

MetroNews EXTRA!

Welcome to this special extra edition of MetroNews, published to coincide with the LMBA Mixed Pairs Championship at the start of the new bridge season, and to celebrate the marvellous results from the recent World Championships. I hope you enjoy it and I would like to thank Simon Cochemé for his major contribution towards its production.
Chris Duckworth, Editor

Three LMBA Members win World Championship Gold!

Congratulations to the England Seniors for a fairytale win in the Bridge World Championships in São Paulo, Brazil, earlier this month.

The English Seniors just failed to qualify for the Championships from the Europe pool, losing out to Italy on a split tie. One of the 22 qualifying teams withdrew and England were first reserves. They won the opening round-robin pool to make it to the quarter finals where they beat Egypt. They then beat Indonesia in the semi-finals and came back from a large deficit to beat Poland by 187-164 IMPs in the final and win the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl. The trophy was first awarded in 2001 and this was the first time that a team other than the USA had won it.



The team was (l to r in the photo) David Price, Paul Hackett, Colin Simpson, Peter Baxter (npc), Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, and Ross Harper. Peter Czerniewski had to withdraw from the England team with illness, and sadly died just as the championships were starting.

Ross Harper and Gunnar Hallberg are both members of the LMBA, so special congratulations to them! David Price and Colin Simpson have both been LMBA members in the past, before retiring to the Shires. Turn over to see details of a great Price-Simpson defence from the Final.



At the same time in São Paulo, another LMBA member was winning Gold in the greatest bridge event of them all - the Bermuda Bowl. Zia Mahmood was a member of the USA team that beat rivals Italy by 285-249 IMPs. It was Zia's first Bermuda Bowl triumph (he was second with the Pakistan team in New York in 1981). He is shown with his partner Bob Hamman, a ten-time Bermuda Bowl winner. The guy peeping over Bob Hamman's shoulder is quite a good player too.

Other recent LMBA winners include:

Putney Bridge Club (Monday): Adrian Scheps & David Wing and John Drummond & Joan Frank

Woodberry Bridge Club (Tuesday): Esther Lack & Basil Carpenter

Hurlingham BC (Wednesday): Susi Behrmann & Terry Hewett and Liz Fraser & Chris Duckworth


RAC Club (Thursday): Marina Chaning-Pearce, Terry Smith, Pamela Reiss & Anthony Simmonds

Ruff Club (Friday): Sheila Cooper & Len Dreebin



A key to the success of the English Senior World Championship winning team was their excellent defence. Here is just one example (reported by David Muller in his São Paulo blog) which occurred at a crucial stage of the final against Poland, just 8 boards from the end.

Final - Board 89 (of 96) Dealer N EW Vul

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

At this stage with eight boards to go England led by 12 IMPs. In the other room England were in 4♥ after a 2♣ opening by the Polish North. This had no chance with the trumps 5-1, down 3 for 300 to Poland. In this room the Polish East got to 3NT after a 1♣ overcall by North. If this contract were to make the Poles would pick up 14 IMPs and take the lead, so it was vital to defeat it, one down would mean a loss of only 5 IMPs and England would still be in front by 7 IMPs.

Against 3NT Colin Simpson (South) lead the ♠6, dummy played low and we saw the first good play when David Price played low so that he didn't set up two spade winners in declarer's hand. Declarer now played ♦A, ♦J and Simpson won with his king. He exited with a spade, declarer winning it with the ace

in dummy. Now declarer played a low heart to the jack and Simpson took it with the king and was on lead again. He returned the ♥10, pinning declarer's nine and putting the lead back in dummy. Declarer cashed dummy's ace-queen of hearts, then tried the lead of the ♣K from dummy. Price (North) ducked this while Simpson (South) unblocked his club queen, and it was all over. The defence had control and communications and declarer could not avoid going one down. 5 IMPs to Poland which could so easily have been 14 on less sharp defence. In the final seven boards that followed, England picked up 23 IMPs and lost just 6, to run out match winners by 23 IMPs.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

Come and see the Stars in action!

17-18 October

Young Chelsea Bridge Club

Stars include:

Bermuda Bowl winner: Zia Mahmood

Beijing Gold Medallists: Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior

Norwegian World Champions: Tor Helness, Glenn Grotheim, Ulf Tundal

Beijing Silver Medallists: David Gold, Tom Townsend, Nick Sandqvist, Arthur Malinowski, Jason & Justin Hackett

Trophy holders: Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi & Alexander Allfrey

Are you under 25, or do you know any young players?

If so, spread the word that the place to be on Sunday 8th November is the Young Chelsea, where the LMBA Junior Teams of Four Championship will be held. A great chance to get together with other young players and enjoy a fun afternoon's bridge, with separate under-19 and under-25 prizes. Let's make it a record entry this year!



For more information about these and other events in London, visit www.metrobridge.co.uk