

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Autumn 2014

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Words from the Editor

Very little space this time to say much. Just a quick reminder that it is time to be thinking about getting together a team to enter the London League – the Newcomers is particularly good fun – or the London Trophy for some good sociable teams bridge.

You could also start looking for a partner of the same sex for our brand new competition in October – the Men's and Women's Pairs. These will be played on the same day in the same venue and with the same boards. They will be scored by IMPs, like teams, so again should provide a most enjoyable game. More details are on pages 16-17.

I hope you enjoy reading your MetroNews and wish you all every success in the new bridge season.

Chris Duckworth
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annual General Meeting

The 2014 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 11th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club c/o St John's Wood Bridge Club, Grove Hall Court, Hall Road, London NW8, 9NU starting at 7.00pm. (See www.ycbc.co.uk for details of how to find the venue)

Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies & apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 12th September 2013
(**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 2013
- 7 Subscriptions (direct and Pay-to-Play) for 2015-2016
- 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

The Ian Gardiner Trophy is 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.

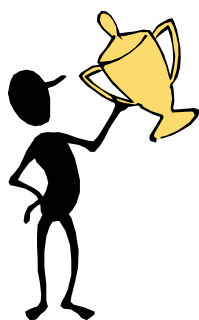
This year eleven teams competed in the two-session qualifier event held in February. Though the field was smaller than last year, the quality of the teams was high and it was a close finish on the day. Andy Bowles squad including Shireen Mohandes, Brian McGuire and Guy Hart were pipped into fourth place by the narrowest possible margin of half a point by Gordon Rainsford's team of himself, Dom Goodwin, Mark Lehto and Paul Martin. Just ahead with equal scores were the joint heat winners of Anita Sinclair, Zia Mahmood, Ben Green and Fredrik Bjornlund and Brian Callaghan, Chris Duckworth, Rob Cliffe and Ian Payn.

This was the third year running that the Sinclair team made it to the play-off to determine the overall winners, which took place in April. Glyn Liggins substituted for Fredrik Bjornlund in the final, whilst Frank To substituted for Ian Payn in the Callaghan team. Again it was a very tight match but this time Sinclair was defeated by the narrow margin of 13 IMPs over 48 boards, and Callaghan's team took the title.

All five members of the team competed for London in the Pachabo, but we will draw a veil over their performance there!



London Championship Pairs



A total of 25 pairs competed for the London Pairs title this year. The qualifying session was dominated by Mariusz Rolczak & Tomasz Fus who finished on 64%, well clear of second-placed pair Paul Chapman & Adrian Ring on 60.66%. They were not able to maintain their form in the final, however, which was won by Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan.

There is a carry-forward from the qualifier to the final session, and when taken into account the final leading positions were:

1	Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan	61.54 %
2	Dean Swallow & Carlos Dabezies	58.01
3	Andrew Bannock & Mahmoud Sadek	56.73
4	David Newman & David Hope	53.85

A check of the records reveals that this seems to be the first time that the Championship Pairs and Teams have been one in the same year by one partnership – Chris & Brian. Many individuals have done the double, but formerly no pair.

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

1	Simon Prager & Dick Jordan	59.03
2	Maurice Esterson & Martin Hoffman	57.64
3	Rosie White & Brian Ransley	54.17

David Hope was not qualified to play in the Corwen Trophy, so the leading three pairs were joined by Adrian Ring and Paul Chapman who finished in overall sixth place. In the national event, Chris Duckworth and Brian Callaghan were the leading London pair, finishing in 8th place out of 112 pairs.

Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

This year's venue for the annual green-pointed weekend could not have been more central and easy to reach. It was the Central Hall Westminster, an impressive building just off Parliament Square and opposite Westminster Abbey. The venue was not only beautiful and grand – it was also spacious and well-lit and proved very popular with the players.

70 pairs competed on Saturday in the **Swiss Pairs** which was won by Ingar Hansen and Peter Taylor. The leading positions were:

1	Ingar Hansen & Peter Taylor	108	VPs
2	Steve Root & Richard Bowdery	106	
3	Paul Hackett & Roger O'Shea	101	

In the **Swiss Teams** on Sunday 25 teams battled it out, and the convincing winners were the team of Lyn Fry, Ian Pagan, Catherine Seale and Tom Paske.

Roger O'Shea, who has a great record in this event playing with the Hackett family and was the 2013 winner of this event, could only manage third place this time.



1	Lyn Fry, Ian Pagan, Catherine Seale, Tom Paske	106	VPs
2	Shireen Mohandes, Andy Bowles, David Kendrick, Paul Barden	94	
3=	Roger O'Shea, Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett	83	
3=	Rasool Somji, Suren Velayutham, Dinah Caplan, Giles Ridger	83	

Garden Cities

This year's Garden Cities heat was fought out between 3 teams from the Young Chelsea BC and one from the Woodberry BC. This time YCBC teams took first and second place, as follows;

- 1 **Young Chelsea B** – Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan, Frank To, Graham Orsmond, Ian Payn, Joe Fawcett, Mike Graham, Graham Sadie
- 2 **Young Chelsea C** – Trevor Mathews, Mark Davies, John Dean, Richard Creamer, Gordon Rainsford, Dom Goodwin, Paul Martin, Tim Gauld

In the Regional Semi-Finals the winning YC team, with Paul Martin and Tim Gauld playing instead of Joe Fawcett and Graham Orsmond, just missed out on qualifying to the finals.

Palmer Bayer Trophy



A total of 16 pairs competed for the Palmer Bayer Trophy in February this year. The winners were Matt Robins and Ben Thomas (*pictured left with the Trophy*) with a score of 61.31%.

In second place were Mahmoud Sadek and Kathryn Mosely on 60.71% (*below left*) and third were Denis Abele and Isabel Torres (*below right*) on 60.42%.



Fox Shammon Trophy

Once again a disappointing 12 pairs only competed for the Seniors Pairs title at the Queen's Club in May.

The winners were LMBA President Bernard Teltscher playing with Scottish international Victor Silverstone.

The leading pairs were:

- 1 Bernard Teltscher & Victor Silverstone 63.94 %
- 2 Steve Eginton & Gill Hutchinson 58.18
- 3 Malcolm Morris & Susi Behrmann 51.52

Café Bridge Drive

The fifth Tonsleys café bridge drive, once again held in aid of Age UK Wandsworth, was held in April, when we were again lucky with the weather which was fine and dry. Seven venues participated this time, six of them in the Old York Road and one, the East Hill, just up the hill above the Alma, the event HQ.

