cardiff & Simon Cocheme | 57.87% |
| 2 | Rolf Alexander & Steve Eginton | 57.67 |
| 3 | Mark Davies & Julia Holland | 56.87 |



Café Bridge Drive

The fourth Tonsleys café bridge drive, once again held in aid of Age UK Wandsworth, managed to find one of the relatively few fine days in April.

40 pairs competed in the event which, with the aid of a raffle, raised a terrific £800 for the charity. The leading players were:



Pandora & Melinda with organiser Chris Duckworth

- 1 Pandora Anand & Melinda Scott-Manderson 65.83%
- 2 Merrita Dickinson & Catherine Rogers 65.56
- 3 Mike Skelly & Margaret Hamilton 63.75

London Trophy

The final stages of the London Trophy and Della-Porta Plate were held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall in June. In the main final, Robson's Rovers had a convincing win against the other finalists, Mushroom Chess. The play-off for third and fourth place was much closer and Crouch End BC were very unlucky to be once again the only team to come away from the event without a prize, ending up in fourth place for the second year running.

The Plate final was also very close, but the RAC had the advantage of playing at home and they came away with the title. The Home Office had to settle for second place for the second year running.

See Mike Hill's article on pages 10-14 for some of the more interesting hands that arose and also a picture of the Plate winners.



The winning team: Terry Chapman, Ed Sunley, Michael Kaye, Helen Erichsen (l to r) with the Trophy presented by Pat Brotherston (far right)

The final results were:

London Trophy:

- 1 Robsons Rovers – Michael Kaye, Terry Chapman, Edward Sunley, Helen Erichsen
- 2 Mushroom Chess Club – Bill Linton, Tim Pelling, Ron Harris, Chris Carew, Robert Balchin
- 3 Treasury – Roy Westwater, Peter Donovan, Peter Brook, Alex Allan
- 4 Crouch End BC – Nick Bryant, Judy Roose, Clive Levy, Sarah Mclachlan

Della-Porta Plate:

- 1 RAC – Bob Bowman, Arun Suri, Marina Channing-Pearse, Andrew Kisiel
- 2 Home Office – Ravinder Walia, John Graham, Jeff Gill, Peter Jones

London Trophy Pairs

16 pairs competed in this Pairs event for players who are members of London Trophy teams, held in April this year. The final result was close, with the leading pairs being:

- 1 Clive Levy & Sarah Mclachlan 57.14%
- 2 Jane Coupe & Peter Blumer 55.48
- 3 Victoria Ansary & Dorette Birshan 55.18

London League

All the divisions of the league completed their matches in good time this season.

In **Division 1** two Young Chelsea teams finished in first and second places, well clear of the rest of the field. In first place were YC5 captained by Brian McGuire on 77 VPs, ahead of YC3, David Ould's team, on 72 VPs.

In **Division 2** Brian Kelly's Punters had big wins in five of their six matches to finish with 87 VPs. The Tartan team captained by Arni Anidjar-Romain was second with 79 VPs.

Division 3 also had convincing winners. John Clarke's Barrels amassed a big total of 94 VPs, despite losing one match and drawing another. The runners-up were Jon Lillycrop's eponymous team on 79 VPs.

In the **Newcomers League** there were again clear winners – the Improbables, captained by Richard Wharton, with 92 VPs. There was a close scramble for second place, but the Concentric team captained by Mike Taylor came in with 77 VPs ahead of the next two teams on 76 and 75 respectively.

Home Counties League

The runaway League winners this year were the Surrey Orange team captained by Tony Richards. In joint second place were last year's winners Middlesex Black, and the previous year's winners, London Red.

Puzzle Corner



Can you place the four suit symbols and a NT **twice** in each row and column of the grid below, and **once** in each smaller 5x1 grid? The same symbol is not allowed to be placed in cells that share an edge, but can be in diagonally adjacent cells.

♠			♣		♠		♥		NT
						♦			
		♦	♠	NT				♣	
♦				♣			♣		♦
	♥		NT				NT	♦	
	♦	NT				NT		♣	
♣		♦			♣				♠
	♥				♦	♥	♦		
			♦						
NT		♥		♣		NT			♣

If you get stuck, the solution can be found on page 34

Just for fun



Bridge partners are like parking spots - the good ones are taken and the available ones are handicapped.

Q. How many Bridge players do you need to change a light bulb?

A. Four. One to change the bulb and 3 to tell him how he could have done it better

Q. What is the difference between a mad psycho serial killer and a bridge partner?

A. You can reason with the serial killer.

West bids...., North doubles. East looks at South suspiciously and asks "Is your partner's double for business?"

South smiles sweetly "No, no, it's for pleasure!"

London Trophy Finals - 2013

by Michael Hill

On 23rd June, a little later in the year than usual, the finals of the 35th London Trophy were once again held in the elegant surroundings of the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. This LMBA competition is essentially social and the concept is maintained by continuing to restrict teams to no more than one player ranked at national master or higher rank and by using aggregate scoring. The finals day has three head-to head matches - the final of the London Trophy itself, the play-off for third place between the losing semi-finalists, and the final of the Della-Porta Plate, the competition for first round losers in the London Trophy - played simultaneously using the same boards.

The three matches were: -

London Trophy final:	Robson's Rovers vs. Mushroom Chess
LT third place play-off:	Crouch End vs. HM Treasury
Della-Porta Plate final:	RAC 2 vs. Home Office

This was the second successive year that Crouch End, HM Treasury and Home Office had been represented in the finals.

The event lived up to its reputation. The first board was a routine game with overtricks - but the only one in the entire event where the contract was actually the same at all six tables. Thereafter variety became the spice of life and the second board produced no fewer than five different contracts – and in four different denominations!

NS Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 54	
♥ AQ652	
♦ AK762	
♣ A	
♠ 63	♠ 10972
♥ 7	♥ KJ1098
♦ 105	♦ J984
♣ KJ985432	♣ –
♠ AKQJ8	
♥ 43	
♦ Q3	
♣ Q1076	

Every South opened 1♠. When Mushroom Chess were East-West, West elected to pass and North-South

had a simple auction to 3NT, which North elected to pass even though full values had not been shown. After winning the obvious club lead, declarer came to hand to take the heart finesse, after which the limit was ten tricks.

At every other table, West overcalled 4♣, introducing wide variations in the subsequent auction. Two Norths bid 4♦, two bid 4♥ and one bid 5♦! Generally, South rebid spades and ended up in either 5♠ (making) or 6♠ (going one-off). However, one of the 4♥ bids ended the auction and the contract drifted one-off for a swing of 730 to Robson's Rovers. The 5♦ bid also ended the auction - but declarer made 11 tricks for a swing of 500 to Crouch End. RAC 2, who stopped in 5♠, also gained a swing – of 780.

