

*London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association*



# MetroNews

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Autumn 2016



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# Words from the Editor

Another bumper issue of MetroNews means that once again there is no space for more than a word or two from me. Just as well, some of you may say!

As another bridge season starts this autumn, let me just wish you all happy bridging throughout 2016/17. I hope all your finesses work and all your brilliances at the table are duly noted and applauded by your partners!



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

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## Annual General Meeting

The 2016 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 8th September, at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA, starting at 7.00pm.

### Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies & apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
*(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 2015
- 7 Subscriptions (direct and Pay-to-Play) for 2017-2018
- 8 Elections to the Executive Committee
- 9 Appointment of honorary auditor
- 10 EBU shareholders' Report
- 11 Any other business

# LMBA results this season

## London Congress

The newly re-launched London Congress was held in July this year. The event mainly comprised the One-Day Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams moved from their former March date to avoid clashing with other counties. The date change proved a great success, with the entries on both days increasing significantly. The planned single-session 'Lite' events scheduled to run alongside the main competitions were less popular than had been hoped, however, and in the event they had to be abandoned. The few pairs who had hoped to enter the Lite events were accommodated within the Swiss games, however, so everyone was happy,

The venue was once again the Central Hall Westminster, the attractive playing area no doubt contributing to the increased entry. 84 pairs played on Saturday and the winners were Alistair Kent and Andrew 'Tosh' McIntosh from Guernsey and Middlesex respectively, who finished with 109 VPs out of a maximum possible 140. In equal second place on 107 VPs were Simon Cope and Jason Hackett, and Gad Chadha and Meena Samani – a particularly good result for the less-experienced Meena. In fourth place on 100 VPs were Simon Gass and Alan Scott.

The entry to the Swiss Teams on Sunday was 33 teams. The lead in the event changed hands frequently during the day, but at the end the winners were the young team of Andrew Murphy, Tom Paske, Ed Jones and Graeme Robertson

who finished with 101 VPs. Second were the Swiss Pairs winners Alistair Kent and Andrew McIntosh, playing with Sarah O'Connor and Stefan Skorchev on 95 VPs. In third place were former winners Paul Hackett, Roger O'Shea, Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett on 93 whilst fourth were Nick Krempel, Sasha Cooper, Nathalie Shashou



*Swiss Teams winners (l to r) Andrew Murphy, Graeme Robertson, Tom Paske, Ed Jones.*

and Nick Sandqvist on 91 VPs. See the article on pages 26-28 for a few of the more interesting hands from the weekend.

## Ian Gardiner Trophy

This year's Ian Gardiner Trophy Qualifying heat was won by the team of Dean Swallow, Peter Rogers, Michal Dajwowski and Alexander Brett with 123.5 points (made up of a combination of IMPs and Point-a-Board), well ahead of the runners up – Mike Bull, John Bernard, Stefanie Rohan and Paul Lamford on 110.5 points.

However, both of these teams contained players without allegiance to London, so the play-off for the Ian Gardiner Trophy and the right to represent London in the Pachabo Cup, the national inter-County Teams-of-Four championship, was between the two teams finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, captained by John Pemberton and Chris Duckworth.

John Pemberton's team comprised himself, Stephen Popham, Tim Gauld and Paul Martin, all of whom won the trophy in 2011. Three of the Duckworth team were looking for a hat trick, Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan and Franklin To having won in both 2014 and 2015. The team was completed by Ian Payn, who was also a winner in 2014.

The final was a close-fought affair, but in the end the holders won through to retain the trophy for another year. This team were not able to make the Pachabo, however, so the Pemberton team had the consolation of representing London in the Pachabo, finishing around half way down the field.



## London Championship Pairs

This year 24 pairs competed for the London Pairs title. The winners, who led throughout and finished a full five percentage points ahead of the runners-up, were Nick Sandqvist and Shahzaad Natt (*right*).

In second place were Chris Duckworth and Brian Callaghan, closely followed by Kostas Kousis and Albert Totah, third, and Sarah O'Connor and Keiran Dyke, fourth.

Four pairs represented London in the Reg Corwen Trophy, the national inter-County Pairs championship. As several of the leading pairs did not have London allegiance or were unable to make it, these were: Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan, Lorne Anderson & Gordon Rainsford, Trevor Mathews & Dave Muller and Mahmoud Sadek & Andrew Bannock. Unfortunately none of them had a great weekend, but the best-placed were Trevor and Dave in 16<sup>th</sup> place out of 100 pairs.



# Lederer Memorial Trophy 2016

This year's Lederer was held over the last weekend in February, again at the RAC in Pall Mall. The event was won by the favourites, the England Open team of Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Bakhshi and David Gold (*pictured right, David Gold absent*).

The Allfrey team was always in contention and were the overnight leaders on Saturday night. They were briefly overtaken by the Chairman's Choice team on Sunday, but they re-took the lead after 7 of the 9 matches, and never looked like relinquishing it. In fact they won all nine of their matches – a fine achievement.



See the article on pages 20-23 to read more about this year's event.

The final results table with all the contestants:

<b>1</b>	<b>England Open</b>	<b>293</b>
	Alexander Allfrey, David Bakhshi, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Andrew Robson	
<b>2</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>254</b>
	Rory Boland, John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Tom Hanlon, Mark Moran	
<b>3</b>	<b>Chairman's Choice</b>	<b>249</b>
	David Burn, Michael Byrne, Heather Dhondy, Kieran Dyke, Gillian Fawcett, Joe Fawcett	
<b>4</b>	<b>Zia and Friends</b>	<b>233</b>
	Dennis Bilde, Simon Cope, Peter Crouch, Zia Mahmood, Anita Sinclair	
<b>5</b>	<b>Spring Fours</b>	<b>224</b>
	Jeffrey Allerton, Jon Cooke, Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne	
<b>6</b>	<b>De Botton</b>	<b>221</b>
	Thomas Charlsen, Janet de Botton, Geir Helgemo, Thor-Erik Hoftaniska, Nick Sandqvist, Tom Townsend	
<b>7</b>	<b>Gillis</b>	<b>215</b>
	Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen, Simon Gillis, Espen Lindqvist	



<b>8 London</b>	212
Andy Bowles, Rob Cliffe, John Howard, Barry Myers, Mike Scoltock, Frank To	
<b>9 England Seniors</b>	176
Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, David Mossop, David Price, Colin Simpson	
<b>10 President's Team</b>	171
Willie Coyle, Stelio di Bello, Phil King, Graham Orsmond, Victor Silverstone, Bernard Teltscher	

## Café Bridge Drive - Tonsleys

Café Bridge events continue to be very popular, attracting the biggest entry of all our competitions. This time there were 72 pairs playing in the cafés and restaurants of the Tonsleys area of Wandsworth. Once again we were lucky with the weather and the sun shone for most of the day.

The winners were Mike Skelly and Margaret Hamilton, who also won the previous Café Bridge event last September (*pictured right, with organiser Chris Duckworth in the background*).

Margaret is holding their prize, a voucher for a meal and drinks very kindly donated by The East Hill, a really excellent gastropub which is one of the venues for the competition.



The leading pairs were:

1	Mike Skelly & Margaret Hamilton	66.73%
2=	David Taylor & David Flute	64.11
	Ian Jewesbury & Bobbie Darbyshire	
4	Keith Clow & Rowena Clow	62.10
5	Ray Joosab & Leo Zeglovskis	61.36

The event was once again held in aid of Age Concern Wandsworth, and we raised a terrific £2000 for the charity.

## Garden Cities

There was a record entry of nine teams-of-eight from six London clubs this year in the London heat of the Garden Cities. The event was won convincingly by the YC Purple team comprising Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan, Will Roper, Niall Igoe, Margaret Nygren, Martin Nygren, Kath Stynes and Debbie Sandford.

In second place it was great to see one of the new participating clubs, BTON's, who were represented by Ken Barnett, John Bernard, Graham Horscroft, Mike Bull, Bill Linton, Andrew Clery, Robert Balchin and Maxine Etkin. Third were the Woodberry team of Paul Lamford, Stefanie Rohan, Frances Liew, Philip Town, Gill Hutchinson, Nigel Freake, David Schiff and Anne Catchpole.

