

London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association



# MetroNews

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Autumn 2012

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# Words from the Editor

Like a lot of counties, London has found that the constitution it operates on is slightly out of step with changing times. It hasn't been revised since the introduction of universal membership (Pay to Play), so Steve Eginton has kindly sat down and re-written it, not only updating it but also presenting things in a slightly clearer manner than hitherto.

We hope to ratify it at this year's AGM, so if you'd like to go to the website at [www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk) you can see the full details. All comments are welcome, either beforehand or at the AGM. Richard Fleet has already given the new constitution the once-over – for which we are most grateful, and which gives us confidence that it is fit for purpose.

In a separate appendix our new disciplinary procedures are described. These are being introduced largely at the behest of the EBU. Several counties (not, I hasten to add, London) have had problems in this area which were exacerbated because there was no framework for dealing with them. London is very lucky in this respect because our clubs are efficient at dealing with problems themselves. But it pays to cover the basis, so we'll aim to be adopting the appendix as well, which will include the establishment of a hopefully never-to-be-convened Conduct Committee, to be chaired by Brian Callaghan.

Chris Duckworth  
MetroNews Editor  
201 Greyhound Road, London W14 9SD



[chris.duckworth@lineone.net](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net)

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## Annual General Meeting

The 2012 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 pm at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0EN.

### Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies & apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
(**Note.** *These can be found at [www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk)*)
- 3 Matters arising from these minutes.
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Adoption of accounts for 2011
- 7 Subscriptions (direct and Pay-to-Play) for 2013-2014
- 8 Elections to the Executive Committee
- 9 Appointment of honorary auditor
- 10 Constitutional changes (*see above and website*)
- 11 EBU shareholders' Report
- 12 Any other business

# LMBA results this season

## Ian Gardiner Trophy

The entry to this year's Ian Gardiner Trophy, the London Championship Teams of Four, was up by just one from last year, with a total of 16 teams playing. At the end of the qualifier day on 5<sup>th</sup> February it was once again very close at the top. In first place were the current holders of the Trophy, the team of John Pemberton, Steve Popham, Tim Gauld and Paul Martin, who were clear of equal second placed teams – Tom Townsend, Phil King, Espen Erichsen and Stelio di Bello and Anita Sinclair, David Greenwood, Frederick Bjornlund and Zia Mahmood – quite a heady selection of bridge stars!

The top two teams from the qualifier play each other in the final, so it was necessary to split the second-place tie. But only teams whose members all have London allegiance can go forward to the final, so Anita Sinclair's team dropped out of the running. The Townsend team was augmented by Nick Irens and David Bakhshi for the play-off – they had been originally entered to play with the team from the start, but found themselves unable to make the qualifier.

The play-off was an equally tight affair, but in the end Nick Irens' team prevailed and became the new champions. They were all set to go forward to represent London in the Pachabo, but only a couple of days before this event, Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi were called upon to represent England in the European Championships in Dublin, following the unfortunate necessity for Andrew Robson and Alexander Allfrey to withdraw,

A new team was therefore scrambled together at short notice, comprising members of both the finalists teams. They finished in the middle of the Pachabo field in the end.

## London Championship Pairs

The entry to the Championship pairs was comfortably up on last year, with a total of 33 pairs. At the end of the first session, three-times former Pairs champion Susanna Gross was leading the field, this time with a new partner, David Gold. In second place were Victor Silverstone and Brigid Battiscombe, with Tim Chanter and Helen Wildsmith lying third.

14 pairs went forward to the all-play-all final, whilst the remainder of the field played a consolation event. Pairs take a carry forward score with them into the final, based on their position in the first session, but two very large scores in session 2 saw two other pairs come through the field to take the first two places. The final positions were:

1	Eric Duffelen & David Bakhshi	286
2	Anita Sinclair & Zia Mahmood	274
3=	Susanna Gross & David Gold	249
	Victor Silverstone & Brigid Battiscombe	

Both Eric and Anita are relatively new to competitive bridge, but both are clearly names to watch.

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

1	Martin Baker & David Strawbridge	69.45%
2	Malcolm Todd & John Pemberton	59.74
3	Benji Hackenbroch & Mandie Campbell	58.57

## Palmer Bayer Trophy

This “No Fear” Pairs is a very sociable event which has a loyal following amongst the participants, who enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to discuss the hands over a glass of wine with an expert after play. Sixteen pairs played in January this year and it was very pleasing to see a pair of regular supporters of the event head the listings this time. The winners were Guy and Cheryl Fraser-Sampson with 59.38%, ahead of Sue Bedford and Ned Paul on 57.63% and Lisa Yates and Richard Johnson on 55.67%.

Maureen Dennison graciously volunteered to come along as our resident expert this time, and the picture shows her presenting the trophy to the winners.



## Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

The annual green-pointed weekend moved venue once again this year and the new venue proved to be more popular, in that entries were up on both days.. This time it was held at the York Gardens Library & Community Centre in Clapham.

The pairs field comprised 88 pairs and the winners scored an impressive 112 out of a possible 140 Victory Points – and that included a loss in their very first match! The leading places were as follows:

1	Alex Hydes & David Levy	112 VPs
2	Jason Hackett & Derek Patterson	103
3	David Pinder & Colin Bailey	102

In the **Swiss Teams** the following day there were 34 teams. Last years’s winners ended up in first place once again, but this time they had to share the honours with another team, who in fact beat them in their head-to-head match to become the overall champions!

1=	Andrew Abelson, Tim Gauld, Brian McGuire, Guy Hart	105
	Paul Hackett, Roger O’Shea, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett	
3	Barbara Stoker, Gordon O’Hair, Barry Stoker, Bob Hampson	95
4	Dom Goodwin, Ann Liddell, Nick Wilson, Liz Wright	94

## Garden Cities

This year's entry to the Garden Cities heat, the qualifier for the national Inter-Club Teams of Eight competition, attracted one of the strongest fields ever, although from only two clubs, the Young Chelsea BC and the Woodberry BC.

As the national holders of this trophy, the YC fielded most of the team who played last season as its A team, but they were opposed by a strong north-London based squad as the YC B team and another fiercely competitive team headed by Fiona Hutchison as YC C. The two Woodberry squads were also more than capable of winning on their day, but this time it was the YC that prevailed, with the B team pipping the A team into first place. The leaders were:

- 1 **Young Chelsea B** Jeremy Dhondy, Keith Bennett, Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan, Francis Morton, Anthony Golding, Ian Draper, Anne Rosen
- 2 **Young Chelsea A** Paul Martin, Tim Gauld, Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery, John Pemberton, Malcolm Todd, Stephen Popham, Simon Cochemé

In the Regional Semi-Finals Jeremy, Keith and Ian were replaced by Heather Dhondy, Rob Cliffe and David Burn. This team won the semi-final to go forward to the final, where the team comprised Anne Rosen, Neil Rosen, Keith Bennett, Richard Bowdery, Rob Cliffe, Gordon Rainsford, Frances Hinden and Graham Osbrone. They finished in second place, just failing to retain the trophy.