Board 3 was a little better – there were only four different contracts and three different denominations – and there was even no swing in one match! However, the next board created mayhem, including the curious case of

both North and East declaring the same doubled contract at different tables.

Game all. Dealer West.

	♠ 6532	
	♥ 753	
	♦ 642	
	♣ 863	
♠ KQ4		♠ AJ107
♥ A102		♥ QJ94
♦ 9853		♦ 7
♣ K94		♣ J1052
	♠ 98	
	♥ K86	
	♦ AKQJ10	
	♣ AQ7	

One West elected to pass and one, playing a strong no trump, opened 1♦ but all the other Wests opened 1NT. At three tables, this was passed round to South who doubled. When Robson's Rovers were East-West, this was passed out and they emerged with +380 when the defence did not cash their six tricks. The HM Treasury North pulled the double to 2♠, his only 4-card suit and duly went four-off when good defence timing got them a club trick as well. The Crouch End North chose to bid 2♣ opposite the double (perhaps intended as part of a rescue mechanism) and South, rather liking his hand, rebid 2NT. When East doubled this, South attempted a "rescue" into 3♣ and East doubled again. After a lead of the ♦7, the defence lost a couple of possible tricks along the way but the contract was still five-off for 1400 to Crouch End and an overall swing to them of 1000.

When Mushroom Chess were East-West, East responded 2♣ to the opening 1NT, so South could only

overcall 2♦ – and then redouble when East doubled. North "rescued" into 2♠, doubled by East and South tried 2NT. For some reason, East gave up the idea of taking a penalty at this point and bid 3♣, which South was happy to double. Diamonds were led and continued and now, on the actual lie of the cards, declarer can make eleven tricks. But the position was far from obvious and he played safely for one-off, albeit losing a swing of 580.

Life was far less exciting in the Plate match. The RAC West passed as dealer and South opened 1♦ in the pass-out seat, where he played for one-off. At the other table where West opened 1♦, he heard 1♥ from partner and a double from South. He rebid 1NT and played there making eight tricks when, once again, the defence did not manage to cash all their tricks. But that meant that the swing on the board was a mere 20 points.

Board 6 was the nearest thing to a flat board all day. Every declarer made twelve tricks five of them in 3NT and the sixth in 5♣. By the time we'd recovered from the shock of this, along came board 9.

EW Vul. Dealer North.

	♠ J42	
	♥ Q864	
	♦ 952	
	♣ 765	
♠ Q63		♠ A1085
♥ A105		♥ K932
♦ J63		♦ 874
♣ 9842		♣ AQ
	♠ K97	
	♥ J7	
	♦ AKQ10	
	♣ KJ103	

In the Plate, the RAC East opened 1♠, playing a strong no trump. South overcalled 1NT and West raised to 2♠, where he played, drifting quietly one-off. The Home Office East, playing a strong no trump and 5-card majors opened 1♦ and here, South's overcall of 1NT was passed out. This too went one-off.

At every other table, East opened 1NT and South doubled. In the Trophy final, this ended the auction at both tables. One declarer duly made seven tricks but the other lost his way and went one-off giving a swing of 380 to Robson's Rovers. In the third place play-off, both Norths decided to pull the double. One bid 2♣, presumably the start of a rescue mechanism, and passed South's 2♦. This made easily after a club lead. The other North bid 2♥ over which South tried 2NT, where he played. Somehow, 2NT was allowed to make, so the overall swing was only 30 points.

At half time, Robson's Rovers led by a massive 2030 in the main final but there was everything to play for in the other matches. Crouch End were ahead by just 440 in the third place play-off and RAC were 790 ahead in the Plate.

♠♥♦♣

The second half continued the frenzy. Board 13 provided a game swing (or equivalent) in all three matches and the same thing happened on Board 14 (including a spade game bid and made on a 4-2 fit). Some balance returned on Board 15, albeit in the wrong way as no-one bid the cold slam. But board 16 ensured that balance was short-lived.

EW Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 9853	♠ QJ10
♥ AQ105	♥ J98742
♦ A94	♦ 73
♣ 64	♣ QJ
♠ AK42	
♥ K3	
♦ KQ5	
♣ A1073	
	♠ 76
	♥ 6
	♦ J10862
	♣ K9852

In the Trophy final, the Mushroom Chess West opened 1♣ and this led to a contract of 4♥ played by East. The ♦J was led to the queen and ace and a diamond returned. Declarer crossed to his hand in spades to lead a heart towards the king and now was unable to avoid three trump losers. At the other table, West opened 2NT so, after a transfer sequence, 4♥ was played from the West hand and North led the ♠9. Alas the play was not recorded, so we shall never know whether declarer timed the play correctly to execute a trump coup or whether North erred by ruffing a club but the contract was made for a swing of 720 to Robson's Rovers.

In the third place play-off, the Treasury West reached 3NT and, although this can be made by perfect timing, he finished one-off. All was not lost, however, as the Crouch End East-West had a bidding misunderstanding at the other table and ended in 4♠. This can always be beaten but should probably be only one-off, However, realising that 3NT and 4♥ would probably be makeable, declarer tried to play for a lie of the cards, however

unlikely, which might enable him to make 4♠. He won the spade lead in dummy and tried a heart to the king. He won the spade continuation in dummy and led a second small heart, hoping to bring down a doubleton queen. Alas, when that failed to materialise and a third trump locked him in hand, he lost control and ended four-off.

The Plate was all set for a repeat of this, the contracts being 3NT at one table and 4♠ at the other. 3NT did indeed go one-off again and a trump was led against 4♠. However, this time, declarer led the ♣Q at trick 2 and, when this was covered, won the ace and returned to the ♣J in dummy. He now led a diamond to the king and ace, won the diamond return and ruffed a diamond. Had he now drawn trumps, cashed the ♣A and exited in hearts, North would have had to concede the tenth trick in hearts - but this was impossible to read and he led a heart, hoping for the king to be onside. Alas, it wasn't, and he ended one-off for a flat board.

Board 19 was of passing interest. In each match one East-West pair bid and made a vulnerable game (albeit in different denominations) while at the other table, they doubled South in 3♦ which always went four-off for -800 and a small swing. Then board 20 was one of the few that were almost flat. Everyone played in 3NT going two-off except for one declarer who escaped for one-off.

Board 22 provided opportunities in that a thin 6♥ could be made. However it was a flat board in slam in the Trophy final and in game in the Plate. Only in the third place play-off was there a

swing when slam was bid at both tables but the Crouch End declarer took his eye of the ball and went one-off. Board 23 then provided more potential for fireworks

Game all. Dealer South.