A record 48 pairs took part in the event which was ably directed by Roger Fellows, with help from David Muller. Hicky Kingsbury from Age UK came along and was very helpful in selling raffle tickets and later drawing out the raffle winning tickets. And we were most grateful to the East Hill, who very kindly donated a free meal voucher which was used as a prize for the winners. We were able to raise a total of £930 for the charity from the event, a very pleasing total.

The leading players clocked up some big scores, as can be seen from the results below:

1 Dick Jordan & Simon Prager	64.76%
<i>(pictured right with organiser Chris Duckworth)</i>	
2 Dominic Flint & Pamela Reiss	64.53
3 Susi Berhmann & Malcolm Morris	63.32
4 Valerie Price & Belkise Ishmael	62.26



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, the holders, once again triumphed, but by a very narrow margin against their opponents, the Home Office. In another close match, third place went to the Livesey BC and fourth were another team mainly from the ARBC – the White Horses.

The Plate final was also close, but again the holders came through once again, as RAC Blue beat Surrey-based Phoenix by a small margin.

See Mike Hill's article on pages 8 -12 for some of the more interesting hands that arose and more pictures.



The winning team: Edward Sunley, Michael Kaye, Helen Erichsen, Terry Chapman (l to r) with Pat Brotherston who presented the prizes.

London Trophy Pairs

A good entry of 32 pairs competed in this event for players who are members of London Trophy teams, held in April this year. The runaway winners, with a magnificent score of over 67% were Peter Brook and Roy Westwater (*pictured right with organiser Kath Stynes*).

The leading scores were:

1	Peter Brook & Roy Westwater	67.42 %
2	Tim Pelling & Bill Linton	60.80
3	Chris Wright & Philip Watson	58.33
4	Ewa Francis & Renata Cox	55.49



London League

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

In **Division 1** the leading two teams were the same as last year, both teams winning four out of their five matches. The margin between them was nevertheless quite significant this time, with Young Chelsea 5 captained by Brian McGuire finishing on 72 VPs, well ahead of YC3, David Ould's team, on 57 VPs.

In **Division 2** another Young Chelsea team was successful. Fiona Hutchison's YC1 team won five of their six matches, losing only a narrow 9-11 to the runners up. They finished the season on 92 VPs, well clear of Café Bridge, captained by Brian Wallace, who ended on 80 VPs.

Division 3 was a much closer affair, with 3 or 4 of the 7 competing teams in the running to win. In the event, though, the successful team was Keith Clow's The Slammers on 83 VPS, with August Red, captained by Mark Davies, second on 79 VPs.

The **Newcomers League** winners were Crouch End, captained by Alan Whitehouse.

Home Counties League

Two Surrey teams and one Middlesex team were in the frame to win the Home Counties League this year, but Middlesex Blue, captained by Vanessa Clark, prevailed. They scored 63 VPs, beating Richard Miller's Surrey Purple team with 59 VPs into second place.

This season saw quite a few difficulties with teams arranging matches – it can be problematic getting two lots of 8 people together at one place and time! – so this event is under review. If you have ideas about how it should be run, please

contact the organiser, Dominic Flint, at Dominic.Flint@shell.com, or come along to the AGM to make your views known.

London Trophy Finals - 2014

by Michael Hill

On 22nd June, the finals of the 36th 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, although it is now open to bridge clubs, the social concept is maintained by continuing to restrict teams to no more than one player ranked at national master or higher level 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. Home Office
London Trophy third place play-off:	Livesey vs. White Horses
Della-Porta Plate final:	RAC Blue vs. Phoenix

There was a sense of déjà vu as no fewer than three of the teams had been involved in the finals in 2013. Robson's Rovers were the current holders of the Trophy and RAC the current holders of the Plate, having beaten Home Office last year.

The event started quietly, albeit with a missed opportunity. The first board should have been a cold slam in either major, but every team stopped in game making overtricks. Thereafter, things diverged.

Board 2

NS Vul. Dealer East.

♠ A8	
♥ 10986	
♦ AKQ752	
♣ K	
♠ Q6	♠ K109542
♥ K2	♥ QJ53
♦ 864	♦ –
♣ J96543	♣ AQ7
♠ J73	
♥ A74	
♦ J1093	
♣ 1082	

Every East opened 1♠ and every West responded 1NT. After that, it got messy. Some North players bid 2♦,

but one passed (!) and one doubled. Where North passed, East bid 2♥ and eventually settled in 3♠ after North finally bid his diamonds. Where North doubled, East rebid 2♠ but showed his heart suit over North's 3♦ bid, then passed West's correction to 3♠. Where North had bid 2♦, most East players rebid at the 2-level and this generally led to North-South buying the contract in diamonds. The RAC East was made of stronger stuff and rebid 3♥ over 2♦, then raised his partner's 3♠ to game, so gaining a game swing.

Board 3 seemed to demonstrate the law of compensation when RAC managed to stop in 3♠ when game was routine (and slam in either major was in fact unbeatable) and Phoenix bid 4♥. However, their declarer had a blind spot and found a way to go down. Curious to have cold slams in either major on two of the first three boards.

There were few other boards of real interest in the first half. Most of the swings were part scores making, versus thin games failing. However, board 9 provided some scope for good play.

Board 9

EW game. Dealer North.

♠ 7	
♥ 10652	
♦ KQJ854	
♣ A9	
♠ 4	♠ K6532
♥ AQJ983	♥ 74
♦ 76	♦ A32
♣ J853	♣ Q42
♠ AQJ1098	
♥ K	
♦ 109	
♣ K1076	

Several North-South pairs bid and made 4♠. It can be defeated but the successful defence is hard to find. An opening lead of a small club from West (or the ♣Q from East if North is playing the contract) is needed. On any other lead, declarer cannot be prevented from establishing (and reaching) North's diamond winners, although he may find a way to go down for himself if trumps are not led by electing to ruff the third round of clubs in the North hand. One pair tried 3NT instead (which is defeated by the lead of a small heart) but West chose to lead the ♥Q and, when East after winning the ♠K failed to cash the ♦A, declarer claimed 10 tricks. The real interest came when Robson's Rovers declared 5♦ from the North hand. The play of ace and another trump, before or after cashing the ♥A will hold this to nine tricks, too but, when East led the ♥7, West won and, not unreasonably,

returned the suit. This was all the help declarer needed. He ruffed, forced out the ♦A (happy to find it in the hand with no more hearts), thereby rectifying the count, took the spade finesse, cashed the ♠A (discarding a heart), ruffed a spade, cashed the ♣A and ran the trumps. This was the 3-card ending:

♠ -		
♥ 10		
♦ 4		
♣ 9		
♠ -		♠ K
♥ J		♥ -
♦ -		♦ -
♣ J8		♣ Q4
	♠ J	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ K10	

On the last trump, East had to bare the ♣Q in order to keep the ♠K. Dummy's ♠J was now discarded and West had the equivalent dilemma. He chose to keep the ♥J, to prevent declarer scoring the ♥10, but his club discard meant that dummy's ♣K10 took the last two tricks – a perfect double squeeze.