## Café Bridge Drive

Our third café bridge drive in the Tonsleys in aid of Age UK Wandsworth was held in April. This time we were able to accommodate 44 pairs, all of whom had a great day enjoying the cafés, bars and restaurants of the area whilst playing a duplicate bridge session. At the end of play, the results were announced as below – *the winners are pictured right:*

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 Jan Malcolm & Theresa Smith        | 65.78 % |
| 2 Chris Watkinson & Dorothy O’Gorman | 60.81   |
| 3 Gordon & Jill Cochrane             | 59.64   |
| 4 Annie Freeman & Isabel Loat        | 58.51   |



As usual, a raffle was held to augment the sum raised for the charity, and it was very pleasing to be able to hand over a total of £635. Your editor, and local Tonsleys resident and LMBA shareholder James Smith, are seen presenting the cheque to AUW chief executive Rachel Corry, *left*.



## Fox Shammon Trophy

A select field of 19 pairs competed in this year's Seniors Pairs for the Fox Shammon Trophy in April, several of the usual participants in this event being unable to make it this time. So there were some new names at the top of the field and on the trophy. The leading positions were:

1	Mark Davies & Julia Holland	62.69%
2	Ronald Sitch & Hazel Keith	61.67
3	Andrew Abelson & Lorna Vestey	60.00



The winners are pictured, *left*, in the magnificent surroundings of the Presidents Room at The Queen's Club, where the event is played.

## London Trophy

The final stages of the London Trophy and Della-Porta Plate were held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall in late May. See Mike Hill's article on pages 8-11 for some of the more interesting hands that arose and also a picture of the Plate winners. The final results were:

### London Trophy:

- 1 CMS Cameron McKenna  
Mark Nichols, David Reuben, Arthur Dyson, Roy Griggs
- 2 Holland Park LTC  
Neil Tomkin, Christine Tomkin, Robin Burns, Loretta Burns
- 3 Mayfield BC A  
Peter Cogliatti, Fiona Clark, Pam Jardine, Ulla Adliz
- 4 Crouch End BC  
Nick Bryant, Judy Roose, Clive Levy, Sarah McLaughlan

### Della-Porta Plate:

- 1 HM Treasury  
Roy Westwater, Jonathan Jacobs, Peter Brook, Tony Verran
- 2 Home Office  
Ravinder Walia, John Graham, Jeff Gill, Peter Jones



*Three of the winning team, with the Trophy presented by Pat Brotherston,*

## London Trophy Pairs

As last year, the entry to this event, a pairs competition for players who take part in the London Trophy, was 21 pairs. Bob Bowman and Arun Suri, who won the event in 2010 and 2011, just failed to make it a hat-trick. They finished in second place with 61.60%, being beaten for the top spot by Neil and Christine Tomkin who scored a massive 66.73% Third were Bill Linton and Tim Pelling on 57.96%

For a write-up of the event, see the article on pages 12-14.

## London League

**Division 1** Everything was topsy-turvy in this division this season. Last year's runaway winners, Brian Callaghan's YC1 team, came a convincing last with 33 VPs, whereas the clear winners were Simon Cearn's YC2 team, newly promoted from Division 2. They scored 76 VPs, well clear of Dudleigh Leigh's Bury the Hatchet team on 58 VPs in second place and third placed YC5 captained by Brian McGuire.

**Division 2** was incomplete at the time of writing, but the uncatchable winners appear to be YC4, captained by Chris Goodchild.

**Division 3** was divided into two parallel divisions this year because of the number of teams wishing to take part. Seven teams competed in Division 3A and the clear winners on 98 VPs were Ross Cope's eponymous Cope team, with Mark Davies's August Blue second on 83. Six teams formed Division 3B, one of whom had to withdraw, so the scores were lower. August Red, captained by David Rowe, were the winners on 68 VPs, with Pauli Laumen's Napier Scinde second on 43.

The **Newcomers League** featured a very close finish. Eventual winners were Crouch End, captained by Alan Whitehouse, who finished on 95 VPs, just one point clear of runners-up Napier Peccavi, captained by Joy Hellin.

## Home Counties League

There were new winners in this league this year. Middlesex Black, captained by Ken Drane, finished on 56 VPs, two points ahead of last year's winners, Simon Cochemé's London Red team.

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## Puzzle Corner

If 13 C in a S is 13 Cards in a Suit, can you identify the missing words in these bridge or cards-related phrases? (Solutions on page 30)

12 T in a S S

8 P in a T in the H C L

9 of D, the C of S

1500 G P to be a P G M

2220 P for a V G S in N T

1 for H N at C

12 C C in a P

500 is 2 D D & V



# London Trophy Finals - 2012

by Michael Hill

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, the finals of the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 bridge clubs are now allowed to enter (it used to be limited to sports and social clubs), the traditional nature is maintained by continuing to restrict teams to no more than one player ranked at national master or higher 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 main final was between law firm CMS Cameron McKenna and Holland Park Lawn Tennis Club and the third place play-off saw two bridge clubs opposing each other, Mayfield A playing Crouch End. The Della-Porta Plate final was an all Civil Service affair – HM Treasury vs. Home Office.

The very first board produced a significant swing in the London Trophy final.

## **Love all. Dealer North.**

♠ 542	
♥ J1086	
♦ AQ9	
♣ Q63	
♠ AQ97	♠ K10863
♥ K9	♥ AQ42
♦ K1043	♦ J8
♣ K85	♣ AJ
♠ J	
♥ 753	
♦ 7652	
♣ 109742	

In the third place play off and the Plate final, the contract at three of the tables was 4♠ after a simple 1♠-2♦-2♥-4♠ auction; and 5♠ at the fourth table after East tried Blackwood and then signed off after finding an ace missing. Eleven tricks were routinely available, with the twelfth often given away by the (not unreasonable) lead of the ♣10.

In the main final, Holland Park also took the simple route to 4♠ and made twelve tricks on the ♣10 lead, but CMS Cameron McKenna were made of sterner stuff. Their auction began the same way but, instead of jumping to 4♠, West bid 3♣ (fourth suit forcing). The auction continued 3NT-4♣-4♥, after which West bid 4NT, Blackwood and, finding two aces opposite, bid the slam. North doubled for a diamond lead and the scene was set for a game swing to Holland Park.

South duly led the ♦6 (second highest) but, when North won the ♦Q, declarer smoothly dropped the ♦J under it. North probably shouldn't have been taken in – the diamonds not visible included the 7 and 8, and South would hardly have led third highest – but was, and switched to a trump. In due course, declarer took his only chance, a (successful) club finesse, and the potential game swing to Holland Park had become a slam swing to CMS Cameron McKenna.



Board 2 immediately provided further drama.

**NS game. Dealer East.**

♠ Q1032	
♥ K9863	
♦ 42	
♣ K5	
♠ 95	♠ K64
♥ 754	♥ QJ
♦ Q965	♦ AKJ83
♣ Q862	♣ J109
♠ AJ87	
♥ A102	
♦ 107	
♣ A743	

The CMS Cameron McKenna East opened a 15-17 no trump and played there. With all four hands on view, it is easy to see how the defence can take the first eleven tricks with careful timing but South, reasonably enough, led the ♠7 and declarer was quick to win and cash his diamonds, conceding just one-off. The Holland Park East-West were playing a weak no trump, so East opened 1♦, which South was able to double. Although West made a pre-emptive diamond raise, North took the bull by the horns and bid the making heart game – a game swing to CMS Cameron McKenna, now leading by 1400 after just two boards! In the third place play-off, there was again a strong vs. weak no trump effect. The Crouch End East opened 1NT and played there, making six tricks on the same defence as above. The Mayfield East opened 1♦, duly doubled by South. After a pass by West (!), North bid 2♥. East competed with 3♦ and South with 3♥. West now came to life with 4♦ and this ended the auction. This contract drifted three-off for a swing of 100 to Crouch End.