♠ A102		
♥ KQ		
♦ A105		
♣ AQ954		
♠ 75		♠ Q64
♥ J10753		♥ 862
♦ K9864		♦ 732
♣ 8		♣ J1072
	♠ KJ983	
	♥ A94	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ K63	

At five tables, South opened 1♠ but, at the sixth, the opening was 1NT. After the 1NT opening, the Robson's Rovers pair ended in 6♣, losing just one club trick. After the spade opening, the other three tables in the Trophy final and play-off all reached 6♠ and, after taking the right view in trumps, emerged with thirteen tricks. In the Plate, things were different. The Home Office subsided in 4♠ and, playing safely, made just eleven tricks. RAC, however, bid to 6NT, perhaps concerned about possible bad distributions, and received the ♣J lead. Declarer guessed wrong in spades then, playing for clubs to break, cashed the DA prematurely and ended two-off.

Could this decide the result of the Plate? And would board 24 decide any winners? It looked a routine board and in fact the contract at five tables was 3NT, making ten or eleven tricks. However, in the third place play-off,

HM Treasury bid to 6♣, played from the West hand.

Love all. Dealer West.

♠ 32	
♥ QJ107642	
♦ 5	
♣ 1062	
♠ K874	♠ A9
♥ 953	♥ AK8
♦ KQ	♦ A974
♣ AK74	♣ J985
♠ QJ1065	
♥ –	
♦ J108632	
♣ Q3	

The defence got their heart ruff at trick 1 and declarer won the spade return to draw trumps. However, he had won that spade in dummy so, after unblocking the diamond, discarding his third heart on the ♦A and ruffing dummy's losing heart, he no longer had an entry to dummy to execute a spade-diamond squeeze with the last trump and so ended one-off.

Perhaps fortunately, neither the loss on this board nor RAC's loss on board 23 changed the overall results.

Results

Trophy: Robson's Rovers beat Mushroom Chess by 2000+ points
Third place play-off: HM Treasury beat Crouch End by 700 points
Plate: RAC beat Home Office by 280 points

Prizes were presented by Pat Brotherston, daughter of Freddie Della-Porta, who started this event back in 1978. In keeping with his original idea, everyone played the event in good spirits. The only sad thing was that Crouch End and Home Office both lost (in the same final) for the second year running. On the plus side, HM Treasury went up, winning the third place play-off this year, having won the Plate last year.



Plate winners RAC – from left Andrew Kisiel, Marina Channing Pearse, Bob Bowman, Arun Suri

Forthcoming competitions

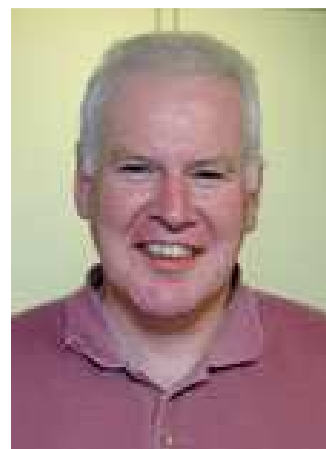
Unless otherwise indicated in the competition detail, all competitions are played at with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. This 8-page schedule may be removed from your magazine for easy reference.

London League & Newcomers League

Entries close 1st September 2013

Holders:	Division 1	<i>Young Chelsea 5</i>	Capt: <i>Brian McGuire</i>
	Division 2	<i>Punters</i>	Capt: <i>Brian Kelly</i>
	Division 3	<i>Barrells</i>	Capt: <i>John Clarke</i>
	Newcomers	<i>Improbables</i>	Capt: <i>Richard Wharton</i>

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.



*Brian McGuire,
Captain YC5*

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 should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **London League** in the subject line, or may be sent by post to **Dominic Flint** at Flat 3, 3 Marylebone High Street, W1U 4NG.. Enquiries may also be made to Dominic on 07763 845457. Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

London Trophy & Della-Porta Plate

Entries close 1st September 2013

Holders: London Trophy: *Robson's Rovers – Michael Kaye, Terry Chapman, Edward Sunley, Helen Erichsen*
Della-Porta Plate: *RAC – Bob Bowman, Andrew Kisiel, Arun Suri, Marina Chaning-Pearse*

The London Trophy is a knock-out teams of four competition for club teams, which has now 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 as far as possible to minimise travel. The final stages of both competitions will be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall in May or June 2014. All participants are also eligible to play in the London Trophy Pairs, held in Spring 2014.

Simple systems only are allowed in this event – full details of what is permitted will be sent to all participating teams 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 should be made to Imbaentries@gmail.com, quoting **London Trophy** in the subject line, or may be sent by email to **Kath Stynes** at kstynes@talk21.com. Enquiries may also be made to Kath on 07747 197940. Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

Home Counties League

Entries close 1st October 2013

Holders: *Surrey Orange –
Capt: Tony Richards*

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 **Dominic Flint** at Dominic.Flint@clara.co.uk or on 07763 845457 for more details.

Players interested in representing London should contact **Guy Hart** at guyhart1@aol.com (London Red) or **Nicole Cook** at nicole@nicoleanncook.com (London Blue) – individuals may join a team at any stage during the season.

Entry fee: £16 per team.

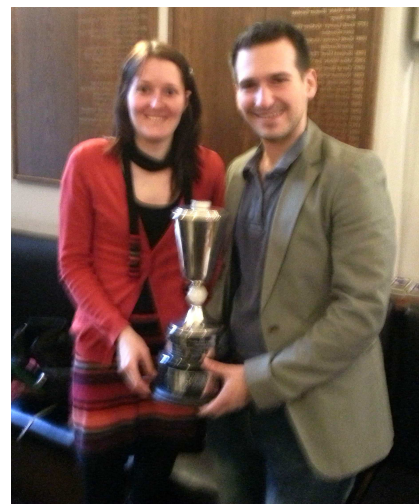
Mixed Pairs Championship

Sunday 15th September 2013 starting at 1.00pm

Venue: Wimbledon Bridge Club

Holder: *Stelio di Bello & Laura Porro*

Please note the new venue for this year for this single extended session, match-pointed, mixed pairs event. The Wimbledon BC is at the Kenneth Black Memorial Hall, 56a Worple Road, London SW19 4EY (020-8947-0147) and is a short walk from Wimbledon station.



All players must be EBU members, but LMBA membership is not necessary.

Entry fee: £22.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to Imbaentries@gmail.com, quoting **Mixed Pairs** in the subject line. Queries may be directed to the organiser, **Susi Behrmann** on 020 7585 1911.

Café Bridge Drive - Clapham

Tuesday 17th September 2013 starting at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Holder: *Robert Sheehan & Tanya Bader*

Following the success of the inaugural event last year, we are pleased to be once again holding this Café Bridge event in the Abbeville Road area of South Clapham.