The final excitement in the first half came from board 10 (see top of next page).

South opened 1♠ at every table and North had a choice. 1NT, 2♦ and 2♠ are all possible and all were found. The Home Office North bid 1NT, then converted his partner's 2♥ bid to 2♠, where they rested. The Robson's Rovers North bid 2♦ which encouraged South to bid 3NT after North corrected his 2♥ to 2♠. North converted this to 4♠.

Board 10

Game all. Dealer East.

♠ 843	
♥ J76	
♦ AJ753	
♣ K5	
♠ K76	♠ A10
♥ A2	♥ 10843
♦ Q86	♦ 1094
♣ 109843	♣ QJ76
♠ QJ952	
♥ KQ95	
♦ K2	
♣ A2	

On the lead of the ♣10 at both tables, ten tricks were straightforward but this meant a game swing to the Rovers. Curiously, 4♠ can be beaten if the defence start with hearts as they can get a heart ruff but 3NT is cold because the diamonds break 3-3 with the queen onside. 3NT was bid and made by RAC, whilst, after the Phoenix North simply raised 1♠ to 2♠, they, too languished in the part score for another game swing.

Board 11 provided further game swings to Robson's Rovers and RAC. Interestingly, both bid to 3NT which could have been beaten but wasn't, whilst their opponents bid to 4♠ which failed because of a 5-0 trump break.

At half time, there were no foregone conclusions. Home Office led by 480 in the main final White Horses were ahead by just 80 in the third place play-off and RAC were the most comfortable, being 1150 ahead in the Plate.

♠♥♦♣

The second half kicked off with more of a whimper than a bang. On board 13, 3NT was bid at every table, when slam

in either clubs or no trumps could be made because of a favourable diamond position (1075 opposite AJ82, with KQ96 onside!).

However, board 14 raised the excitement level.

Board 14

Love all. Dealer East.

	♠ KJ10532	
	♥ 87432	
	♦ 93	
	♣ –	
♠ A4		♠ 76
♥ K		♥ J9
♦ AQ10842		♦ K765
♣ 10873		♣ AKJ65
	♠ Q98	
	♥ AQ1065	
	♦ J	
	♣ Q942	

In the main final, both East-West pairs bid to 5♣ and duly went one-off after the lead of the ♥A and a spade switch. However, Home Office had doubled that contract, so gained a swing of 50. In the third place play-off, the Livesey North-South were allowed to buy the contract in 4♥, easily made, after East opened a slightly off-centre 1NT. However, their other pair bid on to 5♣ pushing the White Horses North-South to 5♥, doubled, on the ♦A lead. This can be made if declarer guesses to drop the singleton king of trumps but it was not to be and Livesey had a game swing.

Maximum excitement was, however, reserved for the Plate final. The RAC East-West played in 5♣, West having bid diamonds before supporting his partner's clubs and, after the ♥A lead and a not unreasonable switch to the ♦J simply cashed ♣AK, conceded a

trick to the ♣Q and claimed eleven tricks. Their North-South pair, however, took the push to 5♥ and West led the ♣10. Declarer ruffed and played a trump to...the ace. Presumably his reasoning was that, if the ♥K did not fall, he would lead a spade from hand and the defence might fail to cash the ♦A when in with the ♠A. Anyway, that was eleven tricks and a double game swing to RAC.

Board 15 was a routine 4♠. It was duly bid and made at both tables in the Trophy final but White Horses gained a game swing in the third place play-off and RAC gained one in the plate when their opponents in both cases stopped in a part score.

Board 16 led to the only big penalty of the day.

Board 16

EW game. Dealer West.

♠ A863	♠ 752
♥ A102	♥ 876
♦ A	♦ 954
♣ K10865	♣ Q732
♠ KQ10	♠ J94
♥ KQ43	♥ J95
♦ Q1032	♦ KJ876
♣ J4	♣ A9

At every table, West opened 1NT and, at five tables, North overcalled 2♣ which ended the auction. Nine tricks were easily made, although game in spades is also makeable given the favourable lie of the cards. At the sixth table, the Phoenix North chose to double instead. This was passed back to the RAC West who elected to

“rescue” himself to 2♥. South duly doubled this. The defence lost a trick along the way but the contract was still 3-off for 800 to White Horses. Could this be enough to swing the match back in their favour?

Board 17 generated further swings.

Board 17

Love all. Dealer North.

♠ A73	♠ J54
♥ KJ52	♥ A1073
♦ 104	♦ 72
♣ Q1076	♣ K985
♠ 1086	♠ KQ92
♥ Q864	♥ 9
♦ K53	♦ AQJ986
♣ A32	♣ J4

When Livesey were North-South, they stopped safely in 2♦, making an overtrick. However, it was not entirely surprising that, with good intermediates, North-South at the other five tables bid aggressively to the (technically unmakeable) 3NT (played by North four times and South once). Livesey’s joy was short-lived as, at the other table, after a lead of the ♣5 and a club return, the White Horses declarer could give up the ♦K and claim nine tricks and a game swing on a successful heart guess. The play and result was similar when Robson’s Rovers and RAC held the North-South cards. When South (for Phoenix) was declarer, West led the ♥4. The defence failed to cash their winners when in with the ♦K, so declarer still emerged with ten tricks for no game swing. It was left to the Robson’s

Rovers East-West to show what could be done. East led the ♠4, giving nothing away (and perhaps suggesting that spades were not breaking). When on play with the ♦K, West switched to a heart, declarer mis-guessed and played the ♥K and now the defence could and did cash their five tricks for a game swing.