The YC team represented London in the Regional Finals with a few changes of personnel – Will and Niall, Martin and Margaret were unable to make it and were replaced by Trevor Mathews and Dave Muller, Mark Davies and Richard Creamer, all of whom played in the YC Green team in the heat. This team won the Regional Final and so went on to represent the South East in the finals, this time with Margaret and Martin back in the team instead of Trevor and Dave. Unfortunately they weren't able to sustain their good form and they finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams.

## Fox Shammon Trophy

The Seniors Pairs for the Fox Shammon Trophy has traditionally been played at the Queen's Club, but this year it was necessary to move the event because the demise of bridge at Queen's has meant that they could no longer provide the necessary tables and equipment. The Young Chelsea BC provided more than adequate alternative accommodation, however, and the competition was held there in April.

It was not possible to announce the winners immediately at the end of play, as the final score showed two pairs lying equal first! They were Scottish internationals Gerald Haase and Victor Silverstone together with London stalwarts Brian Callaghan and Chris Duckworth, both pairs scoring 63.64%. The rule book was consulted and before too long, the tie was split and the trophy was presented to the Scots (*pictured above*). In third place on 56.06% were Sati McKenzie & Bill Linton.



## Palmer Bayer Trophy

The entry for this year's competition was nearly twice that of the previous year, with 26 competing pairs. The winners were once again Jason Crampton & Sam Oestreicher on 66.96%, retaining the trophy for another year.

Very close behind them with 66.22% were Matt Robins & Ben Thomas, who won the trophy in 2014. In third place were William Frisby & Yola Makatrewicz, whose final score was 62.13%.



## 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, the winners were HM Treasury, represented by Peter Donovan, Roy Westwater Peter Brook and Sir Alex Allan. The team is pictured, left, with Pat Brotherston, daughter of the event founder, Freddie Della Porta, who kindly presented the prizes. The trophy runners-up were the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club team of Karen Milliner, Christine Tomkin, Neil Tomkin and Pip Smitham.

In the Della Porta Plate, the consolation event, the winners were MCC, the team comprising Gary Diamond, Russell Tenzer, Harvey Laurance, Nigel Clayton, Pralab Barua & Geoff Lane (*pictured right*). The runners-up were Thakenham BC - Diana Caplin, Carolyn Phillips, Frances Fuller and Joan Kellett.



See Mike Hill's article on pages 28 - 33 for some of the more interesting hands that arose, and more pictures.

## London Trophy Pairs



This year there were just 20 pairs competing in this event, held at the RAC in Pall Mall and open to all participants in the London Trophy.

The runaway winners were Peter Brook and Roy Westwater (*left*) with an impressive 65.97%. In second place were Bill Linton and Tim Pelling on 60.42% and third was Sandie Grant, playing with event organiser Kath Stynes on 58.80%



## Leagues

London League Division 1 was won this year by the YC1 team captained by Fiona Hutchison, who scored 84 VPs. The runners up were Uday Hegde's Tartan team on 77 VPs.

In order to resolve Division 2 it was necessary to make some adjustments for unplayed matches, The clear winners were August Red, captained by Mark Davies with 82 VPs and in second place were Monday Club B, led by Kit Jackson, with 72.

The winners of Division 3 were UCL, captained by Keith Lai. They scored 112 VPs, well clear of Ross Cope's eponymous team Cope on 97 VPs.

The Home Counties League winners with 63 VPs are Surrey Orange, led by Tony Richards, with London Red, captained by League organiser Dominic Flint, runners-up on 55 VPs.

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## London News

### London wins Tollemache!

Well done to the London team who were victorious in the Tollemache Cup earlier this year. They won in fine style, almost a match clear of the runners-up.



London was represented in the final by (pictured, left to right) Frank To, Willie Coyle, Graham Ormond, Rob Cliffe, Kieran Dyke, Tom Townsend (with trophy), Mike Bell, Stelio Di Bello, Phillip King and Nick Sandqvist (not in picture). Brian Callaghan, Heather Dhondy and Ben Breen were also part of the team at the qualifying stage, but they were not available for the final.

### Club News

The Livesey Bridge Club has a new Secretary, Barbara Nicholas, who can be contacted at [bnicholas50@googlemail.com](mailto:bnicholas50@googlemail.com). The Livesey BC continues to run duplicates on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm at the Sydenham Community Library, but has recently started to hold additional afternoon sessions. These are on Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 1.00pm at Eden Park, See their website for more details: [www.bridgewebs.com/livesey/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/livesey/).

## London Gay Bridge Tournament 2016

This annual tournament is sponsored by the West London Gay Bridge Club, Prestat Chocolates and the Victoria Pub, Paddington. This year it will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September at St. Gabriel's Church Hall, Glasgow Terrace, Churchill Gardens, Pimlico, SW1V 3AA. There will be a Pairs competition starting at 11.00am and a Teams competition at 3.00pm. This is an EBU-licensed event with prizes for the leading pairs and teams. Do note that entry is not restricted to gay players – all are welcome.

The entry fee is £12 for one event, or £16 for both, inclusive of a light lunch. All enquiries and entries should be made to David King at davidking1712@gmail.com or on 07967 655515.

### New members

The LMBA is very pleased to welcome the following new members, who have either joined the EBU through the London County for the first time this year, or have transferred their allegiance to London this year.

Jo Alberry	Yvonne Blume	Gillian Dandy	Tim Gauld	Julian Hutson
Mark Alcock	Tim Borton	Suheila Dangoor	Cecilia Gough	Niall Igoe
Mick Allchin	Alexander Brett	Chris Davies	Gigi Griffith	Lizzie Iron
Lorne Anderson	Thomas Brooks	Jane Dawson	Lola Griffith	Peter Jenkin
Mae Ansett	Jonathan	Jonathon	Poppy Griffith	Howard Jennings
Liz Antrobus	Broughton	Dearden-Jones	Sonia Griffiths	Fahreen Jivraj
L Ayoub	Alistair Brown	Hugh Dehn	Roy Griggs	Shamus Jivraj
Julie Bacon	Beverley Burne	Mark Dessain	Missy Grose	Stephen Jones
Patricia Baden	Tim Buxton	Sophie Devron	Jean Grunfeld	Misao Kawamoto
Jayne Barber	Frank Callaghan	Martin Duignan	Vivienne	Malcolm Kemp
Jeremy Bard	Pauline Callow	Anne Dyson	Guenancia	Ivan Kerno
Nick Bard	Casey Campbell	A Dyson	Quentin Gueroult	Tania Kerno
Annabel Barnett	Peter Cardiff	Paul Ehrenkauffer	Jennifer Gwynn	Janice Kerr
Annie Barr-Smith	Barbara Carse	Ali El-Agraa	Pascale Habim	Tina Khandpur
Iris Bartle	Anne Cattermull	Pearse Elder	Jane Hadfield	Tim Kiteley
Marusa Basa	Susannah	Stephen Ellison	Maherud Hassan	Nadia Koch
Chris Bates	Cearns	Ulrich Engler	Andrew Hayler	Kamal Kochiry
Mike Bell	Gad Chadha	Kym Erlich	Ruth Henig	Kostas Kousis
John Bernard	Penny Clasper	Nigel Evans	Peter Herrmann	Harsh Kumar
Marilyn Bernstein	Penny Cockram	Richard Evans	Nick Heymann	Kiran Kumar
Peter Bild	Lois Colling	Janis Fawcett	Theo Heymann	David Lamb
Anthony John	Peter Collins	Peter Feilding	Tim Higginson	Toby Lambert
Bingham	Rose Ann	James-Kevin	Fenja Hill	Martin Langdon
Lesley Philippa	Connolly	Flanagan	Derek Hodd	T Lebon
Bingham	Susan Critchlow	Lucy Flannery	S Hood	Thomasina Lee
Laura Jane	John Currier	Harry Fraser	David Horlock	Peter Leighton
Birnhak	Michal	Katarzyna Frycz	David Hudd	Qian Li
Joshua Birns	Dajwowski	Ian Galbraith	Elizabeth Hurry	Jiawei Lim
Tim Blackstone	Julie Daly	Lily Gao	Heather	Jingran Lin
John Bligh	Alex Daly	Simon Gass	Hutchison	Jill Lincoln