In the Plate, there was drama even though both East-West pairs were playing a weak no trump. At both tables, East opened 1♦, South doubled, West raised to 2♦, North bid 2♥, East upped the anti with 3♦ and South passed. When Home Office were North-South, this ended the auction and the defence took their obvious six tricks for two-off. The HM Treasury North felt he was worth a further bid and protected with 3♠. South raised this to game and East decided to sacrifice in 5♦, duly doubled. The defence took the same six tricks but that was 800 and a swing of 700 to HM Treasury.

The only other board of real interest in the first half was board 11.

**Love all. Dealer South.**

	♠ Q9742	
	♥ 109	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ K875	
♠ J653		♠ –
♥ KJ86		♥ Q74
♦ K32		♦ AJ7654
♣ 103		♣ Q964
	♠ AK108	
	♥ A532	
	♦ 108	
	♣ AJ2	

North-South reached 4♠ at every table but only the CMS Cameron McKenna and Crouch End declarers made it. At first glance, it appears there are ten tricks, but the four-nil trump break leads to entry problems that cannot be solved without help from the defence. Holding four trumps and only two clubs, West cannot be prevented from ruffing the third round of clubs.

At half-time, CMS Cameron McKenna led by a massive 2920 in the main final, Crouch End were comfortably ahead by 1010 in the third place play-off but Home Office were just 60 ahead in the Plate.

The second half began fairly quietly then, curiously enough it was, as last year, board 17 which livened things up, albeit really only in the main final.

**Love all. Dealer North.**

♠ 1083	
♥ K73	
♦ KJ8742	
♣ 5	
♠ KQ52	♠ 94
♥ A104	♥ J82
♦ 1053	♦ 96
♣ J73	♣ KQ8642
♠ AJ76	
♥ Q965	
♦ AQ	
♣ A109	

In the play-off and the Plate, every South reached 3NT, either after opening in a major or responding to a weak 2♦ opening from North, and made ten or eleven tricks, although best defence would have held them to nine tricks. In the main final, however, when CMS Cameron McKenna were North–South, the final contract, following a weak 2♦ opening, was 3♦. Ten tricks were made but Holland Park had an opportunity to gain a game swing. They tried hard to avoid doing so – North raised South’s opening 1♥ to 2♥ then, over the 3♣ trial bid, essayed 4♥. There are only nine tricks available on best defence but West led a trump and East played the ♥8! Declarer won cheaply, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club and led the ♥K. When

West won this with the ace, there were no further tricks available to the defence (and, even had he ducked it and won the next round, the defence would have made only one more trick). So Holland Park gained their game swing. Was this the start of a comeback?

Board 19 was of passing interest in that in both the play-off and the Plate, one table played in 1♥ after East passed West’s opening bid while the other table played in 4♥ (one making) after East drummed up a raise to 2♥ on 3-card support and five points. Both tables in the main final also bid and made 4♥ but the contract ought to have been beaten by passive defence. Then came board 21.

**NS game. Dealer North.**

	♠ 92	
	♥ K1093	
	♦ K97652	
	♣ K	
♠ A874		♠ K5
♥ A6		♥ J42
♦ 843		♦ AQJ10
♣ J942		♣ A1086
	♠ QJ1063	
	♥ Q875	
	♦ –	
	♣ Q753	

No two auctions were even close to being the same! One East opened a strong no trump, passed when North overcalled West’s 2♣ with 2♦, and then settled for 3NT when West competed further with 3♣. Ten tricks were made after the ♠Q lead when clubs proved to be helpful. Two Easts opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT over the 1♠ response. One was raised to 3NT, the other to only 2NT, but both failed to

take advantage of the club position and made only eight tricks (also on the lead of the ♠Q). The other three Easts all opened 1♣. One heard a 1♠ overcall from South and then converted partner's 3♣ to 3NT, again failing after the ♠Q lead. The second East got a 1♠ response from partner, and a 2♦ overcall from North. He doubled that for penalties and duly collected 500, although it might have been 800. The third East also heard a 1♠ response from partner but, this time, North doubled. East re-doubled, then protected with 2♠ when South's 2♥ came round to her. Eight tricks were duly made!

The fun continued with board 22.

**EW Game. Dealer East.**

♠ J1072	
♥ 6	
♦ K8653	
♣ AK2	
♠ Q4	♠ A86
♥ J10742	♥ AKQ985
♦ 109	♦ A4
♣ 10954	♣ Q3
♠ K953	
♥ 3	
♦ QJ72	
♣ J876	

In the main final, Holland Park's comeback had slowed down. Could this board help? Both 4♥ and 4♠ are due to fail on even moderate defence but over 4♥ their North-South sacrificed in 4♠, doubled by East. He lost a trick in the wash (to the ♣Q) and ended two down, conceding 300. Meanwhile, at the other table, North-South did not enter the auction, so East played in 4♥. A rather soft defence allowed this through for

another 320 to Holland Park's comeback. In the third place play-off, Mayfield were also making a comeback and, on a similar soft defence, their East-West pair bid and made 4♥. At the other table, their pair bid the questionable 4♠ sacrifice, but that pushed Crouch End to 5♥ and a vital swing of 720 to Mayfield. Interestingly, the play was more accurate in the Plate final. At one table, the Home Office bid to 4♥ and were duly defeated; at the other, they sacrificed in 4♠ (doubled) and, again, were duly defeated.

At this point, the matches were already decided; there were no significant swings on the last two boards. But in all the matches there were swings of between 1630 and 1910 in the second half to the teams that were behind at half time and, in two matches, this was enough to reverse the half time position.

**Results:**

**Trophy:** CMS Cameron McKenna beat Holland Park LTC by 1010 points

**Third place play-off:** Mayfield A beat Crouch End by 740 points

**Plate:** HM Treasury beat Home Office by 1570 points



*Plate winners, HM Treasury*

# London Trophy Pairs - 2012

by Michael Hill

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, The Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall was once again the venue for the London Trophy Pairs, a free event for members of teams who play in the London Trophy teams competition. A total of twenty-one pairs took part and the event lived up to its reputation for providing a wide variety of scores on most boards. Indeed, there were three boards where every single score was different.

One of these was Board 4:

## Game all. Dealer West.

♠ KQ9832	
♥ 93	
♦ Q62	
♣ Q6	
♠ A765	♠ 4
♥ J2	♥ AKQ754
♦ KJ83	♦ 75
♣ 1087	♣ KJ53
♠ J10	
♥ 1086	
♦ A1094	
♣ A942	

At most tables, East played at various levels in hearts, making 8, 9, 10 or 11 tricks (ten tricks should be made by pinning the doubleton ♣Q) but, twice, North was allowed to play below game in spades. One of these was when North opened a weak 2♠, East doubled for take-out and West passed for penalties. The defence played hearts from the top and declarer ruffed the third round and led a trump. West won the ace and switched to the ♣10, covered all round. Declarer overtook the ♠J to complete drawing trumps and then led a diamond to the 10. West won the ♦J but was end-played, having either to set up dummy's ♣9 for a diamond discard or lead away from the ♦K. He chose that latter (partner just might have held the ♦Q!) but was soon writing down -670 for an outright bottom.

