

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

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Words from the Editor

I thought I'd take the opportunity this time to write about a couple of the new schemes that have been introduced recently by the EBU, with the specific aim of providing something that would be of value and interest to those members who came into EBU membership with the advent of Universal Membership.



The first of these is the National Grading Scheme (NGS). The NGS is a measure of performance for all EBU members, based on your current performance over the last 2000 hands that you have played. The grade is a percentage which is the scheme's estimate of what you would score on average partnering another player of the same strength in an average field. This is expressed as one of 13 grade bands covering approx. 2% each running from an Ace at the top down to a 2 at beginner level, with Aces further subdivided into four suits.

Traditionally, the masterpoint scheme was the way in which performance was measured, but what it actually measures is persistence! The more you play, the more MPs you can accumulate, so you can advance quite some way through the MP rankings without truly improving your bridge skills. The NGS does its calculations take into account not only just your most recently played hands, but also the strength of the field in which you play, so is much more meaningful.

You can find out your current NGS grade by going to the EBU website and clicking on NGS in the main menu. It is fun to do so – you will see your grade changing from time to time as your play has its ups and downs, but not usually by more than one or two bands either way. *(My current band is a King, but I have been as high as an A♦ and as low as a 10. Recent changes, being introduced as the scheme matures and stabilises, should mean slightly less volatility in future).*

The scheme enables the introduction of handicap events based on NGS grades. Clubs in particular may well want to try this out once their scoring programs can accommodate this, something which new versions of the software are just about ready to do.

Some people get really concerned when their grading goes down, and some are concerned about playing with partners of lower grades in case poor results with them cause their own grades to drop. The latter really shouldn't happen, because the system makes allowances for your different partners' differing abilities. As for the former, maybe being aware of your grade and the need to maintain it may make you concentrate just that little bit harder next time you play. Which can surely only be a good thing!

Another new idea recently introduced is the ability to award Blue Points for some events, "What!" I hear you cry, "There are already Black Points, Green Points and Gold Points. Why do we need Blue Points as well?"

OK, let's see if I can give some clarity. Starting at the top, Gold Points are awarded only for those doing well in some specific national events, and they expire over time. They were introduced as a simplified way of measuring current performance for top players and may no longer be needed now we have the NGS, So let's forget about them.

Black Points are just another name for ordinary Master Points, also known as Local Points. You win some of these every time you play in any EBU affiliated club and finish in the top third of the field. You can also win some in most national, County and licensed events. As mentioned above, the more you earn, the higher you can progress through the Master Point ranking scheme. Up to a point, after which you need to have some Green Points as well.

Green Points can only be won in national events and some specific county events, the number of which is strictly regulated. In order to reach the top levels of the Master Point scheme, you need to have a certain number of greens, but with the larger club-based membership that came in with Universal Membership, it was recognised that some people might want to be able to progress into some of these higher levels of the MP scheme without having to travel hither and yon to play in County and national competitions. And that is where Blue Points come in.

From 1st January this year, clubs and Counties are allowed to run a limited number of events in which Blue Points are awarded. Blue Point awards will use the current Local Point scales (100 Local = 1 Blue). And all MP ranks will allow up to 50 Green Points to be replaced by Blue Points in the ratio of 3 Blue = 1 Green. Members will, therefore, be able to reach the Premier, Regional and Premier Regional Master ranks entirely with Blues, or with a combination of Blues and Greens, but will require Greens for higher ranks.

At the moment London has no plans to introduce any Blue Point events, on the basis that London-based players are generally able to travel to Green-Pointed events without too much difficulty if they want to. We are fortunate that travel around the capital is pretty easy and we have a number of national events held here if we want to compete at this level. Nor have we planned any handicap events using the NGS, but we would definitely consider doing so if there was a demand.

It would be very good to have a better idea of what you would really like. What do you, the typical London member, think about both of these schemes – are they of interest and relevance to you? And whilst you are in feedback mode, what do you think about the service the LMBA provides as a whole? I'd particularly like to hear from those of you who are relatively new club-based members. My contact details are below and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

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LMBA results this season

Café Bridge Drive - Clapham

A new event came into the LMBA calendar this year – a late-summer Café Bridge event in a new venue in south London. This was held on 18th September in the bars and restaurants that abound in Abbeville Road, SW4, just south of Clapham Common. Café bridge is now very popular and the event was sold out well before that date, when 42 pairs came along to enjoy the competition.

There was a very wide spread of experience amongst the participants – one of the nicest things about this sort of social bridge. It was no particular surprise, though that the winner was a partnership including Robert Sheehan, one of London's most eminent players who has represented the country on many occasions and is a former bridge correspondent of The Times. He also happens to live just round the corner from Abbeville Road!