The duplicate bridge tournament will be played in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in the road, each round of the tournament being played in a different venue. Players should report to Newtons Restaurant and Bar, 35 Abbeville Road, SW4 9LA to register on the morning of play.



Once again we are supporting the local charity Trinity Hospice. All are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.

Entry Fee: £20.00 per player, which includes lunch at whichever venue you find yourself in at lunchtime!

Advance entry is essential. Entries and enquiries should be sent, to arrive no later than 10th September 2013, to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Café Bridge Clapham** in the subject line Please note, however, that Café Bridge events are very popular and numbers are restricted, so entries should be submitted as soon as possible, and will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Enquiries may be directed to **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

Saturday-Sunday 26th-27th October 2013

Venue: RAC, Pall Mall

HOLDERS: *Holders – Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Michael Byrne, Michael Bell, Espen Erichsen, Norman Selway*

This prestigious event for invited expert teams provides a marvellous spectator opportunity for anyone interested in seeing how the experts' minds work at the bridge table. This year will be very special as the event is being held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall and there will be ten teams competing instead of the usual eight, representing the cream of national and international players.



Bell, Byrne, Erichsen & Selway with the trophy and Bernard Teltscher

As a spectator, 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.

The teams to have accepted invitations this year are:

- President's team, captained by Bernard Teltscher and including Tony Priday
- Holders, as above
- Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners – Janet de Botton's team
- England Bermuda Bowl team – Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester and David Gold
- England Ladies – Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale
- Norway, including Boye Brogelund and Erik Saelesminde

- Premier League winners – Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton & Chris Jagger
- Zia & friends, including Zia Mahmood and David Bakhshi
- European Aces – Gunnar Hallberg; Paul Hackett; Justin Hackett; John Holland; David Mossop
- Young Chelsea Knock Out winners

Play starts at 1.30pm on Saturday and continues until 8.30pm. On Sunday there is an earlier 12.30 pm start and proceedings will end with a reception and prize-giving.

Entry fee: Please note that entry is by ticket only. Tickets cost £10 for Saturday or Sunday only, £15 for both days. Free for RAC members.

Ticket applications and enquiries should be sent to leder2013@gmail.com. Enquiries may also be directed to **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940.

Teltscher Cups - Lederer Satellite Pairs

Saturday 26th October 2013

HOLDERS:

NS: *Sheila & Brian Peers*

EW: *Robert Mundy & Marina Grose*

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.



EW winner Marina Grose with Bernard Teltscher



NS Winner Sheila Peers with Bernard

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 **Ian Payn** at Ian.Payn@charterchambers.com or on 07713 322420.

Entry Fee: £1 per player

Junior Teams of Four Championship

Sunday 3rd November 2013 starting at 1.00pm

Venue to be confirmed

Holders: *Freddie Illingworth, Kyle Lam, Toby Nonnenmacher, Michael Alishaw*

A single extended session teams-of-four competition for junior (Under 25) players – that is players who were born on or after 1st January 1987. 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** on 020 7385 3534 or at chris.duckworth@lineone.net.



Champions Cup

Sunday 13th October 2013 starting at 1.00pm

Holders: *Surrey – Peter Lee, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden, Mike Scoltock*

Venue to be confirmed

This is a single extended session, multiple teams event for the 2012/2013 season winners of the highest divisions of leagues organised in London and the home counties. New leagues are always welcome to apply. 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 **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Champions Cup** in the subject line, to arrive no later than 18th November. Enquiries may be directed to **David Muller** on 07847 618105.



Palmer Bayer Trophy

Sunday 9th February 2014 starting at 1.00pm

Venue to be confirmed

Holders: *Sue Bedford & Denise Grimstone*

This single extended session, match-pointed, 'No Fear' pairs competition is for those who like to play tournament bridge under more relaxed conditions than often apply, and for those who particularly want to enjoy a social atmosphere when playing. Improvers and tournament novices are most welcome and more experienced players may find this an 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 full description of allowed systems and conventions can be found 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 absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to Imbaentries@gmail.com, quoting **Palmer Bayer** in the subject line. Queries may be directed to the organiser **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534.

Ian Gardiner Trophy

Sunday 16th February 2014 starting at **11.30am**

Venue to be confirmed

Holders: *Anita Sinclair, Fredrik Bjornlund, Ben Green, David Bakhshi, Glyn Liggins*

This is the major London Teams of Four Championship, which is played as a one-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 22nd – 23rd June 2012 in Daventry.

The qualifier is scored using the same method as the Pachabo – a combination of IMPs and point-a-board. Note the early start on the day is combined with only a short break between sessions, allowing 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 Imbaentries@gmail.com, quoting Ian Gardiner in the subject line, to arrive by 10th February 2013. Enquiries may be directed to the organiser, **Ian Payn**, on 07713 322420.



Advance notice

Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend Saturday-Sunday 8th - 9th March 2014

Swiss Pairs on Saturday at 1.00pm, Swiss Teams on Sunday at 11.30am.
Venue to be confirmed.

General Competition Information & Regulations

Entries. The preferred method of payment of entry fees for competitions is by electronic transfer of funds. Payments should be made to the LMBA account as follows:

Sort Code: 09-06-66

Account Number: 41838562

Please include your surname and the competition name as part of the reference, so that your payment is readily identifiable.

Payments may otherwise be by cash, by EBU voucher, or by cheque made payable to LMBA. Payments on the day are generally acceptable except for certain events for which this is not practicable. These currently include:

- Leagues
- London Trophy
- Café Bridge events
- Lederer spectator tickets

Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the competition description. 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. 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.

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.

Note to junior players: The LMBA offers reduced rates for juniors in most of its competitions. Please ask the organiser in each case for further details.

London News

LMBA Committee

There have been a number of changes recently to the membership of the LMBA Committee that runs bridge in London. Four long-standing committee members have either already left or will be standing down at the AGM in September. They are:

- Nigel Freake, who joined the committee way back in 1990 and has been one of our hardest working tournament organisers for almost all that time;
- Sati McKenzie, who joined in 1997. She has been an indefatigable League secretary and, more recently the much-cherished LMBA Treasurer who did a tremendous job in sorting out our recently rather scrambled accounts;
- Kit Jackson, who joined in 1998 and has served throughout his time on the committee as our publicity officer;
- Stefanie Rohan, who joined in 2005 and whose major contribution was the organisation of the Lederer Memorial Trophy for many years.

We are immensely grateful for the contribution of all these people, who will be much missed. In their place we have co-opted several new faces, whose appointment to the committee will hopefully be ratified at the AGM. The newbies are Guy Hart and Kath Stynes, both of whom already have experience of bridge organisation at the Young Chelsea BC, and Dominic Flint, whose primary bridge club is the RAC, who has kindly agreed to take on the Treasurer's role. You will note that that still leaves one vacancy, so if anyone out there is interested in contributing, do get in touch, or indeed just come along to the AGM (see AGM notice on page 3) and volunteer!