Board 7 was something of a curiosity:

## Game all. Dealer South.

♠ 63		
♥ A8		
♦ AKQ87		
♣ A1093		
♠ AKJ5		♠ 9874
♥ Q1054		♥ 72
♦ J94		♦ 10632
♣ Q6		♣ J75
♠ Q102		
♥ KJ963		
♦ 5		
♣ K842		

Two Norths played in game (4♥ making on a slight misdefence and 3NT going two down) but, generally, North-South were focussing on penalties once West opened a weak no trump. Twice, West played in 1NTx, making either four or five tricks and once in 1NTxx making five tricks, perhaps when one half of the partnership forgot that rescue redoubles are not allowed in this event! One West was "rescued" into 2♠x but that could only make six tricks so was still -500. However, the oddest result was when West somehow became declarer in 3♣x on the 3-2 fit. Best defence will take eleven tricks but, in practice, declarer emerged with four tricks, so was only -1700!

In the second half, board 19 provided some interest.

**EW game. Dealer South.**

♠ A	
♥ 1075432	
♦ 984	
♣ 1092	
♠ 108765432	♠ QJ
♥ 8	♥ AQJ96
♦ QJ	♦ AK6
♣ 76	♣ Q54
♠ K9	
♥ K	
♦ 107532	
♣ AKJ83	

A couple of North-South pairs managed to buy the contract in a diamond part-score making eight or nine tricks but, generally it was East-West who played the hand - in game in spades. This contract should always fail but the four declarers made 9, 10 11 and 12 tricks. Needless to say, it was the one pair who did not bid game who made twelve tricks!

The spade game was reached in a variety of ways. One West found a weak jump overcall of 2♠ over South's opening 1♣ and then corrected East's 3NT to 4♠. North erred by not leading his partner's suit but declarer followed a bizarre line of play. He won the heart lead with the ace, felling the king but then chose to play diamonds from the top, ruffing the third round. He then played clubs himself, so the defence had no problem in cashing winners in that suit and waiting for two trump tricks. At another table, South opened 1♦ and this was passed to East who doubled. South rebid 2♣, and West decided he was worth a free bid of 2♠. North raised to 3♦, East showed his hearts and then raised West's 3♠ rebid to game. North, not unreasonably, led

a diamond and West won in hand, took a club discard on dummy's AK and then led the ♠J. South covered, crashing his partner's ace and, after conceding one top club, declarer claimed eleven tricks.

At one table, there was a chapter of accidents on this board. After South's 1♦ was passed round to him, East bid an aggressive but not totally unreasonable 3NT and West corrected to 4♠. East now bid 4NT, intended as some form of Blackwood but West interpreted it as a general slam try and signed off (as he thought) in 5♠. East was on a different wavelength and raised to 6♠ then, when North doubled that, removed himself to 6NT, also doubled. The defence began with clubs from the top, declarer winning the third round with the queen. He then led the ♠J and, as above, South covered, crashing his partner's ace. North exited with a diamond but declarer lost the plot completely and ran this to dummy's queen. Had he won in hand and unblocked the ♠Q, he'd have been able to reach the established spades via the ♦Q and so made the rest of the tricks, going just two off. Even after winning in dummy, he could have escaped for three off by cashing his diamonds, laying down the ♥A, felling the king, and later end-playing North in hearts. As it was, he used the entry to dummy to take the losing heart finesse, whereupon South cashed his two long clubs taking the contract five off for 1400.

Lest it be thought otherwise, not everything was a disaster. On board 33 a small defensive error provided an opportunity for some good declarer play.



**Love all. Dealer North.**

- ♠ K73
  - ♥ 82
  - ♦ 1053
  - ♣ KQ653
- ♠ 5
  - ♥ QJ765
  - ♦ AKJ96
  - ♣ J10
- ♠ Q82
  - ♥ K104
  - ♦ Q72
  - ♣ A742
- ♠ AJ10964
  - ♥ A93
  - ♦ 84
  - ♣ 98

At a couple of tables, South was allowed to play in a spade part score and, at one table, East bid to a failing 3NT (but, curiously, by only one trick).

When the dust cleared, the holders of the Trophy for the last two years could only manage second place.

Winners: Neil & Christine Tomkin (*right*) 66.73%  
 Runners up: Bob Bowman & Arun Suri 61.60%

Generally, however, West played in 4♥, losing the obvious three tricks. The exception was when, after North led a spade against 4♥, South made the error of winning with the ace and not returning a spade. He switched to the ♦8, won by declarer's ace and, when in with the ♥A, continued diamonds. Now declarer was able to draw trumps and run the diamond suit. He then led his remaining trumps, the last of which squeezed North in the black suits for the eleventh trick and a well-deserved top.



**London News**

A team representing London was second in the Beck Cup, the Oxfordshire invitational teams of four. The team of Lorna Vestey, Ned Paul Andrew Kisiel and David Glass (*pictured right*) was lying 13<sup>th</sup> out of 16 at half time, but had a massive second half to come through the field.



Latymer Upper School organised a schools bridge event in June, attended by pupils from Latymer and Westminster schools. Five tables played (*see picture left*) and the event was much enjoyed by all. The school hopes to organise more such events, and anyone at any other school interested in joining in should contact the organiser, Dr Ros Nanayakkara, at [rmn@latymer-upper.org](mailto:rmn@latymer-upper.org).

## Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated in the competition detail, all competitions are played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 0EN (Tel: 020 7373 1665), with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. All competition organisers' contact details are at the end of this 8-page schedule, which can be removed from your magazine for easy reference.

### London League & Newcomers League

Entries close 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

<b>Holders:</b>	Division 1	<i>Young Chelsea 2</i>	Capt: <i>Simon Cearns</i>
	Division 2	<i>Young Chelsea 4</i>	Capt: <i>Chris Goodchild</i>
	Division 3A	<i>Cope</i>	Capt: <i>Ross Cope</i>
	Division 3B	<i>August Red</i>	Capt: <i>David Rowe</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 four all-play-all divisions with end of season promotion and relegation plus the Newcomers League. The latter is designed particularly for those with little experience of competitive bridge. The winners of the Newcomers are eligible to be promoted to the London League, but may choose to compete again at the lower level.

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

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

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

### London Trophy & Della-Porta Plate

Entries close 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

<b>Holders:</b>	London Trophy:	<i>CMS Cameron McKenna – Mark Nichols, David Reuben, Arthur Dyson, Roy Griggs</i>
	Della-Porta Plate:	<i>HM Treasury – Roy Westwater, Jonathan Jacobs, Peter Brook, Tony Verran</i>

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 to minimise travel. The final stages of both competitions will be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall in May or June 2013. All participants are also eligible to play in the London Trophy Pairs, to be held this season in April 2013.