Things got rather quiet after this. Board 19 was a solid game in no trumps, bid

Results

Trophy: Robson's Rovers (Michael Kaye, Terry Chapman, Helen Erichsen, Edward Sunley) beat **Home Office** (Ravinder Walia, Tony Rawsthorne, Jeff Gill, Peter Jones) by 150 points

Third place play-off: Livesey BC (Philip Watson, Chris Wright, Tom Tomlin, Michael Galgut) beat **White Horses** (Nick Boss, Michael Glazebrook, Ruth Glazebrook, Claire Robinson) by 1290 points

Plate: RAC Blue (Bob Bowman, David Glass, Richard Hutchison, Pralab Barua (Andrew and Brigitte Kisiel also played earlier matches)) beat **Phoenix** (Peter Bentley, Ken White, Graham Clements, Chris Wall (Yola Makatrevicz and Alan Webster also played earlier matches)) by 1490 points

Pat Brotherston, daughter of Freddie Della-Porta who started this event back in 1978, presented the prizes.



Left: Plate winners RAC Blue (minus Bob Bowman) with Pat Brotherston and the Della-Porta Plate.



Right: Home Office – Trophy runners-up

Forthcoming competitions

This 8-page schedule may be removed from your magazine for easy reference.

Unless otherwise indicated in the competition detail, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4.

Several events below are shown as "Venue to be confirmed". It is expected that most if not all of these will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, but the date of the club's move to new premises is not yet known.

Events occurring before the move may be held at the St John's Wood Bridge Club, where the YCBC is currently located. The address is: Grove Hall Court, Hall Road, London, NW8 9NU.

Events after the move will be at the new premises at 54A Goldhawk Road, London, W12 9HA.

London League & Newcomers League

Entries close **1st October 2014**

Holders:	Division 1	<i>Young Chelsea 5</i>	Capt: <i>Brian McGuire</i>
	Division 2	<i>Young Chelsea 1</i>	Capt: <i>Fiona Hutchison</i>
	Division 3	<i>The Slammers</i>	Capt: <i>Keith Clow</i>
	Newcomers	<i>Crouch End</i>	Capt: <i>Alan Whitehouse</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.

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 **15th September 2014**

Holders:

London Trophy: *Robson's Rovers – Michael Kaye, Terry Chapman, Edward Sunley, Helen Erichsen*

Della-Porta Plate: *RAC Blue – Bob Bowman, David Glass, Richard Hutchison, Pralab Barua, Andrew Kisiel, Brigitte Kisiel*

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 June 2015. All participants are also eligible to play in the London Trophy Pairs, held in Spring 2015.

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 to **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940.

Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

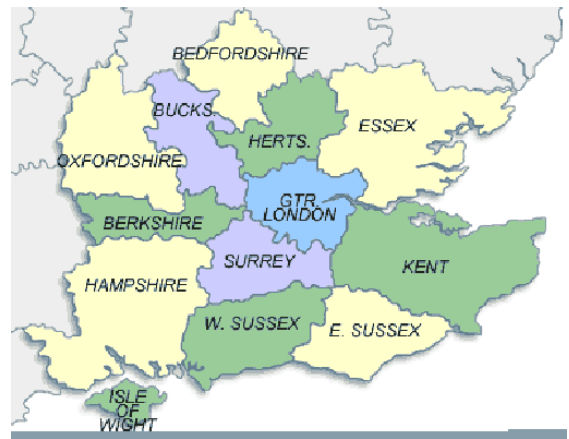


Home Counties League

Entries close 1st October 2014

Holders: *Middlesex Blue* –
Capt: Vanessa Clark

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.

Entry fee: £16 per team.

Mixed Pairs Championship

Sunday 21st September 2014 starting at 1.00pm

Venue: Young Chelsea BC at St John's Wood BC

Holders: *Millie Jones & Rob Myers*

Please note that this year this single extended session, match-pointed, mixed pairs event will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The address is c/o St John's Wood BC, Grove Hall Court, Hall Road, London NW8 9NU. (Full details of how to find the venue may be found on the YC website: www.ycbc.co.uk).

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

Thursday 18th September 2014 starting at 10.30 for 11.00 am

HOLDERS: *Margaret Hamilton & Kay Colton*

This year will be the third Café Bridge event in the popular cafés in the Abbeville Road area of South Clapham. Once again we are supporting the local charity Trinity Hospice. Note that the event is on a Thursday this time, not the usual Tuesday.

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.

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 11th September 2014, to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Café Bridge Clapham** in the subject line Please note 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 or at chris.duckworth@lineone.net.



Men's & Women's IMP Pairs

Sunday 26th October starting at 1.00pm

Venue: to be confirmed



An exciting new event – or pair of events – is being introduced into the LMBA calendar this year. These will be single extended-session Men's Pairs and Women's Pairs, played at the same time in the same venue as each other, using the same hands.



Scoring will be by cross-IMPs, a form of scoring that is similar to teams-type scoring. That means the emphasis is on bidding and making your games, not on worrying about the extra few points from playing in no-trumps or from overtricks. In other words, a more relaxing form of the game than ordinary pairs, so something that we hope will appeal to many of our regular club and social players.

Find a partner of the same sex and come along for a fun afternoon of bridge!

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 **Men's Pairs or Women's Pairs** in the subject line.

Queries may be directed to the organiser, **Michael Hill** on 01732 863283 or at michaelrd.hill@btinternet.com

Palmer Bayer Trophy

Sunday 1st February 2015 starting at **1.00pm**

Venue to be confirmed

Holders: Matt Robins & Ben Thomas

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 enjoyment, 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 or at chris.duckworth@lineone.net.



Note to junior players

The LMBA Junior Teams of Four competition may be held this year, subject to demand. Potential participants will be notified directly if the event is scheduled.

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 8th February 2015 starting at 11.30am

Venue to be confirmed

Holders: *Brian Callaghan, Chris Duckworth, Rob Cliffe, Ian Payn, Frank To*



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 6th – 7th June 2015 in West Bromwich.

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 1st February 2015.

Enquiries may be directed to the organiser, **Ian Payn**, on 07713 322420.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

Saturday-Sunday 28th February-1st March 2015

Holders: *The President's Team – Bernard Teltscher, Phil King, Victor Silverstone, William Coyle, Tom Townsend, Stelio Di Bello*

This prestigious invitational teams event will again be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. The event is moving from its traditional autumn date to late winter, which is expected to be a more suitable date for both the venue and the players.

Although still several months away, a number of excellent teams have already confirmed their participation and the competition will provide a real treat for those who would like to watch all the excitement of live play at the very top level.

Full details of the teams, and of how to obtain your spectator tickets, will be published in the next issue of MetroNews. In the meantime enquiries may be directed to the organiser, Ian Payn, on 07713 322420.