Celia Locks	Juliet Melford	Isobel Pollock-	Zhivko Siderov	Eva Turnbull
Michael Lodge	Jo Merry	Hulf	Geoffrey	Richard Turnbull
Michael James	Theo Michail	Marylyn Poynter	Simmonds	Pam Turner
Loftus	Peter Milligan	Alister Prince	Michael Smartt	Corrina Walker
Margaret	Juliet Milliken	Lucy Purdy	Sheila Spensley	Paul Wallace
Macneill	Alexandra	Lynda Purser	John Sprinks	Jeremy Wang
Jenny Maimane	Morgan	Rowland Reeves	Lorelie Staines	Geoff Warren
Paul Mainwaring	Bob Muir	Stephen Regulski	Dominique	Margaret Wastell
Dessy Malakova	Catherine Mukerji	Ziyu Ren	Stapylton-Smith	Robin Webb
Marcello Manca	Keiron Myatt	Jennifer Ritchie-	Stefan Stefan	David Weinberg
Adriano	A Naish	Campbell	David Stern	Mark Wellby
Mancinelli	Gerry Neilan	Bruce Robertson	Peter Stoney	Claus Werner
Cristiano	David Newell	Yvonne Rogers	Sanae Takada	Stephen Whale
Marchettini	Maria Newman	Mark Rogers	Michael Talalay	Jo Wharton
Giacomo Mariotti	Nick Norton	James Routledge	Peter Taylor	Iwona Whitaker
Paul Martin	Margaret Nygren	Julia Routledge	Bernard	Joanna Wildy
Sami Masri	Jane Ockenden	Agata Rumianek	Teltscher	Hermione
Edward Massey	Sarah O'Connor	Beata Ruminski	Pantelis	Winters
Phillipe Mathon	Pauline Orpin	Tricia Russell	Theodosiou	June Wismayer
Stephen	Gloriana Page	Michael	Robert J Thomas	Ingrid Wolf
Matthews	Melanie Panzone	Sandwick	Albert Totah	Roger Wolf
Bruce McCoy	Francois Picard	Iain Saville	Teodor Totev	Xiaodong Xu
Allan McKelvie	David Picken	Anne Sayeed	Elizabeth	Yumi Yamane
Debbie McMullen	Nicholas	Jonathan Sayeed	Touquet	Averil Zaniboni
John McQueen	Plummer	Leena Shah	Robin Touquet	Marek Zegar
Patrick Mears		Eileen Shute	Nobuko Tsubai	

## Puzzle Corner

For each of the word pairs listed, find a four-letter word with a bridge connection that can be placed after the first word and before the second to make two new words or phrases.



Put your answers in the grid and re-arrange the shaded letters to reveal another bridge term.

Eider .....	Cast				
Middle .....	Enders				
Right .....	Shake				
Double .....	Out				
Black .....	Pot				
End .....	Keeper				
Khyber .....	Port				
Pull .....	Outsider				
Key .....	Holder				
Major .....	Case				
Pit .....	Card				

The solution is on page 37.

## Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the competition description. See page 19 for details of how to make entry payments.

### London League & Newcomers League

Entries close **1<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

<b>Holders:</b>	Division 1	YC 1	Capt: <i>Fiona Hutchison</i>
	Division 2	<i>August Red</i>	Capt: <i>Mark Davies</i>
	Division 3	<i>UCL</i>	Capt: <i>Keith Lai</i>
	Newcomers <i>Not held this year</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 for promotion to the London League, but may choose to continue 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:** £25.00 per team in the London League, £20 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 **30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Holders: London Trophy:** *HM Treasury – Roy Westwater, Peter Brook, Peter Donovan, Sir Alex Allan*

**Della-Porta Plate:** *MCC – Russell Tenzer, Gary Diamond, Harvey Laurance, Nigel Clayton, Pralab Barua, Geoff Lane*

The London Trophy is a knock-out teams of four competition for club teams, which is open 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 2017. All participants are also eligible to play in the London Trophy Pairs, held in Spring 2017.

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](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.

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](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:** £25 per team.

Entries should be should be made to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com), quoting **London Trophy** in the subject line. Enquiries may also be made to Kath Stynes on 07747 197940.

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

## Home Counties League

Entries close **1<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

**Holders:** *Surrey Orange – Capt: Tony Richards*

This is an inter-county teams-of-eight competition for London and the Home Counties. It is aimed at county second team players who would not normally be expected to represent their counties in



*Holders – HM Treasury*



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](mailto:Dominic.Flint@clara.co.uk) or on 07763 845457 for more details.

**Entry fee:** £20 per team.

## Café Bridge Drive – Brook Green

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016** starting at **10.30**  
for **11.00** am



**Holders:** *Mike Skelly & Margaret Hamilton*

This year will be the fifth late-summer Café Bridge event but the first in a new part of London. This time the event will be run in the Brook Green area of Hammersmith. The tournament will be played in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in the area, each round of the competition being played in a different venue. The charity to be supported this time is Cancer Research UK.



Players should report to The Jameson, 43 Blythe Road, W14 0HR to register on the morning of play. The nearest station is Olympia, on both the Underground and Overground networks. Numerous buses also serve the area going along either the Shepherd's Bush Road or the Hammersmith Road.

All are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.

**Entry Fee:** £25.00 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 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016, to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com), quoting **Café Bridge Brook Green** 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](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net).

## Mixed Pairs Championship

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016** starting at **2.00pm**

**Venue:** Young Chelsea BC, 54 Goldhawk Road, W12 8HA

**Holders:** *Gill Hutchinson & Doug Dunn*



The Mixed Pairs Championship is played as a single extended session, match-pointed, mixed pairs event, to be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

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

Please note the new start time.

**Entry fee:** £26.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com), quoting **Mixed Pairs** in the subject line.

Queries may be directed to the organiser, **David Muller** on 07847 618105.

## Men's & Women's IMP Pairs

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016** starting at **2.00pm**

**Venue:** Young Chelsea BC, 54 Goldhawk Road W12 8HA

**Holders:** **Men:** *Paul Lamford & Nigel Freake*

**Women:** *Stefanie Rohan & Anne Catchpole*





This will be the third run of the Men's and Women's IMP Pairs. Each event will comprise a single extended session, played at the same time in the same venue as each other, using the same hands. Please note the new starting time

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.

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

**Entry fee:** £26.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:michaelrd.hill@btinternet.com)

## Palmer Bayer Trophy

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017** starting at **2.00pm**

**Venue:** Young Chelsea BC

**HOLDERS:** *Jason Crampton & Sam Oestreicher*

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. Please note the new start time.



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](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:** £20.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net).



## Ian Gardiner Trophy

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017** starting at **11.30am**

**Venue:** Young Chelsea BC

**Holders:** *Brian Callaghan, Chris Duckworth, 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 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at a venue in the Midlands. 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:** £72.00 per team.

Entries should be sent to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com), quoting **Ian Gardiner** in the subject line, to arrive no later than 29th January 2017.

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

## Lederer Memorial Trophy

**Saturday-Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Holders:** *England Open – Alexander Alfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Gold, David Bakhshi*

This prestigious invitational teams event will again be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. 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.



# Advance notice

## London Championship Pairs

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 11.30 am.

Two session pairs at the Young Chelsea BC. This event is the qualifier for the national Reg Corwen Trophy and the leading 4 pairs with London allegiance will qualify to play. The Corwen will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at a venue in the Midlands.

## Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Inter-club teams of eight at the Young Chelsea BC



## London Trophy Pairs

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.00pm

Pairs event at RAC Pall Mall especially for participants in the London Trophy and Della Porta Plate.

## Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 2.00pm

Seniors Pairs Championship at the Yong Chelsea BC

## Café Bridge Wandsworth

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Café bridge in the Tonsleys area of Wandsworth



## London Trophy Final

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm

Finals at RAC Pall Mall, open to spectators

## London Congress

Saturday-Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Central Hall Westminster

The congress will comprise Swiss Pairs on Saturday and Swiss Teams on Sunday, plus parallel events for less-experienced players.



More details of all these events will be in the Spring issue of MetroNews.

## 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, 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

**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.

Regulations for matches played privately can be found on our website [www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://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.

# 2016 Lederer Memorial

by Ian Payn

In February once again ten teams of top players descended upon the RAC in Pall Mall to compete for the 2016 Lederer Memorial Trophy.

The teams, in no particular order, were England Open, England Seniors, teams led by Zia, Simon Gillis, Janet de Botton and Bernard Teltscher, Ireland, London (a combination of the teams that won the London Teams of Four and the Young Chelsea Knock-Out), the Winners of the Spring Foursomes and a team selected by the Chairman of London.