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

**Entry fee:** £20 per team

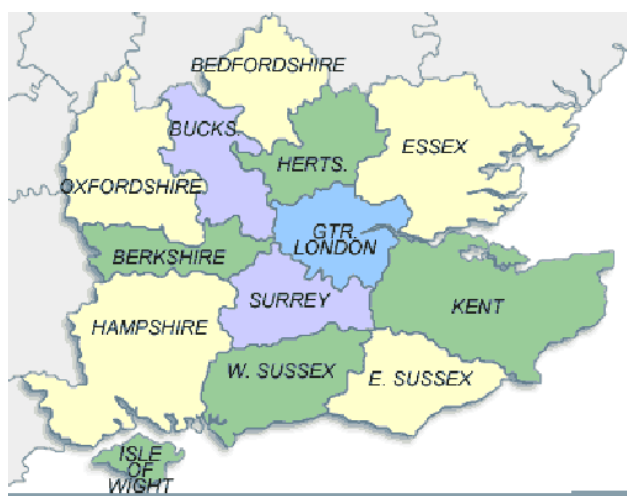
Entries and enquiries should be directed to **Steve Eginton**. Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

## Home Counties League

Entries close **1<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

**Holders:** *Middlesex Black*  
*Capt: Ken Drane*

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

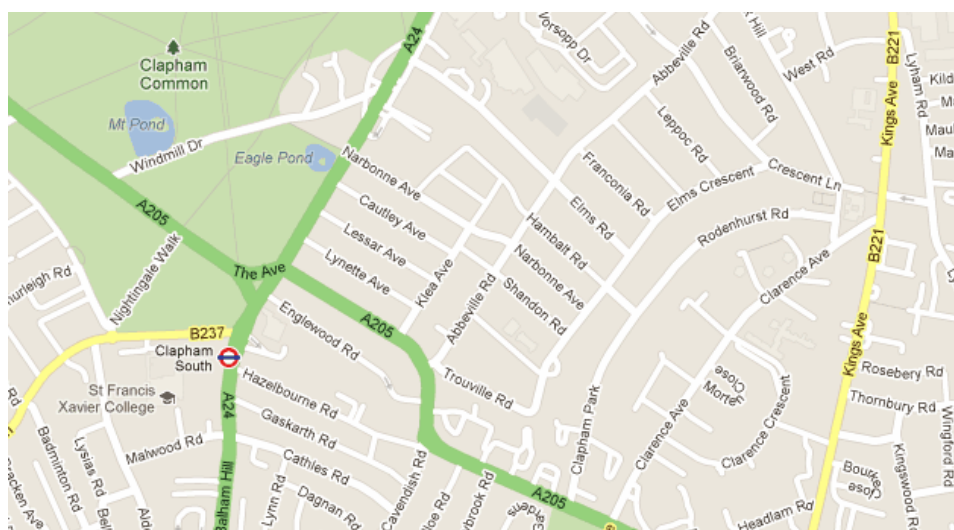


Current participants are Middlesex, Surrey and London (each with two teams), so there is room for additional counties to join in - anyone interested should contact **Sati McKenzie** for more details. Players interested in representing London should contact **Simon Cochemé** (London Red) or **Nicole Cook**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

**Entry fee:** £16 per team.

# Café Bridge Drive

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 starting at 10.30 for 11.00 am



The LMBA is very pleased to announce the addition of an autumn Café Bridge Drive to complement its spring event held in the Tonsleys.

This new event will be held in the Abbeville Road area of South Clapham, a delightful street that we are sure will prove to be a very

attractive area to explore and enjoy. 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 a local charity, which this time will be the 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 should be sent to **Sati McKenzie** to arrive no later than 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012. 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.

## Mixed Pairs Championship

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012 starting at 1.00pm



Holder: *Graham Orsmond & Jackie Fairclough*

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

**Entry fee:** £22.00 per pair.

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



# Lederer Memorial Trophy

Saturday-Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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



This prestigious event for eight invited teams of international players provides a marvellous spectator event for anyone interested in seeing how the experts' minds work at the bridge table. You can rub shoulders with the top stars from this country and abroad as they compete for the trophy. Whilst this is a very hard-fought competition it is always played in the best of spirits, so you will enjoy the great atmosphere.

This year, the participating field looks to be one of the best ever. In addition to the regulars – the President's team, the Young Chelsea KO winners, the Holders and the terrific Ireland team, the players will include the Gold Cup winners – the very strong Surrey squad including Frances Hinden and Jeffrey Allerton; the Spring Fours winners – the team of Glyn Liggins, Joe Fawcett, John Holland and Ben Green, who staged an amazingly exciting come-back in the final of that event; the Crockfords winners, including such stars as Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Peter Crouch and David Bakhshi; and a Canadian team including IPBA Bulletin editor John Carruthers and the irrepressible Joey Silver. (Check out the LMBA website at [www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk) for the most up-to-date team details). An event that is not to be missed!

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



*Forrester & Bakhshi v Hinden & Osborne in 2011*

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

Contact **Stefanie Rohan** for more information.



# Teltscher Cups - Lederer Satellite Pairs

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## Holders:

NS: *Irene & Les Hough*

EW: *Danny Gesua & Sally Birnage*

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 winners with Tony Priday*



*NS Winners with Tony Forrester*

The winners are invited to attend the Lederer on the Sunday to meet their team mates and be presented with the Teltscher Cups.

Clubs that wish to hold heats should contact organiser **Stefanie Rohan**.

**Entry Fee:** £1 per player

## Junior Teams of Four Championship

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012 starting at 1.00pm

Holders: *Alex Roberts, Shivam Shah, Frederick Illingworth, Christopher Huber*



A single extended session teams-of-four competition for junior (Under 25) players – that is players who were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> 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**.



**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.

## Champions Cup

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012** starting at **1.00pm**

**Holders:** *Civil Service League – Tony Verran, Brian Gladman, Reuben Lewis, Martin Baker*

This is a single extended session, multiple teams event for the 2011/2012 season winners of the highest divisions of leagues organised in London and the home counties. New leagues are always welcome to apply - contact Sati McKenzie for further information. Anyone who is a bona fide member of the league that they represent, including non-EBU members, may play.

**Entry fee:** £32.00 per team.

Entries should be sent to **Sati McKenzie** to arrive no later than 18<sup>th</sup> November..



## Palmer Bayer Trophy

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013** starting at **1.00pm**

**Holders:** *Guy & Cheryl Fraser-Sampson*



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 the ideal way to introduce family, friends and colleagues to organised bridge. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

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

**Entry fee:** £16.00 per pair.

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

# Ian Gardiner Trophy

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013** starting at **11.30am**

Holders: *Nick Irens, Tom Townsend, Phil King, David Bakhshi, Espen Erichsen, Stelio di Bello*

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 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> February 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 **Sati McKenzie** to arrive by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013.



## Advance notice

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

**Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend** Saturday-Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Swiss Pairs on Saturday at 1.00pm, Swiss Teams on Sunday at 11.30am. Venue to be announced.

**London Championship Pairs** Sunday 21st April 2013 at 1.00pm  
Two session green-pointed pairs, qualifier for the national Corwen Trophy

**London Trophy Pairs** Sunday in April 2013 at 2.00pm  
Single-session pairs for participants in the London Trophy (*Date to be finalised*)

**Café Bridge in the Tonsleys** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 10.30am  
In aid of Age UK, social bridge moving from venue to venue. (*Date to be finalised*).

**Garden Cities Heat** Thursday 11th April 2013 at 7.00pm  
Inter-club teams-of-eight competition, qualifier for the national competition.

**Fox Shammon Trophy** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 2.00pm  
Seniors Pairs at the Queen's Club.

## Tournament Organiser contacts

**Chris Duckworth** for Junior Teams of Four, Palmer Bayer Trophy  
chris.duckworth@lineone.net 020 7385 3534 or 07768 693168  
201 Greyhound Road, London, W14 9SD

**Steve Eginton** for London Trophy  
steve@eginton.co.uk 07989 557779 or 01628 780862  
The Kukris, High Street, Bray, Berks, SL6 2AH

**Nigel Freake** for Mixed Pairs Championship  
gelohnake@waitrose.com 020 8801 2884 or 05563 051284

**Sati McKenzie** for Leagues, Champs Cup, Café Bridge, IG Trophy  
sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com 020 7627 0977  
Flat 11, 31 Clapham Common Southside, SW4 9BW

**Stefanie Rohan** for Lederer Memorial Trophy, Teltscher Cups  
stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk 07891 747273



## General Competition Information & Regulations

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

**Membership** requirements for each competition are specified in the competition description. 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](mailto: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. The decision of the LMBA Executive Committee in any dispute is binding and final.