Teltscher Cups - Play with the Stars Pairs

Saturday 28th February 2015

Holders:

NS: *Madhusinh & Manjari Rawji (Friends BC, Harrow)*

EW: *Tim Pelling & Naomi Cohen (Wimbledon BC)*

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 cups



NS winners with "team-mates" David Gold & Tony Forrester (left) and EW winners with "team-mates" Zia Mahmood & David Bakhshi (right).

Any club interested in holding a heat of the Teltscher Cups in February should contact organiser David Muller at d1muller@yahoo.co.uk or on 07847 618105.



Advance notice

Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend

Saturday-Sunday 7th-8th March 2015

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

This event will once again be held at the magnificent Central Hall Westminster, just off Parliament Square (*see picture below right*), a venue that proved very popular last time.

Garden Cities Heat

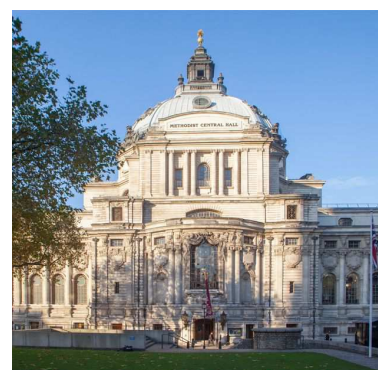
Thursday 19th March at 7.00pm.

Inter-club teams of eight. Venue to be confirmed.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 29th March at 1.00pm.

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.

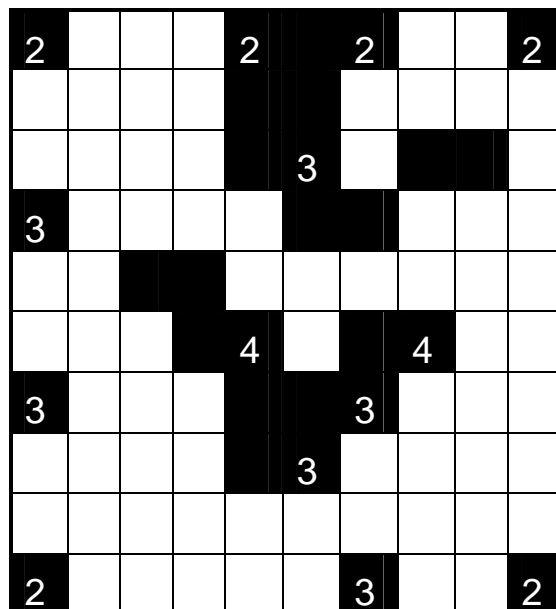
Puzzle Corner



In this grid, you need to half colour-in some cells to create new **square** or **rectangular** shapes from the remaining white areas. In each case, you can use one of these four

black triangles  to half-shade a grid square.

The numbers in the black cells indicate how many black triangles are in touching squares to the numbered one – that is squares that touch either horizontally or vertically.



If you get stuck, the solution can be found on page 32.

London News

Club News

We welcome the **New Chiswick Bridge Club** which has recently newly affiliated to London. The club holds a friendly duplicate session every Tuesday evening at the Chiswick Tennis Club, in Burlington Lane, W4. For more details, see their website at www.bridgewebs.com/newchiswick/.



At the time of writing, the **Young Chelsea Bridge Club** is continuing its nomadic existence. It left the Queen's Club at the end of April, as Queen's needed all their available space for the big Aegon tennis tournament that precedes Wimbledon each year, and is currently located at the St John's Wood Bridge Club in Hall Road, NW8. The club hopes to move to new premises in Goldhawk Road, just off Shepherds Bush Green, later this year. The move has been delayed because of problems with the accommodation to which the current occupiers of the premises are transferring, but is now expected to be effected in November.



Another central London club is also on the move. **TGR's Bridge Club**, which is affiliated to the EBU via Middlesex but has nevertheless been located for some time close to Marble Arch, is having to find new premises following the move of its current host, the New Cavendish Club. Although primarily a Chicago-playing club, TGR's does have some duplicate sessions and has provided a convenient venue for matches for many London members, especially since the departure of the YCBC from Barkston Gardens. At the time of writing its new premises are not known, but are likely to be somewhere central.

London Gay Bridge Tournament 2014

This year's **London Gay Bridge Tournament** will be held on **Saturday 11th October** at St Gabriel's Church Hall, Glasgow Terrace (off Lupus Street), Pimlico, SW1V 3AA. It is an EBU-licenced event sponsored by the West London Gay Bridge Club together with Prestat chocolates and the Victoria Pub, Paddington. There will be cash prizes, plus the challenge cup for the winners of the Pairs and the challenge shield for the winners of the Teams.

Instead of having Pairs on the Saturday and Teams on the Sunday, as has been the case in previous years, there will be an earlier start and both events will be on one day. The Pairs competition will start at 11.00 am, and the Teams will start at 3.00pm. A light lunch will be provided and will be served between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm.

The entry fee is £12 per person for one event, or £16 for both, in each case inclusive of the lunch. Entries are due by end-September and should be sent with full payment (please make cheques payable to David King) to David King at the above venue address. Enquiries to 07967-655515 or davidking1712@gmail.com

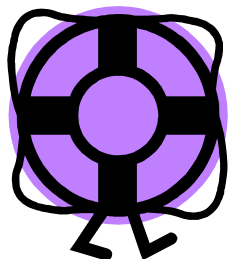
Despite its name, the event is open to all players – you don't need to be gay to take part!

In Memoriam

We are very sad to report the death of London member **Richard Selway**, who died on 19th July after a long illness. A fine player and a great character, for many years Richard was a host at TGRs. He will be much missed and our condolences go to his family.

Safety Plays

by Mike Graham



In this article Mike explains how to play various suit combinations to best effect, bearing in mind the difference between pairs and teams play.

Safety plays can be funny things. If you make a safety play, it is entirely possible that you will end up with one fewer trick than you might have done. In a pairs competition, this can be disastrous; in a teams event, you may suffer a 1-imp loss.

For example:

AJ65

K943

If we need four tricks from this combination then the play is to assume a 3-2 break with the queen well-positioned. We start with the king (just

in case East has a singleton queen – not that that will help us, but if we play to the jack first we end up with only two tricks in this scenario) and, if only small cards have appeared, follow by leading towards the ace-jack. If the queen appears from West, well, good;

otherwise we will finesse the jack and hope.