The leading places were as follows:

1	Robert Sheehan & Tania Bader	66.76%
2	Chris Ruff & Juanita Escudero	65.51
3	Mike Skelly & Margaret Hamilton	64.53
4	Jan Malcolm & Theresa Smith	62.75

(winners of the last Café Bridge in the Tonsleys)

A local charity was once again chosen to be supported. On this occasion this was Trinity Hospice, and we were very pleased to raise a total of £1000 for this very worthwhile cause.

The picture shows LMBA Treasurer and Competition Organiser Sati McKenzie presenting the cheque for this amount to the charity.



Champions Cup

Six teams competed this year in the Champions Cup, a small field but a strong one in which any of the teams might have come through as the winners. On the day, however, Surrey League's class squad prevailed over the London League team – these two being the only teams ending with positive scores.

The Surrey team was Peter Lee, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden and Mike Scoltock, who scored a terrific +82 IMPs. London fielded a team comprising Graham Sadie, Simon Cearns, Martin Nygren and Margaret Nygren, who scored +46 IMPs. HMRCC came third with -2.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

This prestigious event was held over the last weekend of September last year. See pages 7-10 for Paul Lamford's article on the event and all the results.

Teltscher Cups

Pictured right with Bernard Teltscher is 95-year old Sheila Peers. She and her husband Brian played at the Roehampton Club and were the North-South winners of the “Play with the Stars” event



run in parallel with the Lederer for the Teltscher Cups. They scored +56 IMPs playing with Nicola Smith and Sally Brock.

The East-West winners were Marina Grose and Robert Mundy, who played at the Andrew Robson BC, They scored +49 IMPs partnering Zia Mahmood and Fredrik Bjornlund. Marina is pictured, left, with Bernard and her trophy.

The competition was held in three clubs this time, two more than last year. We would like to increase the participation in this, so if your club would like to hold a heat next year please contact Paul Lamford at paullamford@aol.com.

Mixed Pairs Championship

The winners of the Mixed Pairs this season were the young Italian pair of Laura Porro and Stelio di Bello, who headed the list of 21 competing pairs.. Stelio has been playing in London for a couple of years now, and was a member of the London Tollemache team this year. Laura has only recently come to London but we will surely see more of her in future.



The winners did very well in what was a star-studded field, as can be seen by those filling the top three places:

1	Stelio di Bello & Laura Porro	58.64%
2	Nevena Senior & Denis Bennett	57.88
3	Zia Mahmood & Anita Sinclair	57.73

See page 11 for Laura’s account of the event, including a hand played particularly well by Stelio.

Junior Teams of Four Championship

Once again, LMBA combined with the Under 20s squad training weekend to run the Junior Teams of Four at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in November last year.

There were six teams in total in the event. Last year's runners up were the team of Chris Derrick, Will Roper, Arthur Wolstenholme and Angus Tayler and they had to be content with second place again this time, being comfortably beaten by the team of Freddie Illingworth, Kyle Lam, Michael Alishaw and Toby Nonnenmacher who took the first prize.

Freddie was a two-time winner, having been part of the victorious team in 2011, but the rest of the team took the title for the first time.

Michael and Toby are now at university, but are London members having developed their bridge at Latymer Upper School. All four of the team are representing England as part of this year's Peggy Bayer team.



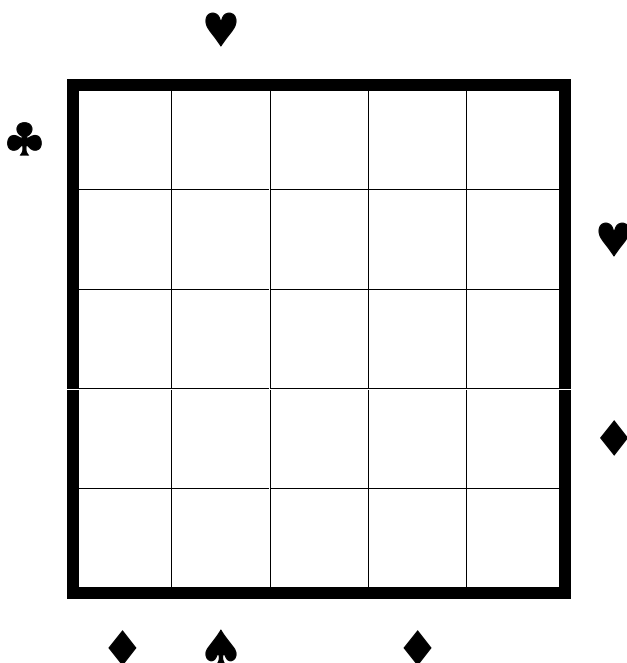
(l to r) Toby, Freddie, Michael, Kyle

Puzzle Corner

Can you place one of each suit symbol and one empty square in each row and column of the grid to the right?