# Percentages

*by Mike Graham*

*In this article Mike tackles one of those topics that every good declarer should understand, in his usual clear, step-by-step style.*

As South, first in hand at unfavourable vulnerability, we pick up as dealer:

♠4 ♥AKQJ1062 ♦5 ♣KJ63.

Some players like to open a Strong Two on these types of hands, but that is not part of our methods. We open 1♥. West overcalls 1♠, and our partner doubles. This is essentially a take-out double, showing a few high cards here and there and a desire to compete the hand. East raises pre-emptively to 3♠.

Partner is quite likely to have a few clubs (in fact it looks like he has clubs and diamonds), and it is possible that we have a slam if partner has the right cards. However, it will be difficult to diagnose that. Our heart suit is moderately decent, so we simply bid 4♥. West competes with 4♠, not entirely unexpected given the vulnerability, and partner doubles. As we play it, this is not a pure penalty double – it simply expresses a modicum of doubt as to the best action at this point. East passes, and we have to decide whether to pass the double or go to 5♥.

Well, we could pass, but our hand is so lop-sided that it is likely to be better to try to declare this hand. Another consideration is that if partner has, say, five clubs to the ace-queen and the jack of diamonds (just about enough for the first double) then the opposition may have a massive fit in spades and diamonds and 4♠ could be cold. We go to 5♥. It is quite possible that we shall have to decide what to do over 5♠, but everybody follows the adage that the

five-level belongs to the opponents and we are left to declare 5♥.

West leads the ace of spades.

♠ J63  
♥ 95  
♦ A1084  
♣ A952

♠ 4  
♥ AKQJ1062  
♦ 5  
♣ KJ63

Partner has put down an excellent dummy – two aces and some help in clubs. In fact, if we can pick up the clubs without loss, we will have missed a slam.

West continues with the king of spades, which we ruff. The enemy trumps prove to be 2-2. So, it all comes down to the club suit. How shall we play it?

There are a number of factors to consider here. Firstly, is it pairs or teams? Let us consider teams first.

At teams, our priority is to make our contract, which is Five Hearts. We need eleven tricks; we have seven hearts and the ace of diamonds, which is eight, so we need three tricks from the club suit. Can we guarantee three club tricks?

On any 3-2 break, we will be all right. What about a 4-1 break? If West holds ♣Q10xx we are in danger of losing two club tricks. If East has that holding we can simply finesse the jack.



However, we do not have to worry about a 4-1 break, as there is a guaranteed safety play available. First, we cash the king. If the clubs are 5-0 then this will show up, but it will not affect our play. Then we lead the three towards dummy.

If West shows out on this trick, it means that East started with ♣ Q10xx. No problem – we take the ace of clubs in dummy and lead a low club towards our jack. We lose to the queen of clubs but have our three club tricks and the contract.

However, if West follows with a low club, we take the safety play and insert dummy's nine. If East wins the trick the remaining club honour will fall under the ace. If West started with four clubs, though, then the nine will win the trick, as East will be showing out.

This is the club distribution that we need to guard against:

A952	4
Q1087	4
KJ63	

At teams, this would be the best play, as it guarantees the contract against any distribution of the club suit. However, it is not so clear-cut at pairs.

At pairs our goal is not to make our contract, although that usually helps. It is simply to obtain a better score than all the other pairs sitting our way.



Although it is possible on this hand that some pairs will be defending a high-level doubled spade contract, there is not much we can do about that. As a practical matter, let us assume that most other South players end up as

declarer, in either Five Hearts or Six Hearts.

How will the play in Six Hearts go? After ruffing the second spade and drawing trumps, the declarers in Six Hearts will need four club tricks, not three. This is mildly against the odds, but to make four club tricks the best chance is simply to play for a 3-2 break with the queen onside. If successful, this will yield twelve tricks. However, if the clubs break as in the diagram above (the position the safety play guards against), Six Hearts will be going down.

What about Five Hearts? In such a case the safety play will work, but the contract will go one down if clubs are played for four tricks in the same fashion as those declarers in Six.

If most declarers are playing the club suit for the maximum number of tricks, then playing the safety play (even in Five Hearts) is going against the field. However, consider the situation if the clubs are playing for four tricks – East holds either Qxx, Qx, or Q singleton (South can cross to dummy with the ace of diamonds and play a low club - if East plays the queen, South can win, cash the jack (to cater for East playing the queen from Q10 doubleton) and then finesse the nine). What will happen in this case?

This is quite easy – the declarers will end up with twelve tricks, for either +680 or +1430. If we make the safety play we end up +650. This will be the roundest of zeroes.

The other case is that the clubs are breaking badly (as in the diagram position above). By playing the safety play, we end up +650. The other declarers will be either -200 (in Six) or -

100 (in Five). Our safety play has earned us a top. Because of this, players sometimes take these anti-field plays, on the basis that they will get an excellent score if they work. However, this is not entirely logical.

The point is that the declarers in Six Hearts will be either making it or not, depending on the club position. If it is favourable, they will score 1430. What can we do about that? Absolutely nothing. Those declarers in Five Hearts, making the same play, will be +680. What can we do about that? Absolutely nothing, either; however the one thing we do not want to do is to make one less trick than the other declarers in Five Hearts – that would give us +650 and a zero. We cannot afford to fall behind the declarers in Five, and we can do nothing about those in Six. If eleven tricks are the limit, which is what we must hope for, we will tie all those declarers in Five – but will beat all those in Six, who will be going minus.

At the table, in a pairs, the full hand was:

	♠ J63	
	♥ 95	
	♦ A1084	
	♣ A952	
♠ AK1082		♠ Q975
♥ 83		♥ 74
♦ Q976		♦ KJ32
♣ Q4		♣ 1087
	♠ 4	
	♥ AKQJ1062	
	♦ 5	
	♣ KJ63	

Those declarers in Six Hearts went down (there was one genius/idiot who made it) and those in Five made exactly.



It is peculiar that playing pairs you should make eleven tricks but playing teams you should make twelve.

♠♥♦♣

A few rounds later, as South, first in hand at favourable vulnerability, we pick up as dealer:

♠4 ♥AKQJ1062 ♦5 ♣ KJ63.

We check the board numbers – yes, different boards. Again, we open 1♥. West overcalls 1♠, and partner cue-bids 2♠. This shows a reasonable raise to 3♥ with high-card values rather than distribution. East plays the Stop card and jumps to 4♠.

Partner's 3♥ bid should produce four trumps, so we have at least eleven hearts between us. Our distribution is unusual, and our offensive prospects will depend on what cards partner has in clubs. Although it could be right to pass 4♠, that seems an extreme decision. A bid of 5♣ would overstate our values, so we simply compete to 5♥. Both opponents give this a little thought (once West has done so, it is incumbent on East not to make any bid that may be thought to have been influenced by West's pause), but finally pass.