However, if we need only three tricks, the situation is different. There is a guaranteed safety play for three tricks, but it is perhaps counterintuitive – we play the ace first. Then we lead a small card from dummy, and, if East plays small, we play the nine. This gains when East holds Q108x. If West has that holding, East will be showing out when we lead low from dummy – in which case we play the king and then lead up towards the jack in dummy. Somewhat inevitably, this led to a 1-imp loss when West started with Q108; virtue had to be its own reward.

However, in the same match, virtue brought in a 17-imp swing when this was the vital suit:

AQJ65

842

Declarer was in 6NT and needed four tricks from this suit.

With plenty of entries, the opponents' declarer played the simple line of finessing the jack on the first round. That proved the losing play when East turned up with the singleton king, as West's 10973 was now worth a second defensive trick. Declarer moaned his poor fortune, but there was more to the position.

On a 3-2 break, declarer will always get four tricks, irrespective of the lie of the cards. However, it is worth thinking about the consequences of a 4-1 break. If East has four to the king, then nothing can be done. If West has four to the king, we get four tricks even if we finesse the jack first. However, if that is the case, it costs nothing to take the ace first, as we can then play from

hand twice up to the QJ in dummy. And of the 4-1 splits, this gains when East's singleton is the king. Fortunately, our declarer knew the safety play, and we could write 17 in the plus column.

♠♥♦♣

Tens, nines, and eights play a useful role here, as they can be used to set up finesse positions. This combination:

A943

KQ1065

provides a guaranteed five tricks, as long as we start with the king (or the queen) first. If the suit is 2-2 or 3-1, there is no problem, but if the suit is 4-0 then one defender will be showing out. If West shows out, we can cross to the ace and lead back towards our queen-ten; and if East shows out we simply play a small card to dummy's nine.

Incidentally, if you are East in this position and do hold J872, and declarer crosses to the ace and leads a small card...play the jack; declarer is quite likely to be expecting you to play small and might play his ten under your jack before he notices which card you have played!

Q107

AK9854

In a recent duplicate, this was declarer's trump suit; he was in a grand slam. Without a care in the world, he won the opening lead and played a trump to the queen. It is clear looking at the spot cards that this is wrong. We can pick up Jxxx with either defender by playing the ace first. If either defender shows out we can finesse as appropriate. In practice, the trumps were 4-0, but it was declarer's

lucky day – East held four to the jack and his trumps could be picked up without loss.

A754

KQ983

It looks all too easy to start with the king, but against a 4-0 division that is not safe. Here, we are missing J1062. If West has that holding, we will always lose one trick, as on a small card towards dummy West will play the ten, and will then retain the J62 behind our KQ9. However, if East holds the four cards, we can negate his holding by starting with a small card to the ace. Now we can lead towards our KQ9 and finesse twice against the J10.



In the above examples, the suits have been taken in isolation. Sometimes, however, we must look at the hand as a whole before deciding our best line. This hand arose in a team trial:

- ♠ AKJ86
- ♥ A10873
- ♦ 97
- ♣ 7

- ♠ Q7
- ♥ QJ954
- ♦ AKQ4
- ♣ 96

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Dbl	4♦
5♣	5♥	All pass	

West led the king of clubs and switched to a diamond at trick two.

Declarer won the diamond switch, and, chuntering about missing a slam, ran the queen of hearts. Well, he hadn't

missed a slam; the king of hearts was offside. And he didn't make his game, either, as the diamond return was ruffed.

If the contract had been Six Hearts, that would be a reasonable line. With only three cards missing, it would be anti-percentage to play a heart to the ace. However, the contract was not Six Hearts, it was Five Hearts, and Five Hearts could be guaranteed by playing a heart to the ace. Against a 3-0 split, there would be no ruff, as there would be no defensive entries; and against a 2-1 split declarer could simply drive out the king of hearts and claim. This was in a team trial, too – you would almost hope that the king of hearts was offside, as then you have beaten all the pairs in six.

Although not relevant to safety plays, there is another aspect of the deal that is worth a short digression. The event was a team event, where your duty as declarer is simply to try to make your contract. You should not be bothered about any other possible contract. Here, declarer was in Five Hearts, but he took his eye off the ball and took a pairs line, trying to make as many tricks as possible.

However, let us consider the deal from a pairs perspective. We are missing two key cards, and it is unlikely these days that many pairs will bid six – the two missing keys might well be aces. Lack of the necessary number of aces does not always stop some pairs bidding slams, though, and here it is quite possible that a splinter/cue bid auction will lead to a slam contract.

So, in a pairs, we have to consider our line in Five Hearts with the suspicion in

the back of our mind that some pairs will be in Six. How should we play?

What will declarers in Six Hearts do? Given that the club lead is quite likely, they will need to avoid a trump loser. So, they will be taking the percentage line in trumps, which is to take the trump finesse. If the king is onside, well, and good; if it is offside, too bad. This means that the declarers in Six Hearts will be scoring up their slam if the king of hearts is onside, and going down when it is not (we can ignore any geniuses or people with good eyesight who drop the singleton king offside).

So, in Five Hearts, we are getting a bad score if the king is onside and a good score if it is not. There is a school of thought that says that as we will get a bad score if the king is onside we should play for it to be offside – in other words, play a heart to the ace.

But – there's always a but – let us think of the alternatives. If the king is onside, declarers in Six will be making, and we will be getting a worse score. What can we do about that? Nothing – the die is already cast. If it is offside, we are getting a good score. So, obviously, we must hope that the king is offside.

However, we should still take the heart finesse, even though we are hoping it will lose. We cannot do anything about the declarers in Six, but we have to consider what other declarers who miss the slam will do. What we must not do is fall behind those declarers as well. If they take twelve tricks, so must we. What we are hoping for, of course, is to take eleven tricks (the second round of diamonds being ruffed was an unlikely scenario, even though it happened in practice), but, in a pairs, we should still play for the maximum.

Meet Simon Gillis

by Chris Duckworth



Simon Gillis is perhaps not as well-known as some of London's bridge stars, since he plays most of his bridge at national and international level rather than in London-based events. None the less he is one of our most successful players, with an impressive list of achievements under his belt. In this country, his best results have been winning the Brighton teams twice, in 2002 and 2003, and winning the 2010 Gold Cup. Internationally, he has won many other events, including the Iceland Open Teams twice and the teams in Deauville 2005.