The symbols outside the grid indicate which symbol is closest to that edge in that particular row or column.

If you are stuck the solution can be found on page 28.



Holding the Trophy

by Paul Lamford

This year's Lederer, held on 29th and 30th September 2012, was one of the strongest ever, and featured eight World Champions. The number of previous winners, at 18, was one down from last year's record. The weekend coincided with Europe retaining the Ryder Cup in Chicago, with a remarkable last day turnaround, and The Colonies, from the other side of the pond, had no joy here either, finishing last. They were popular visitors however, and had the consolation of a big win against the Crockfords team.

The Holders hit the front on the Sunday morning as the Spring Fours team faded and it was a surprise that their final margin of victory was so great, Organiser Stefanie Rohan moved them off Vugraph in the final round to allow the world to watch Zia and Robson doing battle. That attracted almost 2,000 viewers to BBO, so the change turned out to be wise. Young Chelsea made a Sunday charge to take second place, but they never threatened the leaders.

The awards for best play, defence, and bidding were all in the third and fourth segments, and were quite difficult decisions.



Joey Silver, a popular visitor

Her Majesty's Pleasure

We start with the best auction. Her Majesty The Queen sent a message to the EBU this year to congratulate them on their 75th anniversary. It was appropriate that the increased value of a queen played a part in this hand:

Love all. Dealer West.

♠ K964	
♥ 75	
♦ 32	
♣ J9842	
♠ J5	♠ A1087
♥ J9	♥ AK86
♦ KJ9865	♦ AQ104
♣ AK10	♣ Q
♠ Q32	
♥ Q10432	
♦ 7	
♣ 7653	

West	North	East	South
Howard	Green	Bowles	Holland
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Andy Bowles, honest as ever, confided to me a day after the event that 2♠ was an artificial game force, so West should just rebid 3♣ rather than 3NT but the rest of the auction was good, and East knew at the end that the queen of clubs was a trick and there was no advantage in playing in the ten-card fit. The 3 IMPs for the higher-scoring slam and the point-a-board were a good reward.

Andy has recently been appointed to the EBU selection committee for the next three years, along with David



Andy Bowles

Burn, both regulars at Young Chelsea and in the London Super League held there. We are sure they will both do well in the role.

queen to take out the entry from dummy. Now McGann, who knew North had a weak NT type hand, finessed the heart then played a club to the king and ducked a club to North. Sally Brock did the best she could by continuing spades, but McGann won, cashed the ace of hearts and played a diamond. North could win and cash the spade, but now she had the unenviable choice of the rock of leading a diamond, which resurrects the dummy, or the whirlpool of leading a club, allowing West to enjoy the club suit. Nine classy tricks. Fawcett reached a similar position but the prize went to McGann who had faced a much more challenging defence.



Hugh McGann

Scylla and Charybdis

NS Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ KQ109 ♥ 106 ♦ A86 ♣ QJ84</p> <p>♠ J75 ♥ AJ8 ♦ 73 ♣ AK1076</p> <p>♠ 863 ♥ K97532 ♦ J104 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ A42 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ952 ♣ 952</p>
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West	North	East	South
McGann	Brock	Garvey	Smith
	1♣*	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass

Two declarers reached the reasonable contract of 3NT here. Joe Fawcett reached it from the East hand on the lead of the jack of diamonds, and he could have made it more easily by playing on diamonds. Hugh McGann faced the more testing lead of the king of spades from Sally Brock, and, when he ducked, she continued with the

A Dying King

Love All. Dealer South.

<p>♠ – ♥ Q1076 ♦ J8653 ♣ Q765</p> <p>♠ 8542 ♥ A832 ♦ AQ9 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ AJ97 ♥ K9 ♦ K1072 ♣ J108</p>	<p>♠ KQ1063 ♥ J54 ♦ 4 ♣ K432</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Silv'stone</i>	<i>Lee</i>
			1NT
2♣*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Authority forgets a dying king, Laid widowed of the power in his eye wrote Tennyson. This is interpreted by many as meaning "new rules emerge" and South had to take this on board and realise that he had to sacrifice his king of hearts in order to beat the contract on the above hand.

2♣ was Landy and West was happy to accept the game try of 3♠ because of his good controls, despite his bad spades. South led the jack of clubs, which was won with the ace in dummy, and a spade to the queen revealed the

bad news. South won that and played a second club, and East won, finessed the diamond, cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a heart, and then cashed the ace of hearts, on which Peter Lee had to unblock the king. This he did and declarer could no longer get home.