The event was covered on BBO, with a blog and a Twitter feed offering regular updates. On-site there was a Vu-Graph room inhabited variously by Jeremy Dhondy (EBU Chairman), Ian Payn (London Chairman) and Peter Clinch (Clinch) the latter making his live debut after some years as a prolific BBO commentator. The floor was run by Martin Nygren, the scoring by Iceland's Vigfús Pálsson. David Muller co-ordinated the BBO coverage, Colin Freeman was once again Our Man at the RAC. The event was organised impeccably by Kath Stynes.



Not everyone found playing as excruciating as Spring 4's Jeffrey Allerton, but we're sure he got there in the end...



...Meanwhile Andrew Robson seems ready to pounce.





Glum, thy name is Forrester.

Still, at least someone seems to be enjoying himself...



There were a few surprises in the line-up: Geir Helgemo and Thomas Charlsen made guest appearances for team de Botton; David Burn made a welcome return to the event to partner Heather Dhondy in the Chairman's team.

The winners of the 2015 event, England Open, were always there or thereabouts, and always, as usual, looked like a threat.

The format of the event – imps combined with Point-a-Board, leads to some interesting decisions.

England's David Bakhshi found himself in a good 6NT and wondered whether he should be trying to make an over-trick...

**Game All. Dealer South.**

♠ 8	
♥ AKQ73	
♦ J10862	
♣ 64	
♠ Q109654	♠ 732
♥ J109	♥ 85
♦ 9	♦ 7543
♣ 982	♣ KJ105
♠ AKJ	
♥ 642	
♦ AKQ	
♣ AQ73	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Forrester</i>		<i>Bakhshi</i>
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

The auction was pretty refreshingly natural. Two Hearts over Two Clubs was positive, Three Diamonds over Two no Trumps a second suit. Three Hearts simply showed three-card Heart support and Four Diamonds confirmed Forrester's shape as 5-5. A Spade cue-bid from Bakhshi put Forrester in the driving seat.

After a bit of RKCB, 5NT was a grand slam try but Bakhshi thought he'd done his bit and signed off in 6NT, eschewing both Six Diamonds and Six Hearts for the higher-scoring contract.

Now came the clever part. Take your twelve tricks or play for an over-trick? West lead ♥J, which Bakhshi won in dummy. He cashed A-K-Q of Diamonds and launched a second Heart towards dummy. When the 10 appeared he paused for thought.

Could the lead have been from J 10 9 8? Eminently possible, so if he overtook he would have no entry to his his fourth Heart trick and have to decide whether to take a Club or Spade finesse for the twelfth trick. Deciding not to risk going down for the sake of an over-trick, he ducked the ♥10. An eminently reasonable play, because if his opponents bid and made 7NT the board was lost anyway, so why risk going down in six?

He entered his +1440 to general approval for his careful play. Upon hearing that his counterpart South at the other table had blithely banged out his thirteen tricks to score +1470 it would have taken a heart of stone not to burst into *schadenfreude*-induced giggling.

♠♥♦♣



*Geir Helgemo, Boye Brogeland, Thor-Erik Hoftanisd Espen Lindqvist battle it out in the RAC's magnificent Mountbatten Room.*

Here's Helgemo in action.

**EW Vul. Dealer South.**

♠ J42  
♥ A42  
♦ –  
♣ KQ109643

♠ 873	♠ K1095
♥ 75	♥ KQJ84
♦ KJ98765	♦ A43
♣ 8	♣ J

♠ AQ6  
♥ 1096  
♦ Q102  
♣ A752

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hoftaniska</i>		<i>Helgemo</i>
			1♣
2♦	4♦	Pass	5♣

All Pass

North brushed away West's intervention and Helgemo bid a simple Five Clubs (his hand not having improved over the course of the auction).

A heart lead went to the Jack, and the ♥K return was won in dummy.

Helgemo played ♣K and overtook it with the Ace to ruff a Diamond in dummy. He then used ♣5 and ♣7 to provide two more entries to hand to ruff two more Diamonds. He then exited with his last heart and East was end-played – ruff and discard or lead away from ♠K; either way he was done for.

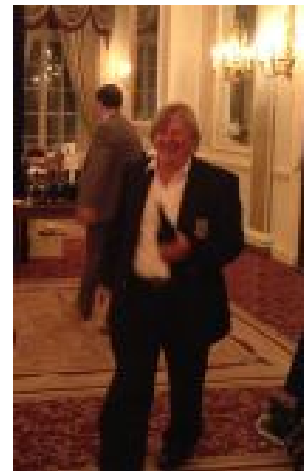
Well-played.

♠♥♦♣

## Special Awards

Zia Mahmoud and Andrew Robson were each presented with a bottle of champagne in honour of their support for the event over many years.

Rory Boland (Ireland) (*right*) received an award for topping the imps table. He appeared to achieve this by playing one set and retreating to the Vugraph room for the rest of the event, but a win's a win.



## Results

1: England (£1,000 cash): Tony Forrester, David Gold, David Bakhshi, Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey

2: Ireland: John Carroll, Rory Boland, Tommy Garvey, Tom Hanlon, Mark Moran

3: Chairman's Choice: David Burn, Heather Dhondy, Joe Fawcett, Gillian Fawcett, Michael Byrne, Kieran Dyke

**The LMBA wishes to thank Simon Gillis for his continued support for the event, and Colin Freeman and the RAC for their co-operation.**

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## BLEU

*by Mike Graham*

*Mike's article on card play this time turns from defence to declarer play, explaining the thought processes that contribute to successfully making your contract.*

Playing in a pairs event, you pick up

♠ A7654 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AQ85 ♣ 3.

You open 1♠, and partner responds 2♣. Although rebidding 2NT is a possibility, there seems to be no hurry to bid no-trump, and the diamonds are worthy of mention, so you rebid 2♦. Partner now bids 3♣. Well, you have no great fit for clubs, but you do have a decent heart stop, so you bid 3NT. This is passed out. West leads the five of hearts and partner puts down dummy. This is what you see (see next column):

Hoping for a cover, we play the jack from dummy but East follows with the eight. East would probably play the king if he had it, as West might have

the ace. This gives a strong indication that the king of hearts is offside

♠ 9  
♥ J104  
♦ K32  
♣ AQ10986

♠ A7654  
♥ AQ6  
♦ AQ85  
♣ 3

We have only seven top tricks, so we need to work on the club suit. There are six clubs missing, including the king and the jack. We would like to lead a club towards dummy at the earliest opportunity, so we overtake the winning jack of hearts with the queen. This doesn't cost anything, as we have

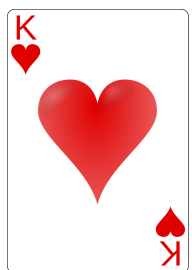
inferred that the king of hearts is with West. This means that we can play a small club towards dummy at trick two.

On this trick West plays the five. We are not going to play the ace, unless we have very good eyesight and can see a singleton honour in the East hand. So the choice is between the queen and the ten. At first sight, it looks to be a guess, but, as with most guesses, one guess is better than the other.

If the clubs break 3-3, it really is a guess. However, if they are 4-2, then playing the queen is slightly better. If KJxx are in one hand, you are always losing two club tricks, as you have no second club to repeat the finesse should the ten hold. If East has KJxx, it doesn't matter what you do. However, if East has Kx, you are still losing two club tricks, as West's Jxxx will come into its own. But if either defender has Jx, playing the queen wins by force.

The queen of clubs wins the trick. We follow with the ace, discarding a spade, as West plays the jack, and then a third round. East wins with the king as West discards the eight of spades, and returns the three of hearts. We discard a spade also.

This is a further strong indication that the hearts are 5-2, as the two of hearts is still missing. A count of tricks shows that we now have eleven on top – five clubs, two hearts, three diamonds and a spade. Indeed, if the diamonds are 3-



3 we can take the rest of the tricks, so there is no point in ducking this trick – by now, we are certain that West has the king of hearts. We go up with the ace of hearts, and West

follows with the two.

This bears out our initial assessment of the heart suit – West started with K9752 and East 83.

We don't yet know how the diamonds lie, but we are in a position to take a lot of tricks now. For reasons which will hopefully become clear later, we first cash the spade and diamond aces before crossing to the king of diamonds in order to run the clubs. We have to make three discards, and throw our small spades and the six of hearts, retaining ♦ Q85. The last three cards in dummy are ♥J and ♦32. West has discarded a diamond on the last club, so our diamonds are all good. We end up making twelve tricks.