Simon is originally from Scotland but came to London as a student to read Maths at UCL, which took him into a career as an investment manager. He learned to play bridge whilst on holiday in Venice in 1981 at the age of 21, when a friend taught him the game on the balcony of their flat on the Lido during a summer holiday. For about 18 months he played as much as he could, at the Young Chelsea and with friends from Oxford. Then he became a full-time city trader and

had no time for anything except work for a while. He met his American wife, Ilene, who has a Masters in International Relations and worked on Trade Policy, whilst working in Paris in the early 1990s. They came back to London in 1992, and still live here with their two sons, now 16 and 14.

Simon took up bridge again in late 1994 when he began playing at TGR's in the £1 rubber bridge game, but it wasn't until 2000 that he played his first tournament. This was in Deauville where he played with Espen Erichsen, and it was then that he realised what a great game tournament bridge could be. In 2001, Boye Brogeland and Erik Saelensminde, two top Norwegian players, came to London to play rubber bridge and Simon became friendly with them. He played in Deauville again in 2001 with Boye where they finished 5th, and Simon became an addict!

Since then he has played many events, mainly internationals and often with Norwegian partners and teammates. He feels he is a better bidder than card-player, and for that reason he much prefers to play teams rather than pairs. Having said that, though, he reckons his best achievement to date was in the European Open Pairs final in Tenerife in 2005. He managed only a 50% score in the final, but he was the only one of the 104 players in the final who had not at some time represented their country!

I asked Simon why he prefers to play with Norwegians. He explained that he likes the way they play – they love natural systems but bid very aggressively. They always play in great spirit – there is never any argument at the bridge table, and director calls are extremely rare in Norwegian events. They also like to party hard once the game is over!

Another reason why Simon plays a lot in overseas competitions is the way in which they are organised to attract players. In the annual Norwegian Congress, for instance, there is a solid week of competition, in which all events are National Championships, so every top player in the country takes part. Play is from 10.00am until 8.00pm, leaving the evenings free for relaxed dinners and winding-down after play, and he would like to see more events like that introduced to this country. He suggested that the Easter Festival would be greatly improved, for example, by extending play to all day on Good Friday, allowing time for a longer and more meaningful Teams event – either one-and-a-half or two-days – and perhaps moving away from the Swiss format. He also feels we need a major national pairs competition in which every top player competes, so that it is a truly prestigious event.

As a step towards encouraging the sort of competition we talked about, Simon has agreed to support the LMBA Lederer Memorial Trophy for the next three years, for which the LMBA is extremely grateful. He is very pleased about the recent upgrading of the event by staging it at the RAC and inviting 10 rather than 8 teams. Both changes are popular with the participants, and whilst it is already an event in which players aspire to take part, he hopes it will attract even more international teams in the next few years.

One other national event that Simon really likes is the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. When we met it was just before this year's competition and he was

looking forward to playing with Erik Saelensminde and two Polish players who were recently part of the Spingold winning team – Gawel and Jagniewski. He wasn't optimistic about doing well, given the strength of the field, which included this year the legendary Lavazza team from Italy, but he would enjoy it none-the-less. He was disappointed that the competition was not being more heavily promoted by the EBU, given the quality of the event. He also felt strongly that there should be greater BBO coverage of the earlier rounds, not just showing the final. In fact, this year, both the semi-final and final were shown on BBO, and Simon's team went out in Round 6 – a good innings given the quality of the event.

Apart from bridge, Simon is very interested in economics. He took a masters degree in economic history in 2009 and avidly reads around the subject. But bridge is his passion, and he still has many aspirations in the game. He is going to play in the World Open Bridge Series in Sanya in China later this year and hopes to do well in that. He would love to represent his country, though he thinks that realistically that would only happen as a senior when he qualifies in a few years' time. And of course he would dearly love to win the Spring Foursomes!

I asked Simon for a favourite hand and he gave me this great deal from the European Championship in Ostend last year (rotated for convenience).

NS Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ –</p> <p>♥ K8654</p> <p>♦ K8762</p> <p>♣ Q32</p>	<p>♠ 7432</p> <p>♥ –</p> <p>♦ A53</p> <p>♣ AJ10764</p>	<p>♠ Q10</p> <p>♥ A1092</p> <p>♦ QJ10</p> <p>♣ K985</p>
	<p>♠ AKJ9865</p> <p>♥ QJ73</p> <p>♦ 94</p> <p>♣ –</p>	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Brogeland</i>		<i>Gillis</i>
		1♣	4♠
4NT	5♣	pass	5♠
pass	5NT	pass	7♠
pass	pass	Dble	pass
pass	Redble	All pass	

North's cue bid showed a good raise in spades and 5NT in their partnership usually says "Pick a slam". But this

interpretation was impossible when spades was the only suit of interest to NS, especially after West had shown two places to play with his 4NT bid. So 5NT had to be a grand slam try, and Simon reasoned that his club void, together with the possibility of the ♥QJ being working cards if necessary, justified bidding the grand.

It was all about partnership trust, and Boye showed his in turn with the redouble. The play of the hand was no problem with both the hearts and clubs breaking well and the 20



Boye Brogelund

HCP redoubled grand slam earned the pair a huge score.

Congratulations ...

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



Major congratulations go to all the members of the England teams that did so well at the recent European Championships. Everyone came home with a medal – a terrific achievement – and special congratulations go to the London members amongst the players and officials. **Simon Cochemé** captained the seniors to Gold and **Gunnar Hallberg** was in the victorious team; **Heather Dhondy** was a member of the English silver-winning women's team; and **Andrew Robson**, **David Bakhshi** and **David Gold** were all members of the bronze-winning open team which was coached by **Ben Green**.



Left: Gold-winning Seniors, with Gunnar second left and Simon extreme right.

Below left: Silver-winning Ladies with Heather third left.



Above right: Bronze winning open team with Andrew and David G centre back, Ben second left and David B extreme right.

In other international events, **Alex Hydes** won the Pakistan Day Championship Teams in Karachi and **Sinead Bird** (right) came fifth with Sarah O'Connor in the Girls' Pairs at the European Youth Championships.

Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan won the Scottish West District Congress Swiss Pairs with John Matheson third.



At the Year End Congress, **Phil King** (*centre right, with trophy*) won the Swiss Pairs. **Anita Sinclair** was second and **Ben Green** fourth in the same event



In the Open Pairs, **Simon Gillis** (*left*) won with his partner Espen Erichsen, while **Tim Gauld** and **Paul Lamford** came third.

Ben Green had another good result with third place in the Swiss Teams.



At the National Teams Congress, **Brian Callaghan** and **Ben Green** (*right*) were in the winning team in the new Point-A-Board teams, with **Alan & Olivia Woo** and **Alex Hydes** second.