Affiliated Clubs

There are more changes afoot on the London club scene. We are very pleased to welcome one newly-affiliated club and one that has re-affiliated. Both of these are private members-only clubs, the new one being 10cc (see www.brdgewebs.com/10cc). The second is the RAC who we are pleased to welcome back into the EBU family after a year or two's absence.

Clubs are also on the move. The Buttons Bridge Club has had a difficult time with regard to venues recently, but is now playing at the Williamson's Tavern at 1 Groveland Court, London, EC4M 9EH, where the club meets at 6.30 pm every Wednesday evening and where they hope to be for the foreseeable future

And the big news is the move of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, whose lease on the building in Barkston Gardens finally came to an end in July after nearly 40 years residence there. The club is currently located within The Queen's Club in Baron's Court. W14 9EQ.

In Memoriam

Sadly, we have lost a number of London bridge personalities in the last 6 months.

David Davenport, who died in January this year, was a life-long bridge player who played in the England trials in 1960, but gave up tournament play until later in life in favour of his family and business. But in 1972 he joined the Portland Club, the ultimate authority for rubber bridge, and became a leading player there. As Chairman of the club's Card Committee, he made a major contribution to the 1997 edition of the Laws of Rubber Bridge and was working on the next edition right up until his death. David was also a great supporter of the EBU, and was behind the provision of each affiliated club getting a free copy of the law book- the Laws of Duplicate Bridge - back in 2008.

Bob Brinig passed away in early February after a short illness, at the age of 71. He was a strong tournament player, who, inter alia, won the Lederer Memorial Trophy, Crockfords Cup and the Young Chelsea Marathon. He was also a hugely successful rubber bridge player at the Eccentric Club and later TGRs. Bob was also a fine backgammon player and wrote a book with Terence Reese which is still a classic. He was a colourful character whom many will remember with great affection.

Julie Bostock, who died in March after a very long battle with cancer, was a less experienced but nonetheless very enthusiastic bridge player, who mainly played at Andrew Robson's bridge club. Julie briefly joined the LMBA committee and was particularly welcomed as a representative of the club players who make up so much of our membership. Unfortunately she was unable to contribute for long before her illness took hold.

John Gallagher died in April at the age of 81. He was a fine player, often partnering the likes of Irving Rose and Bob Rowlands. After a successful business career he found occupation in semi-retirement going into partnership with Nicola Smith running the London School of Bridge, where he fostered the careers of several of London's young players. He had been off the London bridge scene recently, having retired to live in the south of France with his French wife.

Michael Lighthill died in July after a long illness. Michael was a valuable member of the LMBA Committee from 1988 until 1999, mainly involved in tournament organisation. He was also a member of the Young Chelsea Club committee during the 1980s. He had been off the London bridge scene recently, but will be remembered fondly by many of our longer-standing members as a keen player with a gentle disposition and unfailing good humour.

Ken Drane, who died in April, was not a London member, but as Middlesex County Secretary for many years he, was a good friend to London, helping to foster good relations between the two adjacent counties. His loss is keenly felt.

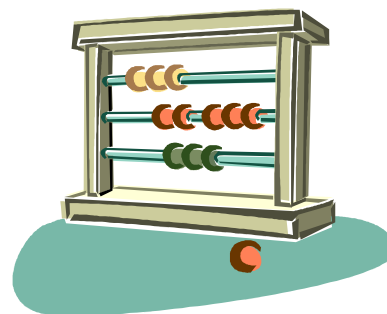
All of these players will be much missed and our sincere sympathies go to all their families.

The King was in his Counting House

by Mike Graham

Counting all his money, according to the rhyme, although it does seem a little odd that he didn't have some accountants to do that for him. Perhaps accountants hadn't been invented in those days?

At the bridge table, we don't have the use of an accountant either; we must do our counting for ourselves.



Playing teams, we pick up:

♠ 10963 ♥ AJ72 ♦ A106 ♣ 72.

Our RHO deals and passes; we pass, and our LHO opens 1♠. Partner passes, and RHO bids 1NT. We pass again and LHO jumps to 4♠. All pass. Partner leads the king of clubs.

	N	♠ 8
W	E	♥ 84
S		♦ QJ874
		♣ QJ865
♠ 10963		
♥ AJ72		
♦ A106		
♣ 72		

In accordance with our signalling methods we follow with the two. Playing these signals (called *reverse count*, as it is the reverse of what may be called normal count), it is important to maintain an even tempo when following with a very small card – if you ponder awhile as to which card to play, partner can infer that you do not have a singleton, which is unauthorised information. Declarer follows with the three, and partner switches to a trump.

Declarer draws four rounds of trumps with the AKQJ. Partner plays the 2 followed by the 5, and then discards the club four and the diamond nine. Declarer follows with the king of

diamonds, and partner plays the two. Do we win with our ace or not?

What is partner's diamond holding? He discarded the nine, and followed to the first round with the two. This is consistent with an original holding of 9x2; the nine would indicate a three-card holding, so when the king is played he would be left with the two and one higher card. From this holding, at that point in the play, he would play the two. This means that declarer has only Kx of diamonds. Consequently, it is safe to duck this trick. Partner has the club ace left, so that suit is no danger. In fact, it looks like declarer has six spades, two diamonds, and five cards in hearts and clubs.

Looking at the club pips, we can see all the low cards. Partner has discarded the four, and declarer played the three at trick one. Therefore, declarer has a singleton club and four hearts. We duck this trick. If declarer plays a second diamond we can win and play a club. Declarer can ruff, but must then lead hearts into our AJ72 holding and lose two tricks.

If the king of diamonds is taken declarer has ten tricks. This was the full hand:

♠ 52	
♥ 953	
♦ 952	
♣ AK1094	
♠ AKQJ74	♠ 8
♥ KQ106	♥ 84
♦ K3	♦ QJ874
♣ 3	♣ QJ865
♠ 10963	
♥ AJ72	
♦ A106	
♣ 72	
♠♥♦♣	

Playing in a county event, we pick up:

♠ K874 ♥ 10982 ♦ J1073 ♣ 10.

Our RHO deals and opens 1♠. We pass; LHO bids 1NT, partner passes, and RHO rebids 2♣. This is alerted, and turns out to be a canapé rebid, whereby the second suit bid is usually longer than the first. After two passes partner bids 2♦ and RHO bids 2♠.