West leads the ace of spades and we see:

♠ Q6
♥ 9753
♦ A108
♣ A952
♠ 4
♥ AKQJ1062
♦ 5
♣ KJ63

West continues with the king of spades at trick two and we ruff with the ten, to

keep possible trump entries in dummy. Both opponents follow to the ace of hearts.

So, it all comes down to the club suit. Or does it?

At first sight, it is a similar problem to the one we had earlier, with the same pairs/teams considerations. Also, we have the same option of the safety play in clubs.

However, a second look reveals that we have a guaranteed play for 5♥. We cross to the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond with the heart jack. Then we cross over to dummy with a trump, and ruff the last diamond. This eliminates the diamond suit; the position is:

♠ –  
♥ 75  
♦ –  
♣ A952

♠ –  
♥ K2  
♦ –  
♣ KJ63

We cross over to dummy with the ace of clubs and lead a low club towards our hand. If East plays low, we can finesse the jack - if this finesse loses, the remainder of the clubs will be good. If East shows out, we play a low card from our hand. West has to win the trick but is endplayed – he must either lead into our king-jack of clubs or concede a ruff-and-discard. Those extra trumps in dummy have made a big difference.

♠♥♦♣

Playing pairs, we deal as West at Love All and pick up:

♠KQ1097 ♥ 5 ♦ A54 ♣ KJ86.

We open a normal 1♠. LHO passes and partner responds 1NT. We would like to rebid 2♣ now, but RHO comes in with 2♥. What action shall we take?

We could rebid 2♠ - the suit is fairly robust, after all. However, the 1NT response is a bit of a warning – partner does not have to have much in spades, and may hold a singleton (or even a void, although that may be pessimistic). Anything partner has in hearts will be led through, and our trumps will be shortened straight away. So 2♠, although tempting, is risky.

What about clubs? If we are to bid them, it will be at the three-level. Our hand is not that good that we can risk bidding at the three-level without any guarantee of a fit. So 3♣ is risky too.

There is no other suit we can bid, unfortunately; that rather points to a pass as being the best option. If by some chance partner has bid 1NT with three spades he may compete with 2♠, but otherwise we may be better off defending. Furthermore, there is a chance that partner is long in hearts; if so, he will not be enamoured of any suit bid by us at this point.

[As an aside, it is playable here to use double as a take-out bid, and this hand is an ideal example. However, one of the more rewarding aspects of bridge is being able to punish the opponents when they step out of line, and being able to double 2♥ after 1♠-1NT has a certain appeal when you hold, for example, ♠ KQ1097 ♥ AJ965 ♦ A3 ♣ 6. If double is take-out, you have to pass in tempo and hope that partner protects with a double.]

Reluctantly, we pass. LHO raises to 3♥. It looks like partner is quite weak. Everybody passes and we have to

lead. Well, we have a good spade suit, so we lead the king, and see dummy:

♠ A865  
♥ A86  
♦ KJ7  
♣ 1093

Some players might have bid 4♥ with this North hand. It looks like North has played with South before.

Declarer wins the ace in dummy as partner follows with the jack. This is good news – partner cannot have Jxx, so we have at least one more spade to cash. Declarer follows with a heart to his king, cashes the queen, crosses to the ace (partner plays the 2, the 3 and the 7) and plays the seven of diamonds to his queen as partner plays the two.

What is the heart position? Can partner have a heart trick? If so, his holding was originally J732. That leaves declarer with KQ1094. However, with that holding, he would start with the king and then play low to dummy's ace, so that he will retain a finesse position against North's J732. He hasn't done this, therefore he is not worried about it. It looks like he started with KQJ1094 of hearts.

It is unlikely that this queen of diamonds is a singleton, but we might as well win with the ace. We know a spade will cash, so we play the queen; partner follows with the two. Declarer will be ruffing the next spade. In fact, if we play one, he will have nine tricks – a spade, six hearts, and two diamonds. Is there anything we can do?

We have a spade and a diamond in the bag. If we go passive declarer will make nine tricks. Therefore we must attack, and the only suit left is clubs.

We must underlead the KJ, hoping partner has the ace.

Come to think of it, he should have the club ace. He has the jack of spades, nothing in hearts, and nothing in diamonds. If declarer has the ace of clubs he has ten tricks – the underbidders! In that case, partner has responded 1NT on the jack of spades and queen of clubs – quite a popular manoeuvre these days.

However, to get three clubs tricks, we are going to need Qxx in declarer's hand. That means a 2623 shape. In that case, declarer should have played on diamonds before drawing trumps, leaving us in doubt about what partner has. However, even though it means playing for a misplay by declarer, there is nothing else left to try.

Partner wins the ace of clubs and returns the four, and we take three club tricks to defeat the contract. The full hand:

♠ A865	
♥ A86	
♦ KJ7	
♣ 1093	
♠ KQ1097	♠ J2
♥ 5	♥ 732
♦ A54	♦ 109632
♣ KJ86	♣ A42
♠ 43	
♥ KQJ1094	
♦ Q8	
♣ Q75	

Not the best line of play by declarer, perhaps, but that is not our problem. The key was in counting the available tricks and realising that the club underlead was quite safe.





# Congratulations ....

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



Congratulations to **Andrew Robson**, **David Gold** and **Tom Townsend**, who were selected to represent England in this year's Camrose matches, and who went on to help England win the trophy. They went on to be members of the winning Camrose team – *Tom is pictured, right, with the other members of the team and the trophy, at the end of the second weekend*



**Andrew Robson** and **David Gold** were also selected to represent England in the European Championships held in Dublin in June, and the World Mind Sports Games in Lille in August. Sadly, Andrew had to withdraw from the former for family reasons, but he and his partner, Alexander Allfrey, were replaced by reserves **Tom Townsend** and **David Bakhshi**, and the team went on to achieve a highly creditable fourth place in Dublin.



International honours also go to **John Matheson**, *pictured left with his wife and team coach*, who won a Bronze medal in the European Seniors Championship playing for Scotland; **Gunnar Hallberg** who won the Seniors Trials Challenge match to earn a place in the English European Seniors team; **Chris Duckworth** who played in the English Lady Milne team; and **Toby Nonnenmacher** & **Michael Alishaw** who were selected to play in the England U20 team in the World Championships in China.

At the Ranked Masters, **David Bakhshi** was second in the Premier Grand Masters and **Paul Chapman** & **Simon Pollack** were third in the National Masters. **Paul** & **Simon** also won the Bedford Swiss Teams along with **Graham Pollack**. In Harrogate **Mike Fletcher** was second in the Swiss Pairs and **Rob Cliffe** was second in the Teams.

Further afield, **Chris Duckworth** & **Brian Callaghan** won the Mixed Teams at the Gold Coast Congress in Australia. At the Marbella Overseas Congress **Tim Chanter** & **Helen Wildsmith** won the Open Pairs. In the Jersey Swiss Pairs **Alan** & **Olivia Woo** were first with **Mike Fletcher** second.

**Ryan Stephenson** & **Liz Clery** were fourth nationally in the Portland Pairs.



**Alex Hydes** has had a great string of victories this year. In February, at the Harrogate Spring Congress, he won both the Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams, the latter with **Alan & Olivia Woo** (*pictured right*). He went on to win the Life Masters Pairs in early March with Edward Levy, the London Swiss Pairs the following weekend with David Levy, and then the Easter Championship Pairs in April with Jason Hackett.. Most recently, he won the Kent One-Day Swiss Teams!