In the Swiss Teams, the team of **Debbie Sandford**, **Brian Ransley**, **Brian McGuire** & **Guy Hart** were second.



At the Ranked Masters, **Nick Boss** and **Richard Johnson** (*left*) won the National Masters Pairs.

Ben Green was second in the Premier Grand Masters and **Tim Chanter** and **Helen Wildsmith** were second in the Life Masters.

At the York Spring Congress **Ben Green** (*left in picture*) won the Swiss Teams and was second in the Open Pairs.

Anne Catchpole and **David Schiff** were third in the Mixed Pairs.

Shahzaad Natt was third in the Portland Pairs.



Anita Sinclair was second at the Night of the Stars.

David Hull won the Leicestershire One-Day Swiss Pairs.

Kelvin Wong, Jorrit Schafer, Filip Sebest and **Kevin Satti** were runners up in the Portland Bowl.

At the Easter Festival **David Gold** and **Susanna Gross** (*right*) won the Championship Pairs with **Andy Bowles** and **Shireen Mohandes** third.



The Swiss Teams was won by **Paul Huggins, Liz**

Clery & Ryan Stephenson (*left, with team-mate Stuart Nelson*).

Tom Townsend and **Mark Teltscher** were second in the Swiss Pairs.

At the Schapiro Spring Foursomes **Anita Sinclair** and **Zia Mahmood** were in the winning team (*right, without Zia*).

Andrew Robson and **David Gold** were members of the runners-up team and **Tom Townsend** was a quarter-finalist.



Gunnar Hallberg and **Robert Sheehan** were members of the winning team in the Hubert Phillips Bowl (*left, with Sally Brock and Barry Myers*).

Alex Gauld won the CICBA Mixed Pairs.

Heather Dhondy won the Yorkshire Championship Pairs.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress **David Gold** was second in the Swiss Pairs.

London was third in the Tollemache final, with **Tom Townsend & Paul Lamford** heading the Butler rankings.

The Return of Veronica Thicke



At the risk of stating the obvious, I'm back.

Back, dear readers, from my country idyll, redecoration of Thicke Towers compelling me to return to London for about four months over the spring/summer. Alas (according to point of view), my erstwhile partner and, apparently, former master spy, Titus ap Llewelyn, is not joining me, staying in the sticks with Sir Mr. Thicke to "supervise the works". That they have elected to do this from rented rooms above the saloon bar of the Old Bull is their business. I could be in London for years. By the way, on the subject of my title, there's no need at all to call me Lady Veronica, nor to bow or curtsy when we met. A polite nod of the head will do.

Anyway, we kept on a small flat in Belgravia when we moved. This has proved ideal, within walking distance of TGRs, and a hop, skip and a jump to Bond Street station, and thence north to St. John's Wood, where, at the time of writing, the Young Chelsea is residing until completion of their fancy new premises on the Goldhawk Road. St. John's Wood holds many happy memories for me. Now run by the charming Tim West-Meads, I used to frequent it back in the old days, when it was run by the "Dream Team" combination of David Edwin, Adrienne Jaffe (now Edwin, of course) and the estimable Geoffrey Breskal. Many were the top-class players that I happily passed a few hours with, time after time: Freddie North – the Gentleman's Gentleman; Norman Selway (then, as now, a tenacious fighter at the table); Richard "Two Jacks" Sampson; Johnny Cansino, John Collings; Unal Durmus (London's loss is Costa Rica's gain).

There's no finer forum for learning the game than to regularly lose your money to better players. With sentient human beings the instinct is to improve, and eventually hold your own. This is how I achieved my expert status, and to all those who helped even those no longer with us, I give my eternal gratitude. It can take years, but there is a path from "one, two that'll do" to the backwash squeeze. You just have to find the right guides.

Being footloose and fancy-free I have no shortage of invitations, not only to play bridge, but also to the ballet, the opera and various embassy dinners. But one can have enough high culture, and get to the stage where one can barely look a Ferrero Rocher in the face, so it will be something of a relief when I set off in August for the EBU's Summer Festival at Brighton. Despite the fact that I have agreed to play in both the Swiss Pairs and the Teams with the less-than-estimable Leonard Plank (of the Berkshire Planks) I have at least managed to find reasonable team-mates for the second weekend. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but you'll find their names in the list of medal winners at the recent European Championships. By the time you read this, you'll know who I mean...

Anyway, Brighton's always a hoot. Partnering Leonard the bridge itself becomes a bit secondary, but he's not hanging around for the midweek events so a number of pals will be popping down to partner me. I well remember the year that I failed to

win the Play With the Experts event despite the chosen hands being hands played by myself in the Gold Cup final a year or two previously. Mind you, I hadn't won that, either, so at least I'm consistent. I was playing that year with Titus, whose derision verged on hooting. I felt it incumbent upon myself to point out that such behaviour was inappropriate from someone who seemed to be decomposing into his chemical component parts before one's very eyes, but it was water off a duck's back, as per usual.

I have, this year, eschewed the Grand for the Metropole. The differential in price was sufficiently great for Sir Mr. Thicke to notice, so the Met it is. It's been some time since I stayed there. Indeed, it's been some decades, since the year that the hotel inadvisably held a Real Ale festival on the sixth floor. Well I remember the enthusiastic imbiber who plummeted down the stairwell to his doom, into the midst of several hundred bridge players charging heads down for the playing area. The poor coroner was baffled by the medical report, which suggested that death was caused by stampede.

As I am sure you will have noted elsewhere in this journal, the LMBA AGM has been put back a week, to September 11th. I am currently unaware of the venue, but I believe that they are looking at hiring a room in a pub. How vulgar, and yet strangely predictable, given the nature of the association's officers. I would imagine that they're on the look-out for new blood on the committee (they usually are) to continue the regeneration programme begun last year (which, to be fair, seems to have worked quite well). If you're interested, drop the County Secretary/Newsletter Editor (same person) an e-mail.

A week later is the Clapham Cafe Bridge. This event is always popular (I'd play myself but I'm performing a rehearsed concert of *Ariadne auf Naxos* that morning) so if you haven't booked by the time you read this, pull your finger out (as we say in the country, usually when chivvying along a procrastinating vet). Prizes galore, a raffle, proceeds to charity and lunch as well. As Ira Gershwin once wrote, who could ask for anything more? Okay, it's in Clapham, but things are so bad these days taxi drivers will go anywhere. The river no longer holds any terrors for them. It's also available by public transport, whatever that is.