Partner failed to bid 2♦ over 1NT, so his 2♦ bid now is just a competitive manoeuvre. Nevertheless, our hand is well worth 3♦ now; four decent trumps, a singleton, and hopefully a well-placed king of spades. Our LHO bids 4♣, which is passed out. We lead the jack of diamonds and see:

♠ 65	
♥ A754	N
♦ Q86	W E
♣ 9654	S
♠ K874	
♥ 10982	
♦ J1073	
♣ 10	

The six is played from dummy, partner the nine, and declarer wins with the ace. He follows with the ace and king

of clubs as partner follows, and then plays the two of spades.

It looks normal to play the seven or eight, but it is worth taking time to have a further look. The ace of diamonds was obviously a singleton. If declarer has six trumps (a 4216 shape) then there will be no defence. Can declarer be 4315? Surely not – he opened 1♠ and rebid them in competition. Can he be 5215? Time to check the opposition's system – yes, they are playing Blue Club. In that case 1♣ would be strong. Yes, it looks like declarer has to be 5215 for us to have a chance.

Let's think about partner. What are his diamonds? Declarer had the ace, and we can see all the other cards. Partner started with K9542. So why did he play the nine of diamonds at trick one? There is one likely possibility – he is keen on a heart switch. Most likely he holds the king, possibly the king-queen.

Can declarer hold the ace of spades? He has shown up with the ace of diamonds, the ace-king of clubs (and surely has either the queen or jack as well). The ace of spades would put him near a 1♣ opener rather than 1♠. It looks like partner has the ace of spades.

So, we must win this trick and play a heart through the ace. We can win with the spade seven – but wait a minute. What are partner's spades? Unless he has A3 or A2 he will have to play a higher spade than our seven. Then, unless he has the KQ of hearts, he will be endplayed if declarer has the heart queen. He can cash the club queen (it looks like he has this card) and the spade ace, but then a diamond will set

up the queen in dummy and a heart will be into a split A/Q.

Our course is clear. We must put up the king of spades and play a heart through the ace. The full hand:

	♠ AQ	
	♥ KJ3	
	♦ K9542	
	♣ Q83	
♠ 65		♠ J10932
♥ A754		♥ Q6
♦ Q86		♦ A
♣ 9654		♣ AKJ72
	♠ K874	
	♥ 10982	
	♦ J1073	
	♣ 10	

If we play a lazy seven of spades partner wins and has no winning options. He can win the queen, cash the ace, and take the queen of clubs, but then has to lead a diamond away from the king or a heart into the split ace-queen; and if he wins the spade ace and exits with the queen South cannot afford to overtake.

We make sure to thank partner for playing the nine of diamonds at trick one.

Naturally, the information about the Blue Club system was actually obtained at the start of the round, not in the middle of the hand.

♠♥♦♣

Just occasionally, a hand can be counted in the bidding. Playing pairs, we pick up

♠ K1065 ♥ AKQJ76 ♦ 7 ♣ K2.

We open 1♥ and partner responds 1NT. We play a variant of the Kaplan Inversion (named after Edgar Kaplan,

who edited the American publication *The Bridge World* for many years – surely the best of the available bridge magazines), so this shows a spade suit in a constructive hand (a weaker hand would respond 1♠).

This is good news – we will certainly be playing at least 4♠. There are two good possibilities now - 4♦, showing spade support and diamond shortage (what is called a “splinter bid”), or 4♥, showing a hand with a good heart suit that is improved by the spade-showing response. However, 4♥ does not guarantee four-card spade support, so perhaps 4♦ (which does show four-card support) is the better option.

Over 4♦ partner bids 4NT. This is Roman Key-Card Blackwood, a very popular convention these days. It asks for key cards, these being the four aces and the king of trumps. There are two versions, called 30/41 and 14/30. In 30/41, a response of 5♣ shows none or three key cards, and a response of 5♦ shows one or four. In 14/30, these are the other way round. If partner cannot tell how many keys you have, he signs off; and with the upper number of keys responder can continue. Responses of 5♥ and 5♠ are used to show two key cards, and indicate the absence (5♥) or presence (5♠) of the trump queen.

Well, we have two key cards (the ♥A and ♠K) but no trump queen (partner is asking in spades), so we respond 5♥. Partner now bids 5NT.

By agreement, this shows that all the aces are present and asks for any side kings that may be held. So we could bid 6♣ at this point.

However, partner is clearly interested in a grand slam – he must have a good

hand. Our hand is slightly unusual in that it contains a certain source of tricks in hearts. In fact, assuming hearts run, we can count eleven winners – six hearts, two spades, one diamond, and two clubs. However, that assumes partner has only the ace of spades, and he does not seem bothered by the fact that we do not have the queen. In that case, it is likely that spades will play for at least four tricks. That will give us thirteen tricks on top.

There must be a case for bidding the grand slam ourselves, and to prevent losing to a bad trump split or unlikely ruff we jump to 7NT. The hands were:

♠ K1065	♠ AQ9874
♥ AKQJ76	♥ 8
♦ 7	♦ AJ
♣ K2	♣ AQ93

Amazingly, bidding and making 7NT was a clear match-point top, and only two pairs bid 7♠.

Meet David Wing

by Chris Duckworth

When LMBA member David Wing reached the age of 65, he decided he needed a new challenge in his life. David was very fit, having been a sporty sort of person all his life, and he is a very keen bridge player. So he formulated the idea of the City Cup project.

David's original plan was to cycle from Land's End to John o'Groats, visiting bridge clubs along the route. Detailed planning rendered the idea impractical – there were too many small "once-a-week" clubs en route, and he couldn't solve the difficult logistics of a solo trip using a motorhome for support. So the City Cup idea was born, whereby a City Cup bridge event would take place in all 51 English Cities. From a base outside each city he planned to cycle an average of 20 miles on a tour of the city centre. This would mean cycling a minimum of 1000 miles on his fold-up bike - the equivalent distance to Land's End to John o'Groats - during the 12-month period of the project.

The organisation of this project was no mean feat in itself, never mind the actual execution. But 51 City Cup events at major bridge clubs were duly held during the year David had set himself, raising significant sums of money for the Alheimers Society. At each event David generously presented a City Cup engraved with the



David and bike in the City of London

city's name, which was awarded to the inaugural winners. His hope was that each club would continue to hold an annual City Cup event so as to raise more money for Alzheimers – and all of the clubs he visited have agreed in principle to do so.

David wanted the final homecoming event – the Westminster City Cup – to be very special, and for that he knew who he wanted to play with. He was delighted that his dream partner was willing and able to play, and he was honoured to play with Zia Mahmood in the final. Fittingly, the event was won by David's most regular partner, Roland Gronau, who played with Lorna Vestey (see picture, right).



Zia, Lorna, Roland and David with the Westminster City Cup.