Why did West throw a diamond? Let us look at the full hand.

<p>♠ 9 ♥ J104 ♦ K32 ♣ AQ10986</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ K9752 ♦ J1064 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ A7654 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AQ85 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ KJ1032 ♥ 83 ♦ 97 ♣ K742</p>
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Let us follow the play again from the start.

West led a heart and we won with the queen. A club to the queen, ace of clubs, and a third club. East plays a heart back; we win with the ace. This leaves the following position:



♠ Q	♠ 9	♠ KJ1032
♥ K97	♥ 10	♥ –
♦ J1064	♦ K32	♦ 97
♣ –	♣ 986	♣ 7
	♠ A76	
	♥ 6	
	♦ AQ85	
	♣ –	

Declarer played off the spade and diamond aces, then crossed to the king of diamonds in order to run the clubs. On the last club the three-card end position was:

♠ –	♠ –	♠ KJ10
♥ K	♥ 10	♥ –
♦ J10	♦ 3	♦ –
♣ –	♣ 6	♣ –
	♠ –	
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ –	

On the last club South discarded the ♥ 6 and poor West was squeezed.

Let us look at the way in which this squeeze operated. To do this, let us use terminology first published in 1959 in a book called "Bridge Squeezes Complete" by Clyde E. Love (Sterling Publishing Company, Inc; reprinted in 1968 by Dover Publishing , Inc.). In this book the term BLUE was introduced, but it reads slightly better in French, so let us use the acronym BLEU instead.

- B** One defender must be **B**usy in two suits.
- L** There must be one **L**oser remaining.
- E** There must be an **E**ntry.....
- U** .....to the **U**pper hand.

In the three-card ending, we can see that:

- (1) West is guarding both hearts and diamonds; she was **B**usy in these suits.
- (2) South had a **L**oser remaining (a diamond or a heart).
- (3) There was an **E**ntry (♦Q)....
- (4) ..... to the **U**pper hand (in this case, South).

Let us go back to the eight-card diagram on the previous page. It does not really matter about the ace of diamonds, but if declarer crosses to the diamond king without first cashing the ace of spades, the ending becomes a four-card ending rather than a three:

♠ Q	♠ 9	♠ KJ103
♥ K	♥ 10	♥ –
♦ J10	♦ 3	♦ –
♣ –	♣ 6	♣ –
	♠ A	
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ –	

In this ending West can discard the ♠Q on the last club, and South must concede a trick in the end.

This play of cashing winners preparatory to a possible squeeze ending is given the rather fancy name of Vienna Coup, reputedly because it was first observed in a whist game in Vienna by the greatest whist player of the time....alas, unknown. The basic effect is to reduce the number of “spare” cards held by a player in the endgame. This theme will hopefully be explored further in another article.

## No Flat Boards

by Joe Fawcett

There was a good turnout for the LMBA’s London Congress consisting of a one day Swiss Pairs event followed by a Swiss Teams on the Sunday. The venue was Central Hall Westminster, a stone’s throw from Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament and most players agreed it was good choice, the one failing being that the air-conditioning was a bit unreliable given that the weekend turned out to be the hottest all year. There was a well-stocked café and for those who fancied a tipple in the break there were two pubs within a couple of hundred yards - the venue itself is run by the Methodists so has no alcohol licence.



Here are a three hands to give you a flavour of the event.

The first hand was a bit wild, to put it mildly, the settings on the dealing machine seemed to have been set to something considerably higher than stun.

### Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 54	
♥ 1095	
♦ AQ1075	
♣ KQ8	
♠ AQ109863	♠ KJ72
♥ –	♥ AQ2
♦ J	♦ 64
♣ J10952	♣ A763
♠ –	
♥ KJ87643	
♦ K9832	
♣ 4	

At our table South opened a cautious 3♥ and West overcalled 3♠, following the rule that you don’t pre-empt over a

pre-empt. North bid 4♥ and East made a cautious raise to 4♠ believing his hearts were practically worthless. South now tried 5♥ – given he’d pre-empted initially bidding again almost certainly showed a suit that needed support and also an unusual distribution. West and North passed and East wondered what to do. 5♠ wasn’t guaranteed but must be close but maybe it was time to double? It depends on the secondary fit. If both sides had a fit outside trumps playing the hand would be best, otherwise a double seemed safer. In the end East did double, in tempo, but West was having none of it and pulled to 5♠. This made up one on a heart lead.

At the second table South opened the more aggressive 4♥ and the auction proceeded 4♠ - 5♥ to East who made the bid of 6♥, in theory looking for a grand slam but maybe intended just to show a sound raise to 6♠. After West’s correction to 6♠ was passed out North

knew better than to lead a heart but which minor? Do you try to set up a club trick or snatch your ace and hope for a slow club later?

In retrospect it seems unlikely, given you hold the ♦Q that there will be enough club discards on the diamonds if you lead you ace, but these things are always easier from the comfort of the bar afterwards. North led the ♣K and declarer had no problem wrapping up twelve tricks for a large gain after ditching the losing diamond on the ♥A. One other lead that might have worked is a low club. As declarer you'd have to have nerves of steel to run it.

The next hand was also quite wild, although you wouldn't have realised this as West, the dealer, who held

♠ J53 ♥ AQ9876 ♦ 8 ♣ K63.

West opened 2♥ showing about 8-10 points and the next hand bid 4♦, possibly showing spades and diamonds but not alerted and later enquiries proving fruitless. East bid 5♣ and North saved in 5♦. West passed, a trifle cautious but at this stage the nature of East's hand wasn't known. North also passed. East doubled, showing that his first bid was serious, rather than a trump stack. At this stage West might have removed to 6♣, but this is no picnic as the full hand shows (*see top of next column*).

If a diamond is led East has a choice - finesse the heart king in order to jettison the spade loser, or try ruffing it out, playing for hearts three-three or king doubleton. On a spade lead there is one fewer quick entry to dummy and the heart finesse looks a better bet.

### Love All. Dealer West.

♠ KQ1042  
♥ J3  
♦ AQ10432  
♣ –

♠ J53  
♥ AQ9876  
♦ 8  
♣ K63

♠ A6  
♥ 5  
♦ K9  
♣ AJ987542

♠ 985  
♥ K1042  
♦ J765  
♣ Q10

Had North/South been more forthcoming with the meaning of 4♦ the decision might have been easier. In reality the board was a loss, 5♦ doubled down two narrowly losing out to 5♣ making in the other room when West opened 1♥ and North/South sold out too early.

Finally a hand from the pairs reminding players not to play too quickly (Hands rotated for convenience). You, as South, hold:

♠QJ9852 ♥K75 ♦ ♣K654

and, vulnerable, open a light 1♠ rather than a weak two which would not do justice to your six loser hand. After partner bids hearts and right-hand opponent diamonds you reach 4♠ which is doubled on your left. You need ten tricks on a low diamond lead:

♠ A3  
♥ AQ864  
♦ K8  
♣ 10972

♠ QJ9852  
♥ K75  
♦ –  
♣ K654

You ruff the diamond queen after playing small and consider the trumps, if they are five-nil you are probably doomed so assume four-one. At the table declarer rushed to play the queen thinking that a cover by West would mean only one loser in spades and two in clubs at most, Of course West was not so naive as to unthinkingly *cover an honour with an honour*. The queen was ducked and the hand now fell apart. Declarer started on hearts but West ruffed and continued diamonds, leading to an eventual two down.

The correct play is to advance the ♠9 at trick two. When West ducks you play a spade to the ace, a heart to the king and the ♠Q. You ruff the next diamond, draw trumps and cash the hearts. Note that without the double you would

Congratulations to Alistair Kent and Andrew McIntosh who won the pairs and to the winners of the teams, Andrew Murphy, Graeme Robertson, Tom Paske, Ed Jones.

almost certainly go down. If you follow this line in a similar hand and East holds the singleton ten in trumps, let me know and I'll sympathise. The full hand:

Game All. Dealer South

♠ A3		♠ 7
♥ AQ864		♥ J109
♦ K8		♦ AQ107542
♣ 10972		♣ QJ
♠ K1064		♠ QJ9852
♥ 32		♥ K75
♦ J963		♦ –
♣ A83		♣ K654

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## London Trophy Finals - 2016

*by Michael Hill*

On 5<sup>th</sup> June, the finals of the 38<sup>th</sup> London Trophy were held in the elegant surroundings of the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. Pat Brotherston, daughter of Freddie Della-Porta who created the event in 1978, was once again able to attend and present the prizes.