There were other good London results at the Easter Festival. In the Championship Pairs **Mark Teltscher & Tom Townsend** were second, with **Phil King** third and **Anita Sinclair** fourth; in the Swiss Pairs **Rob Cliffe & Millie Jones** were second and **Helen Erichsen** was third; and in the Under-19 Pairs **Michael Alishaw & Sam Behrens** were third.



At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress in Bournemouth, **David Gold** won the Pairs A final - *pictured, left, with his partner Catherine Seale*. **Rob Cliffe** and **Millie Jones** were third in the A final, **Nick Boss** and **Richard Johnson** were third in the B final.

**Simon Pollack** won the Swiss Pairs (*pictured right with partner Malcolm Pollack*), with **Roland Gronau** and **David Wing** third.



In the Swiss Teams **Helen Erichsen, Fiona Hutchison, Guy Hart** and **Heather Bakhshi** (*pictured left*) were first equal.

At the Schapiro Spring Foursomes **David Gold** and **Andrew Robson** were runners up and **Tom Townsend, Bernard Teltscher, John Matheson** and **Willie Coyle** were losing semi-finalists.

In the Crockfords Cup final, **David Gold** (pictured with other team members and the trophy, right) and **Andrew Robson** were members of the winning team, while **Nick Irens'** team including himself, **Tom Townsend, David Bakhshi** and **Espen Erichsen** were very close runners-up.



The YCBC team including **Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan** and **Rob Cliffe** won the Garden Cities Regional semi-final. A different club line-up, including **Rob Cliffe** and **Gordon Rainsford** came a close second in the final.

In various County One-Day Swiss Teams, **Marc Smith** won in Hampshire and **Tim Chanter, Helen Wildsmith, Mandie Campbell** and **Benjy Hackenbroch** were third in Kent.. In Bedfordshire **David Ould** was second and **Graham Pollack** and **Paul Chapman** were third. In the Berks & Bucks One-Day Swiss Pairs, **Geoffrey Lederman** was third equal.

At the Torquay Riviera Congress, **Toby Nonnenmacher** and **Michael Alishaw** were second in the Swiss Teams.

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## Puzzle Solution (see page 7)

*The phrases are as follows. How well did you do?*

12 Tricks in a Small Slam

8 Players in a Team in the Home Counties League

9 of Diamonds, the Curse of Scotland

1500 Green Points to be a Premier Grand Master

2220 Points for a Vulnerable Grand Slam in No Trumps

1 for His Nob at Cribbage

12 Court Cards in a Pack

500 is 2 Down Doubled & Vulnerable



Have you read the latest best-selling bridge book – Fifty Shades of Play?  
It is all about how to dominate the action at the table. I'm told its unmissable!

# The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

I don't often play at the Young Chelsea on a Friday night. I'm normally too tired after a week at the coalface. A few weeks ago, however, it was the only date upon which a match could be arranged. So, along I trotted along with team-mates Gillian Fawcett, your editor, and Brian Callaghan (these columns, *passim*). I was standing at the bar during the break, when Martin Nygren, who was playing in the duplicate, stepped up and said hello. He asked how it was going. I said it seemed to be going okay. "Why then", he continued, "are you looking so miserable? At least you're not playing with Binkie." It was a Hubert Phillips match.



Binkie had strolled into view a week or so earlier, as well. He had written the commentary for the hand records for the final of the London Trophy. As chairman of London (have I mentioned that before? Once or twice?) I was due to turn up to do the Queen of the May thing with the prizes, but table monitors were in short supply so I volunteered to do that, as well. The table that I monitored played host throughout to two charming ladies from the Mayfield bridge club, who didn't know me from Adam (I know, I know, hard to believe, but...). After the prize-giving one of them came up to me and said "I had no idea you were so important. Had I known I'd have been far less rude to you."

I'll leave the finer points of the London Trophy to Mike Hill in his report elsewhere in this journal, but although I had no axe to grind there was one hand where I was sitting behind a player who was about to make the play of a lifetime. Not only would this have been a nice hand for Mike to write up, but at the table it would have given the player renewed confidence, as he and his partner had suffered a couple of reversals up until that point. Consequently I was using all my telepathic powers to try to get him to do the right thing...

## Love All. Dealer East.

♠ AQ	
♥ J4	
♦ AQJ84	
♣ AJ102	
♠ 1063	♠ K42
♥ 82	♥ K9753
♦ K952	♦ 107
♣ 8654	♣ KQ7
♠ J9875	
♥ AQ106	
♦ 63	
♣ 93	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All pass			

This was a teams event, so 3NT was a good spot, and likely to roll home. The Heart 8 lead went to the 4, 3 and 10 and South fished out a Diamond, finessing the Jack. The Heart Jack was played from dummy, covered by the King and Ace, and another Diamond was played towards the Queen. Then the Ace of Diamonds was played, and



a fourth round of the suit, which West won. East had thrown a Spade and a Heart. East played a Spade, and the Ace was played. This was followed by the Queen, which East had to win. East was in a bit of trouble, now, but the King of Clubs would have ensured another trick for the defenders, if not possibly two. The choice of a Heart was fatal, even though her 9 and 7 were equals. South won in hand, and started to cash his Spades. East was well and truly in the mangle. In the end she chose to hang on to K Q of Clubs, protecting the wrong suit. South held the 9 of Clubs and the 6 of Hearts. Did he know the 6 of Hearts was a winner?

Well, he thought about it. Then he thought about it some more. Then he

tried to remember what had been discarded. He fondled the 6 of Hearts like a man in love, and I was right behind him, willing him to consummate his affair. But after dallying with his paramour, and leading her (and me) on, he plonked a Club on the table, took the Ace, and that was that. Had he cashed his heart winner he'd have successfully pulled off a squeeze. Well, I suppose he pulled it off anyway, but he failed to capitalise on it. But had he put that Heart winner on the table he'd have known what he'd done. I know, because I'd have told him! It didn't matter to the score, in the end, so doesn't really matter at all, but if he'd got it right, it would be Mike that was writing about it, not me.

Since the last edition of this newsletter, former London members Glyn Liggins and Joe Fawcett have won the Schapiro Spring Foursomes (playing with John Holland and Ben Green) in one of the most exciting finishes in living memory. Both are friends of mine – indeed, I've shared flats with each, many, many years ago. I recently wrote an article in which I had boasted of my countless victories around the country, pointing out with the usual leaden facetiousness that someone who had won (inter alia) the Falmouth Salver, the Milton Keynes Swiss Teams and the North Dulwich Mens' Pairs may not be the greatest bridge player in the world, but you couldn't fault his wanderlust. Anyway, soon afterwards I bumped into Glyn, who took me to task. "How", he wanted to know, "could I have forgotten the Dunstable Swiss Teams?" How indeed? It all came flooding back. I don't know why I played in it, but I think I may have been asked the day before when someone dropped out. I played with Glyn, and team-mates were Liza Shaw and Kitty Bethe, the latter two limbering up to play in the European Championships. I think, in fact, that the whole thing was a fund-raiser for that. Anyway, it was an enormously well-attended event, computer-scored (very much a novelty, indeed, it may even have been a first). I can't remember anything about the event other than that a) we won and b) Liggins played very well. But just for the record, yes, I won the Dunstable Swiss Teams, and I played with Glyn. I'm happy to put the record straight, especially as he has now added a second victory to his name. I train them well, obviously. Even if it does take some while for all the wisdom I've imparted to sink in...