David is not one of London's highest-ranked super-star players, having only learnt to play in his mid-40's. But he is very enthusiastic and plays a lot and he has many many friends in the bridge world. So all are pleased that, to cap an amazing year, he managed very recently to get those final greens and make it to Grand Master. He has won many of these in partnership with Roland, and they are both very keen on bidding systems. His favourite gadget, he said, was Frelings – new to me, but which he described as weak two-suited openings where 2♦ shows diamonds plus a major and 2♥ shows hearts plus a black suit. He did say they only use these at Pairs!

David has also had a go at bridge teaching as a bridge host on P&O cruises, acting as an assistant to Jack Albuquerque. Aside from bridge, David has an eye for the ladies, whose company he enjoys – though the most special woman in his life is his daughter, who he adores, along with his two grandsons.

I asked for a favourite hand and David gave me this super deal from his travels:

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ Q4	
♥ AQ65	
♦ A964	
♣ KQ4	
♠ K1097	♠ –
♥ KJ	♥ 1098432
♦ Q753	♦ 82
♣ J87	♣ 109532
♠ AJ86532	
♥ 7	
♦ KJ10	
♣ A6	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

West's double of the final contract was unwise. In trying to turn +50 into +100. He tipped off declarer about the bad trump break, and look what happened.

West led a club, won by declarer's ace, who immediately set about shortening his trumps. He played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart, noting the appearance of West's Jack and King. He cashed the king and queen of clubs, throwing a diamond, then the king and ace of diamonds were cashed, followed by a diamond ruff in hand (East discarding). This is now the position (see right):

Declarer led a trump, West ducked and the queen won in dummy. Now South ruffed the ♦9 and exited with a small trump. West won with the ten and was forced to lead away from his K10 into declarer's AJ enabling him to make the last two tricks and his contract.

♠ K1097	♠ Q4	♠ –
♥ –	♥ Q6	♥ 1098
♦ Q	♦ 9	♦ –
♣ –	♣ –	♣ 109
	♠ AJ865	
	♥ –	
	♦ –	
	♣ –	

Amazingly, the only lead to beat the slam is an improbable 9 or 10 of spades. But declarer would have been very unlikely to find this line of play without the double – it pays not to be too greedy!

David is now on the look for a new project. I suggested he aim to play in the England Seniors team, and this had some appeal. But he may instead choose something that is not bridge-related, as his interests are wide.

Meanwhile, his legacy to the country's city bridge clubs is immense and he is very proud of having already raised over £6,000 for Alzheimers. A photo gallery of 50 winners of the City Cup appears in the online version of the June issue of **English Bridge** and if anyone would like to add to David's efforts with a contribution, they can do so justgiving.com/citycup.

Bridge over troubled waters



Jane: 'I guess a bottom's a bottom?'

Jim: 'Yes, but two bottoms in a row really is too much.'

Congratulations

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



Toby, far left, and Michael, far right

Toby Nonnenmacher and **Michael Alishaw** were members of the winning England Peggy Bayer team (pictured left).

They were also selected to play for the England “Youngsters” team in the 24th European Youth Bridge Championships in Poland in July.

They also came second in the Swiss Teams at the Torquay Riviera Congress in June.

David Gold & David Bakhshi reached the semi-finals of the NEC Cup in Japan.

David Bakhshi also won the Silodor Open Pairs at the US Spring Nationals in St Louis with his American partner (right).



At the finals of the Crockfords Cup, **David Bakhshi**, along with team-mate **Tom Townsend** came equal first and was unlucky enough to lose the tie for the title. **Andy Bowles** was in the third-placed team, while **David Ould** was a member of the winning team in the Crockfords Plate finals held alongside

Olivia Woo had a terrific time in Fuerteventura – she won the Swiss Teams and the Mixed Pairs and was second in the Pre-Congress Pairs, She was also second in the Pivot Teams, which was won by a team including **David Wing**. With her husband **Alan Woo**, **Olivia** also won the Pairs at the Oxford Mid-week Congress.

The Ranked Masters Pairs in Daventry in March featured several London successes. **Ben Green** won the top event, the Premier Grand Masters Pairs along with partner John Holland (see picture right).

Brian Ransley was second in the Grand Masters Pairs.



Ryan Stephenson & Liz Clery (*below left*) won the Premier Life Masters Pairs and **Martin Baker** won the National Masters Pairs with partner Mike Skelly (*below right*).



At the Harrogate Congress in February, **Ben Green** won the Swiss Teams with **Alan & Olivia Woo** third. Also in Harrogate **Rob Cliffe** was third in the Swiss Pairs and **Anne Catchpole & David Schiff** came third in the Mixed Pairs.

More success came at the Easter Festival. **Glyn Liggins** won the Swiss Teams along with his wife Sarah Waddington and former London members Joe & Gillian Fawcett (*right*).



Tom Townsend & Mark Teltscher won the Swiss Pairs (*left*) with **Fredrik Bjornlund & Anita Sinclair** second and **Brian Callaghan & Chris Duckworth** third.

Alex Hydes was second in the Championship Pairs.

At the Lambourne Jersey Festival in April **Graham Horscroft & Mike Fletcher** won the Swiss Teams and were third in the Swiss Pairs and **Roland Gronau & David Wing** won the Jersey Tourism Trophy..

Gunnar Hallberg & Ben Green won the Swiss Teams at the Spring Bank Holiday Congress in Bournemouth. **Ben** was also third in the Swiss Pairs there.

Ingar Hansen won the National Pairs (*right, with partner Gad Chadha*). **Nigel Freake & Paul Lamford** were fourth in the same event.



Mandie Campbell & Ben Hackenbroch had a good time at the Summer Seniors Congress. They won the Pairs B final, beating **Willie Coyle & Bernard Teltscher** into second place, and they came third in the Swiss Teams along with team-mates **Anne Catchpole & David Schiff**.

The Young Chelsea team of **John Pemberton, Malcolm Todd, Stephen Popham, Tim Gauld, Mark Davies, Trevor Mathews, Gordon Rainsford & Dom Goodwin** won the Garden Cities South East Regional Final.

In the Torquay Riviera Congress Swiss Teams, two teams came equal third. One included **Dave Strawbridge & Martin Baker** and the other included **Rob Cliffe**.

London had successes in quite a number of County One-day events, with multiple successes for several players:

- **David Wing** won the Hants & IOW Swiss Teams;
- **Tim Chanter, Helen Wildsmith, Mandie Campbell & Ben Hackenbroch** won the Kent Swiss Teams with **Graham Pollack & Paul Chapman** second;
- **Paul Chapman & Graham Pollack** won the Northants Swiss Pairs;
- in Berks & Bucks, **David Wing & Roland Gronau** were third in the Swiss Teams and **Tim Chanter & Helen Wildsmith** were third in the Swiss Pairs;
- **Nick Boss** (*on the right in the picture*) won the Sussex Swiss Pairs, with **Richard Creamer & Mark Davies** equal third.