This LMBA competition remains essentially social – aggregate scoring is used, conventions are strictly limited and no team may have more than one player ranked at national master or higher level. Finals day has traditionally had 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.

However, this year, one of the losing semi-finalists found themselves unable to field a team at the last minute, so there were only two head-to-head matches.

London Trophy final: HM Treasury vs. Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club

Della-Porta Plate final: MCC vs. Thakenham Bridge Club

As is so often the case in this event, things started with a bang. This was the first board.

## Board 1

**Love all. Dealer North.**

	♠ 8		
	♥ AJ109652		
	♦ K2		
	♣ AJ6		
♠ AK1065		♠ QJ97	
♥ –		♥ 84	
♦ 98753		♦ Q6	
♣ K32		♣ Q9754	
	♠ 432		
	♥ KQ73		
	♦ AJ104		
	♣ 108		

Every North opened 1♥ and, at three of the four tables, South bid an invitational 3♥. Karen Milliner, North for Royal Mid-Surrey, recognised the potential of her hand and immediately used Blackwood. On finding two key cards and the trump queen opposite, she bid 6♥. When, in due course, the ♦Q showed up doubleton onside, there was no difficulty in making twelve tricks. At the other Trophy table, the HM Treasury North took a more pessimistic view and signed off in 4♥, making the same twelve tricks, but for a loss of 500.

In the Plate, things were more exciting. The MCC West interceded with a bold 4♥ cue bid (showing at least 5-5 in spades and a minor). When the Thakenham North continued with 5♥, East was happy to compete with 5♠. When this was passed back to North, she concluded from the bidding that South's values must be well placed

and duly bid 6♥. West thought himself worth another bid and doubled, learning to his cost that he wasn't when he wrote –1210 on his scorecard a few moments later.

At the other Plate table, the MCC South had bid 2♦ rather than 3♥, giving West an easy way into the bidding with 2♠. East competed with 4♠ over North's 4♥ and South's 5♥ then ended the auction. Twelve tricks were made, of course, so MCC lost a swing of 710.

Board 2 was a fairly dull part-score (although there was a different contract at each of the four tables) but board 3 had scope to be more interesting. Alas, fate ruled against it. In the Trophy, both teams stopped in 3NT, making twelve tricks on a slight mis-defence for no swing whilst, in the Plate both teams bid a slam (6♦ and 6NT), both failing by one trick so, again, no swing. Curiously, in spades the slam would have been an easy make, although it was only a 4-3 fit.

Board 4 generated a swing for HM Treasury when their opponents stopped out of game and Board 5 followed standard procedure for this event by again having different contracts at all four tables.

Board 6 was another dull part-score but Board 7 re-lit the fireworks, albeit perhaps in the wrong way!





## Board 7

**Game all. Dealer South.**

♠ 96	
♥ J1087	
♦ Q10	
♣ Q8742	
♠ KJ1073	♠ 42
♥ 9	♥ A432
♦ AJ9764	♦ K832
♣ K	♣ J96
♠ AQ85	
♥ KQ65	
♦ 5	
♣ A1053	

Every South opened 1♣ and West overcalled. But at two tables the overcall was 1♦ and at the other two it was 1♠.

In the Plate, after the MCC West overcalled 1♦, the Thakenham North passed (!) and East raised to 2♦. South doubled for take-out and West bid out his shape with 2♠ then, after East's correction to 3♦, bid 5♦. The ♥J was led but, when a club was led from dummy at trick 2, South ducked. With the spades lying well, that provided the overtrick. At the other table, the Thakenham West had overcalled 1♠ and North bid 2♣. This was passed to West who re-opened with 2♦. A competitive auction followed in which North rebid clubs and South introduced hearts but everyone then passed West's 4♦ bid. A club was led and West duly made eleven tricks – but that was a swing of 470 to MCC.

In the Trophy, after a 1♠ overcall from West, North bid 3♣ and South tried a somewhat eccentric 3NT. West led a fourth highest diamond but East, believing South to hold a diamond

stop, ducked. This enabled South to escape for only two off.

At the other table, Royal Mid-Surrey accidentally created the real fireworks. After a 1♦ overcall, North bid 2♣ and East jumped to 3♦. South now doubled, intending this as forward going, probing for a diamond stop and/or extra values. However, North had read the convention rules for the event and knew that the only non-penalty doubles allowed were negative doubles - and only up to 2♠. She therefore passed what had to be interpreted as a penalty double. HM Treasury were not hard pressed to make two doubled overtricks and, with the game failing at the other table, gain a swing of 1310.

Board 8 was flat! All four tables made eleven tricks in 4♠. Board 9 was almost flat but HM Treasury missed an opportunity.

## Board 9

**EW Vul. Dealer North.**

	♠ KQ	
	♥ 63	
	♦ 865	
	♣ Q109432	
♠ 74		♠ 108532
♥ Q875		♥ J1042
♦ KQ74		♦ 10
♣ K85		♣ AJ6
	♠ AJ96	
	♥ AK9	
	♦ AJ932	
	♣ 7	

At every table, South opened 1♦ and, at three tables the final contract was 3NT, twice played by North after a 1NT response to the opening (raised by South) and once by South after North had responded 2♣. A heart was led

each time but, when the diamonds failed to behave, declarer was doomed to go two off (although one declarer escaped for one off). When Royal Mid-Surrey were North-South, the bidding was more exploratory. After 1♦-1NT, South reversed with 2♠. Then, after a correction to 3♦, he bid out his shape with 3♥. North was unconvinced and signed off in 4♦. This was destined to make, despite the diamond position, but declarer lost his way.

After winning the diamond lead with the ♦J, he cashed the ♥AK and ruffed a heart. Instead of simply cashing dummy's top spades (not caring if West could ruff) and crossing to hand with the ♦A, he overtook the second spade with the ace! He then led the ♠9, ruffing when West discarded his last heart. His enforced club lead was won by East who continued with the ♥J but declarer, instead of ruffing, discarded the ♠J! Perforce, he now ruffed the ♠10 continuation but West could over-ruff for one off and a swing of just 50.

The next two boards were small part-score swings but Royal Mid-Surrey had another disaster on board 12 when, after opening 1♦ on a balanced 17-count, North heard a weak 2♠ overcall on her left and 3♣ (presumably intended as forcing) from partner – and passed! Game was solid in either minor or no trumps and bid at every other table.

At half time, HM Treasury led Royal Mid-Surrey in the Trophy by a comfortable 1000 points but things were much closer in the Plate, Thakenham being ahead of MCC by just 60.

The second half began rather oddly. This was board 13.

**Board 13**  
**Game all. Dealer North.**

	♠ A109	
	♥ A8	
	♦ K10963	
	♣ AQ8	
♠ 5432		♠ QJ86
♥ Q943		♥ 1052
♦ A		♦ Q72
♣ 9763		♣ KJ10
	♠ K7	
	♥ KJ76	
	♦ J854	
	♣ 542	

At three tables, the bidding went 1♦-1H-2NT-3NT but, at the fourth table, North opened a strong no trump and South passed! For HM Treasury, Roy Westwater led the ♠Q against 3NT and, when the diamonds did not lie favourably, declarer could not scramble more than eight tricks. However, at the other two tables where the contract was 3NT, East led the ♠6. This ran to the ♠9 and declarer immediately led a diamond. In both cases, East rose with the ♦Q, crashing his partner's ace and declarer was not hard-pressed to make an overtrick.

The oddity was the 1NT contract. That, too, received a lead of the ♠6 but, on winning the ♠9, declarer felt she was in the wrong hand for playing diamonds and finessed the ♥J. West won the ♥Q and took full advantage, by switching to a club. East won the ♣K and continued the suit, declarer winning the third round. This unblocked the suit for the defence so, when West eventually won the ♦A, he had a club to cash. Declarer now made the

mistake of discarding a diamond from dummy and now a heart switch meant, with both majors blocked, that the contract had to go one down. Ironically, this led to the same swing of 730 in both matches!

Board 14 was an oddity in itself. South had a 4441 12-count and, depending on style, opened either 1♦ or 1♥. When the opening was 1♦, East-West found their 4-4 heart fit and bid game, going one off on the bad breaks. When South opened 1♥, West not surprisingly overcalled in his 5-card diamond suit – and duly played there in the 5-0 fit, going two or three down.