At the SBU Summer Congress in Peebles, **Brian Callaghan & John Matheson** did the double, winning both the main Congress Pairs and the Congress Teams, the latter with their respective wives **Chris Duckworth & Trish Matheson** (*pictured with SBU President Mike Ash*)

Puzzle Solution (see page 9)

♠	NT	♥	♣	♦	♠	♣	♥	♦	NT
♣	♠	NT	♦	♥	♣	♦	♠	NT	♥
♥	♣	♦	♠	NT	♦	♥	NT	♣	♠
♦	NT	♠	♥	♣	NT	♠	♣	♥	♦
♠	♥	♣	NT	♦	♠	♣	NT	♦	♥
♥	♦	NT	♣	♠	♥	NT	♠	♣	♦
♣	♠	♦	♥	NT	♣	♦	♥	NT	♠
NT	♥	♣	NT	♠	♦	♥	♦	♠	♣
♦	♣	♠	♦	♥	NT	♠	♣	♥	NT
NT	♦	♥	♠	♣	♥	NT	♦	♠	♣



The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

I don't know if you have a pile of back issues of Metrobridge somewhere about your home. I haven't, but I'm sure somebody must. There is joy, to be had, surely, in having a trawl through back numbers. There will be results and reports of long-forgotten competitions, which may well have some historical interest. There will be articles such as the current series by my colleague Mike Graham, giving instruction in a clear and entertaining fashion – these will never lose their relevance. Then there's third other type of article: the ephemeral. That's the sort of thing that I usually write. It's of the moment, and it's not likely to do anything other than momentarily amuse, perhaps not even that.



Without getting too analytical, I think that were a critical eye cast over my columns then a common practice may begin to appear. If you read an article by, say, David Burn, you would come away with the impression that he'd thought about the contents carefully, considered every word and weighed the sentence structure

until he was blue in the face, and finally read and re-read what he'd written until he was satisfied that what he had written set out to do what he'd wanted it to do. Read one of mine and you're more likely to think that I'm making it up as I go along. And you'd be right.

Because of the nature of what I write, it doesn't matter, because it is indeed ephemeral. It serves no purpose other than to fill up space at the end of the newsletter, and I have a free hand to write more or less what I like. This normally takes the form of making up a few hands, half remembering some, telling the odd story from the past or begging for participants for the Metropolitan Cup. I write it, you read it (or not) we move on, it's forgotten.

But not this time.

Because, like Lot's wife I have made a fatal mistake. I have looked back at the last issue of Metrobridge and read what I wrote in my last column. And if I didn't turn into a pillar of salt, then at least my ears turned strawberry-coloured and my knees turned to jelly. Yes, I had been a trifle foolish.

What I did in my last column, dear reader, was make some predictions.

1. London were going to win the Tollemache.
2. The Young Chelsea was going to move to Vauxhall.
3. London had found a brilliant new venue for our Green-Pointed weekend.

Well, it's hard to know where to begin, isn't it? Thank heavens I didn't give out a few tips on the gee-gees as well.

It's pointless to dwell on the Tollemache. When we arrived we were the best team, when we left at the end of the event, we still were. We just didn't win. Everyone tried their darndest but we just couldn't break through.

By the time you read this the Young Chelsea will be in its temporary home at Queen's Club, while the search continues for a permanent berth. Vauxhall didn't work out – nobody's fault: the residents of the flats above seem to have got together and objected to the change of use. Hopefully the efforts of Lorna Vestey and others looking will be rewarded soon.

As far as the London Green-Pointed event was concerned, the venue, the *salle* at St. Paul's School, turned out to be something of a disappointment. We had hoped that it could become a semi-permanent venue, but a concatenation of unfortunate issues has forced us to revise this view. A number of complaints about various things – the heating and toilet facilities being the main ones – are not going to be possible to address, so once again we will be moving on. It's not easy to find a venue that can take the capacity that we need at a suitable price. Although the bridge may seem expensive in itself it only makes enough money for the LMBA to pay for other ventures (including the newsletter that you're holding now). And if it didn't do that, then there wouldn't be much incentive for us to hold it, because a lot of effort goes into it from volunteers. The only people who get paid are the Tournament Directors on the day, and they don't get rich out of it by any stretch of the imagination. Everyone else gives up their time, from the people distributing fliers, to the person or people who take the entries, to the people who man the

door – they’re doing this to help you enjoy some bridge and to raise a bit of money for the county. Consequently, whilst the LMBA Committee is happy to receive criticism or suggestion (provided the latter is sensible – please don’t write in suggesting we hold the LMBA Green Weekend in a big hotel unless you want to pay approximately twice the entry fee) what I will not brook is ill-considered personal attacks on people who are doing their best on your behalf, especially if those attacks come from people who either never do anything for anybody other than themselves, or (perhaps worse) people who were in a position to help but did nothing, but are happy to stick the boot in publicly afterwards with no justification whatsoever. All clear? Good. Potential venues need space for 40/50 tables, reasonable transport links and preferably a bit of parking. Catering on-site or a lot of scope nearby would be helpful. If you spot something likely, please get in touch.

To return to my perennial source of woe, the Metropolitan Cup – hah! I’ve got two teams. Months in advance as well. Lorna Vestey (that woman again) has pulled together a splendid B team and I have appointed an A Team (none of this consultation nonsense: I just sent everyone an e-mail telling them they were playing and nobody had the energy to argue). Names will appear on the web site in due course. I will not be playing this year, because I have another engagement. Well, not so much an engagement as the end of one, because at the end of August I shall be getting married (finally!) to Anne Brewster, and by the time the Met Cup rolls round I shall be on my honeymoon. If I ever get around to booking it.

The 2013/2014 season is going to be an exciting one. You may already have heard that the Lederer is going dead posh this year: lederer@theRAC promises to be the most exciting competition for years. The London Trophy is going through a period of revitalisation as well. For both events I’ve been trying to think of a metaphor – the best I can come up with is that after many years in Black and White, we’re now going to be showing both in Glorious Technicolor™.

It’s all change on the LMBA Committee as well. Several people have stood down, including Sati McKenzie, who has managed to get the books in order and has been an estimable treasurer, Stefanie Rohan who has arranged the Lederer for several years, Nigel Freake and Kit Jackson. To all of them, on behalf of all of you, I offer thanks for many years’ sterling service. In their place we have Dominic Flint (treasurer), Kath Stynes (London Trophy, Lederer) and Guy Hart (London pairs). Welcome to them.

If this has turned into more of a Chairman’s Report than a column, well, I’m sorry. I couldn’t do two separate columns. There just wasn’t space. And, of course, I’m, making all this up as I go along.

Onwards!

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