Board 15 was a tricky but unbeatable 3NT - but Royal Mid-Surrey did not bid it and Thakenham found a way to go off, so there was a game swing in both matches. Then on board 16, MCC bid the wrong game (3NT) and went off while the “right” game (4♠) was made at the other three tables. There was immediate compensation as Thakenham did exactly the same thing on board 17, bidding to the failing 5♣ whilst everyone else made 3NT.

## Board 21

**NS Vul. Dealer North.**

	♠ QJ10	
	♥ QJ5	
	♦ 8653	
	♣ A52	
♠ A853		♠ K97
♥ 982		♥ AK764
♦ 4		♦ J
♣ KQ864		♣ J1097
	♠ 642	
	♥ 103	
	♦ AKQ10972	
	♣ 3	

Every East opened 1♥ and every South overcalled in diamonds – but sometimes at the 2-level and sometimes at the 3-level.

In the Trophy final, after 1♥ – 2♦, the HM Treasury West doubled, North bid 3♦, South invited with 4♦ and North accepted by bidding the game. The defence cashed their major suit aces and kings and that was two-off.

At the other table, over South’s 3♦, the HM Treasury West bid 3♥ and was raised to game. South cashed the ♦Q and switched to the ♣3, ducked by North! A grateful declarer cashed two top trumps, happy to see them break, and gave up a club. The defence had only their master trump to take and that was a swing of 220 to HM Treasury.

The Plate followed a similar line. At one table, the MCC South overcalled 3♦, West bid 4♥ and North went on to 5♦. Somehow, declarer managed to conjure up an extra loser, so went three off. At the other table, the Thakenham South overcalled only 2♦ so, when West jumped to 4♥, North had no reason to bid on. South led the ♦A and, again, the defence lost its way, so declarer made ten tricks – but a swing of only 120.

Board 22 was a solid game bid and made at all tables but board 23 produced game swings to Royal Mid-Surrey and MCC when their opponents failed to reach the thin but cold game. Perhaps after all this, they thought it didn’t matter, but opportunities were missed on the very last board.

## Board 24

**Love all. Dealer West.**

♠ 8764	
♥ 53	
♦ Q10843	
♣ 95	
♠ AJ103	♠ K95
♥ A6	♥ 42
♦ K5	♦ A962
♣ AQJ76	♣ 10842
♠ Q2	
♥ KQJ10987	
♦ J7	
♣ K3	

Every West opened 1♣. At three tables East responded 1♦ but the HM Treasury East chose 2♣ instead. After a 2♥ intervention from South, he raised West's 2♠ to 3♠ and then passed West's rebid of 5♣. At the other Trophy table, South chose to jump to 3♥ over East's 1♦ but West could still bid 3♠ and then, when his partner's corrected to 4♣, bid the game.



*Trophy Runners Up: Karen Milliner, Christine Tomkin (captain), Neil Tomkin and Pip Smitham*

With both finesses working, 13 tricks were cold, so there were two overtricks at both tables and no swing.

Anyone who expected a similar result in the Plate was in for a surprise. After East's 1♦ response, the MCC South jumped to 4♥, and West's double ended the auction. The ♦K was led and, although the defence has seven tricks available, getting to all of them is not easy.

Unless East switches to a club when in with the ♦A (rather than giving his partner an immediate diamond ruff), West has to guess which black king to play his partner to hold. He guessed wrong, so that was just three off for 500. At the other table, South bid only 2♥, allowing West to show his spade suit at the 2-level. When East raised spades, West bid the spade game. Despite the 4-3 fit, twelve tricks were available in spades but declarer, playing safe, made only eleven.

Interesting that, with slam available in both spades and no trumps and grand slam available in clubs, no-one bid above game.



*Plate Runners-up: Diana Caplin, Carolyn Phillips (captain), Frances Fuller, Joan Kellett.*

## Results

London Trophy: HM Treasury beat Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club by 1410 points

Della-Porta Plate: MCC beat Thakenham Bridge Club by 3240 points



# Congratulations ....

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



**Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi, David Gold, Mike Bell and Alex Hydes** were all members of the England Camrose team that won the trophy by a large margin earlier this year.



**Ewa Kater and Sarah Ewart** came third in the Lady Milne trials and were selected to represent England in the event in April

**Robert Sheehan and Phil King (right)** won this year's Hubert Phillips Trophy in Sally Brock's team.



At the National Teams Congress in January,

**Richard Bowley (centre in picture, left)** won the Point-a-Board teams. **Keiran Dyke** was second and **Brian Callaghan and Ben Green** were members of the third-placed team.

At the Harrogate Spring Congress, **Anne Catchpole and David Schiff** were second in the Mixed Pairs.

Brother and sister **Jasmine Bakhshi and Liam Sanderson** won the Under-19 Pairs at the Easter Festival, in Jasmine's case for the second year running. **Nick Heymann** was third in that event.

**Jasmine** also won the Swiss Teams at the Young Bridge Challenge in partnership with **Oscar Selby**. **Alex Pemberton** was in the runners-up team.



At the Lambourne Jersey Festival, **Gad Chadha** was second equal in the pre-Congress Pairs. **Mike Bull** won both the Swiss Teams and the A section of the Mid-week Multiple Teams. **Gad Chadha, Abigail Nichols and Carl Nelson** won the B section of the mid-week teams.

**Michael Alishaw** has been having a great year. He won the Portland Bowl as part of the Cambridge B team. (*Michael is on the left in the picture*).



**Michael** also had a great run in the National Pairs. Playing with Stephen Kennedy, he won the SE Regional Finals and went on to finish fourth in the National Finals.



Then in July, again playing with Stephen, **Michael** won the Swiss Pairs at the Riviera Congress.



**Mike Bell** was second in the National Pairs SE Regional Final

There were several good results at the Easter Festival, the best coming from **Tom Townsend** who won both the Championship Pairs and The Swiss Teams. In the Pairs Tom played with **Mark Teltscher** and in the Teams with **Nick Sandqvist**.



**Keiran Dyke** was second in the Pairs. **Simon Gillis** and **Paul Lamford** were third in the Swiss Teams.

In the Swiss Pairs A flight, **Sarah O'Connor** and **David Bakhshi** were second, whilst in the Swiss Pairs B flight, **Ruth** and **Sami Masri** were second and **Pru Bland** and **Amanda Sjodin** were third.



**Mary Gordon-Smith** and **Szczepan Smoczynski** won the Regional Master Pairs.



**Marcia Green** and **Szczepan Smoczynski** won the Kent Swiss Teams.



**John Matheson** (on right of picture, left) won the Congress Pairs at the SBU Summer Meeting.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress, **David Gold** won the Championship Pairs and was third in the Swiss Teams.

**Gunnar Hallberg** was second in the Summer Seniors Swiss Teams.

At the Schapiro Spring Foursomes, the main event was won by **Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi, David Gold** and **Mike Bell**, playing with Alexander Allfrey and Tony Forrester,

**Glyn Liggins** and **Anita Sinclair** were losing semi-finalists and **Simon Gillis, Sarah O'Connor** and **Ben Green** were quarter-finalists.



**Toby Nonnenmacher** and team won the Punch Bowl, beating the team captained by **Gitte Hecht-Johansen**.

# Puzzle Solution

(See page 11)

Here is the puzzle solution.



Eider ..... Cast	D	O	W	N
Middle .....Enders	E	A	S	T
Right ..... Shake	H	A	N	D
Double ..... Out	T	A	K	E
Black .....Pot	J	A	C	K
End ..... Keeper	G	A	M	E
Khyber ..... Port	P	A	S	S
Pull ..... Outsider	R	A	N	K
Key ..... Holder	C	A	R	D
Major .....Case	S	U	I	T
Pit ..... Card	S	T	O	P

The hidden term is WEAK NO TRUMP.

## Grimm's Tales

by Barry Grimm

I strolled back to the club after lunch to find my helpmeet, the Lovely Shirley Harlow, flicking through her diary (not for her a sleek Personal Organiser!). I asked her what she was doing.

“Just checking Saturdays for a date for the Individual” she said.

“Ah.” I said, then “The what?”

“The Individual. We haven’t had one for ages. Everybody’s looking forward to it. We’ll do it on the twelfth. That gives us a month. What shall we do for the buffet for the prize-giving? Crisps and nuts or something a bit nicer?”

“Now listen,” I said, “There is no form of torture at the bridge table greater than an Individual. It’s bad enough having to play twenty-four boards with one idiot. Having to play one board with twenty-four idiots is enough to drive a man to drink. No, my dearest, it’s just not on.”

“Barry, it’s not that bad. You don’t have to worry about exact numbers any more. The computer works it out. Everyone plays the same system and it’s a chance for people to partner players they wouldn’t in the normal course of events. Don’t be such an old misery. Besides, you might even get to present the trophy to yourself.”

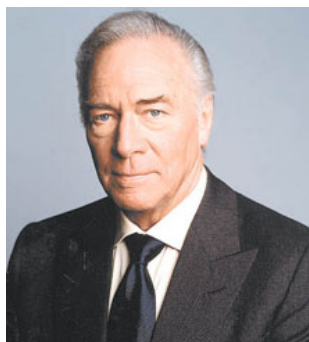
“Trophy? Are you mad, woman? There’ll be no trophy because there’ll be no Individual. Over my dead body. I’m not having one of those wretched events in my club. And even if I did, you wouldn’t find me within a million miles of it. There’ll be no Individual here come hell or high water, and that’s final!”





So, come the twelfth I picked up my assignment slip and made my way to table four where, apparently, I was supposed to be East. My heart sank. Who was I starting with but three of the biggest clowns in West London: Christopher Plummer, Miss Gilchrist and Major Soames. Phyllis-Doris Madoc was sitting at the next table nattering away like a madwoman. I use the word “madwoman” advisedly because there was no-one else at the table. I eventually realised she had earphones in, and was talking into her phone.

“Ssh,” I said. “No mobiles!” She took one earphone out (why?) and said “It’s not a mobile, it’s a smartphone.” Well, as you can imagine I had a witty and crushing response to that! Unfortunately, it didn’t come to me until three days later, so I’m saving it up for next time. The Lovely Shirley Harlow made some announcements (one of which, fatuously, was the wish that we’d all have a nice time) and put the boards out, mercifully only three on every table. She’d gone to a bit of trouble. The place was festooned with paper chains. It was like Christmas Day at the Workhouse. Still, credit where it was due: fifteen tables was fourteen and a half more than I’d expected.



Now, the name Christopher Plummer will be familiar to you from the films, He’s been a presence in all our lives lo, these last fifty years. Handsome, charismatic and witty, he has graced stage and screen with urbanity and great talent. Well this wasn’t him. This was Christopher Plummer the pork butcher, a short, fat and (I mean this kindly) incredibly stupid bachelor of some sixty summers. He has gone on record as saying that he never married because he couldn’t find a woman who could put up with the smell of sawdust. If it was only sawdust it wouldn’t have been a problem. Anyway, he was to be my first partner in this delightful event.



Miss Gilchrist I won’t have a word said against. In real life. At the table she’s a nightmare but a sweeter-natured elderly woman you couldn’t hope to find. Rare was the session that found her without her trug, full of clippings from her garden. Home-made jam and marmalade she doled out in abundance. She was always there with a kind word for those who had suffered some misfortune, or some encouragement for anyone embarking on a new venture. She embodied the spirit of the Great British Spinster. No-one was immune to her ministrations, nothing was too much trouble for her. Except learning bridge. Her NGS rating was unique – she is the only Minus Two in the country.

As far as Major Soames is concerned, his name tells you all you need to know. A retired soldier, he doesn’t talk, he barks. Few and far between are the partners who can stand up to his rigid doctrine. One, two, that’ll do, third hand high, second hand low, new suit at the three level forcing – it’s all as ingrained in Major Soames as Queen’s Regulations. His first name is Evelyn, but everybody just calls him “Major”. Don’t get me started on his glass eye.

**Board One**

**Love All. Dealer North.**

	♠ 10652		
	♥ Q105		
	♦ 2		
	♣ AQ973		
♠ A843		♠ KQJ7	
♥ A982		♥ J643	
♦ 4		♦ 983	
♣ K1084		♣ J2	
	♠ 9		
	♥ K7		
	♦ AKQJ10765		
	♣ 65		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Christ'r</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Mug-</i>	<i>Miss</i>
<i>Plummer</i>	<i>Soames</i>	<i>gins</i>	<i>Gilchrist</i>
	Pass	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Lord knows where Miss Gilchrist fished out Three No-Trumps from, but fish it out she did. Now, you or I would be sitting there trying to decide whether to lead the Ace of Spades or the Ace of Hearts, either of which might have led to a better result than what happened.

Christopher Plummer (the pork butcher, not the actor) fished out the King of Clubs. Even Miss Gilchrist wasn't too hard-pushed to wrap up ten tricks. Before I could say anything, Plummer said "That was unlucky. I've always wondered why they say you should lead a King against the Gambling Three No-Trumps." I was about to say something when I glanced up and the Lovey Shirley Harlow caught my eye. I kept my mouth shut. I wanted my dinner later on my plate, not in the bin.

We then spent about half an hour deciding who went where. Major

Soames sat where he was, I faced him, and now had Miss Gilchrist on my left and Christopher Plummer on my right. Major Soames just stared at me like a man who, cometh the hour, would be found wanting. He may well have had a point.

Anyway, Board Two was (thank God) uneventful. I couldn't have borne a withering post mortem from Major Soames, and I didn't get one. He opened One No Trump fourth in hand, I put down a ten count in dummy and he wrapped up a cosy eight tricks. Average. I breathed a sigh of relief. Perhaps the afternoon wasn't going to be so bad after all. Board One was a bit unfortunate but I could live with that. Perhaps the Individual wasn't going to be quite as ghastly as I'd envisioned.

Board 3 found me sitting West, facing Miss Gilchrist.

**EW Vul. Dealer South.**

	♠ Q96542		
	♥ —		
	♦ AKQ68		
	♣ AQ		
♠ A		♠ K7	
♥ AQ952		♥ 10763	
♦ 753		♦ 2	
♣ K982		♣ J107543	
	♠ J1085		
	♥ KJ84		
	♦ J1098		
	♣ 6		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Muggins</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Miss</i>	<i>Christ'r</i>
	<i>Soames</i>	<i>Gilchrist</i>	<i>Plummer</i>
			Pass
1♥	1♠	3♥ *	3♠**
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	All Pass	

\* skittishly

\*\* reluctantly

The auction lacked dignity, but reflected accurately on the personalities involved.

When Miss Gilchrist bid Three Hearts it was clear to all and sundry that she hadn't got it, but she didn't seem too worried, and seemed to be enjoying herself so she must have had something. Christopher Plummer looked as though he wanted to sink under the table when he bid Three Spades, so he probably had nothing but Spades. Major Soames slammed the Six Spades bidding card down so hard I thought it was going to make a hole in the table. I doubled not because I had two Aces, but because surely Miss Gilchrist had something other than the King of Hearts. Major Soames' Redouble came as a bit of a surprise but it looked to me like bravado. I wasn't unduly worried.

Miss Gilchrist lead a club, straight down declarer's throat ("I thought," she said later "that Mister Grimm

After this display of grace under pressure I'd like to report that I went on to win the event. Alas, I was fifty-third, and had to present the trophy to Phyllis-Doris. It could have been worse, I suppose. It could've been Christopher Plummer. I'll give him Edelweiss.

The Lovely Shirley Harlow came up to me and congratulated me on my good humour. Abashed, I said that I supposed it hadn't been too bad. "Good," she said. "Same time next month, then?" and wandered off to mingle. I could think of nothing to say, so I did what any English gentleman should always do under the circumstances. I kept my counsel, got my coat, and went down the pub.

Until next time, readers, here's two thumbs up, from me, to you.

might have made one of those lightning doubles"), but that didn't really matter. What mattered was that when Christopher Plummer put down dummy he muttered apologetically "Losing Trick Count" (that's what they all say) and Major Soames muttered under his breath "cobblers". Not that much under his breath, as it happens. He won the first trick and then shaking with rage, dropped – yes, dropped the Two of Spades on the table. I don't think he'd even noticed he'd done it. Miss Gilchrist looked at this suspiciously and then slowly produced the King of Trumps.

"I thought," she said later "that he was trying to sneak through an over-trick. It might have made all the difference at pairs." Not when Redoubled, it wouldn't have, I muttered to myself, but dear reader, you'd have been proud of me. I didn't utter a word of criticism. "Never mind," I said "Worse things happen at sea: didn't want the rats to get at it!"

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