Tony Forrester made the contract, when his opponent failed to unblock in a similar position, by exiting with a heart, ruffing the club return in dummy, ruffing a diamond, and playing the fourth club to endplay South.

The best defended hand therefore went to Peter Lee, a former British Chess Champion – and in chess the king can never be sacrificed!



LMBA Chairman Ian Payn announcing the results, with adjudicator Brian Callaghan

LMBA Chairman, Ian Payn, introduced the winners at a well-attended closing ceremony and reception, splendidly laid on by Chris Duckworth and Trish Matheson. He thanked the main organiser Stefanie Rohan, the analysts Brian Callaghan, David Burn and your author, and the scorer Nigel Freake. In addition the help of many of the Young Chelsea

members who gave up their time free of charge, including the directors Jon Lillycrop and Gordon Rainsford, helped to make the event a success..

Ian also thanked the LMBA President for his continued sponsorship and Bernard Teltscher, who presented the prizes, indicated that this would definitely continue next year. Finally, thanks are due to Gordon Rainsford for the photographs used in this article.

Lederer Line-ups and scores

1	 Holders	267.
Espen Erichsen, Norman Selway, Michael Byrne, Mike Bell, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones		
2	 Young Chelsea	240
Kitty Teltscher, Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Colin Simpson, David Price		
3	 Crockfords	230
Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson		
4	 Spring Fours	218
Glyn Liggins, Joe Fawcett, Ben Green, John Holland		
5	 President's Team	217
Bernard Teltscher, Victor Silverstone, John Matheson, Willie Coyle, Tom Townsend, Gunnar Hallberg		
6	 All Stars	190
Hugh McGann, Tommy Garvey, Zia Mahmood, Fredrik Bjornlund		
7	 Gold Cup	166
Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Andy Bowles, John Howard, Jeffrey Allerton, Peter Lee		
8	 The Colonies	152
Joey Silver, John Carruthers, Milt Rosenberg, Howie Weinstein		



Four members of the winning team (l to r) – Mike Bell, Michael Byrne, Espen Erichsen and Norman Selway, with Bernard Teltscher, LMBA President (seated)

LMBA Mixed Pairs

by Laura Porro

This article is taken (with the author's permission, and with minimal editing) from NewInBridge, an online bridge magazine to which Laura contributes – see www.newinbridge.com for all sorts of interesting bridge topics.

On October 11th **Laura Cecilia Porro** and **Stelio Di Bello** won the **LMBA Mixed Pairs**, a Mitchell tournament organized by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association, held at the Young Chelsea Bridge club, venue of the famous Lederer Memorial Trophy. This is a very good achievement for Porro and Di Bello, given the strength of the field: runners up were Nevena Senior and Denis Bennett, while Zia Mahmood and Anita Sinclair were third.

Stelio Di Bello started playing bridge when he was 12 and won two Junior World Championships together with many other victories in national and international competitions. Laura Cecilia Porro was born and grew up in Milan, in 2008 she moves to Dundee (Scotland) in order to attend a PhD in Philosophy at the University of St Andrews. In 2007 she starts playing bridge, at the Bridge Institute of Milan, under the supervision of Giagio Rinaldi and Franco Di Stefano. In 2009 she becomes an EBU bridge teacher and in 2011 she obtains the qualification of professional bridge teacher. Since 2009 she has been teaching a lot in Eastern Scotland. Presently she is working at the Acol Bridge Club in London *[and is also now teaching the boys at St Paul's School and Colet Court in Barnes. Ed]*

The diagrammed board is from the LMBA Mixed Pairs:

	♠ Qxxxx		
	♥ AQx		
	♦ AQ9		
	♣ Qx		
♠ x		♠ KJx	
♥ K1098xx		♥ Jxx	
♦ Kxx		♦ 10xx	
♣ Axx		♣ J1098	
	♠ A1098		
	♥ x		
	♦ Jxxx		
	♣ Kxxx		
West <i>Battis- Combe</i>	North <i>Di Bello</i>	East <i>Silver- stone</i>	South <i>Porro</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Victor Silverstone leads a low heart. Di Bello wins the king with the ace of hearts. He then plays the queen of spades, which is covered by the king and ace, and ducks a spade to Silverstone's jack. The jack of clubs comes back. Di Bello lets it run to the queen and ducks a club to Silverstone.



He fires another heart back, which Di Bello ruffs in dummy, he then ruffs a club dropping the ace, and gets back to dummy drawing the last trump. He can thus discard a losing diamond on the king of clubs and take the successful diamond finesse for the overtrick.

Metropolitan Cup - 2012

by David Hull

The Metropolitan Cup is an enjoyable annual event for teams of 12 from the South-East and Home Counties. The latest competition, as usual organised by Sussex CBA, took place on 9 September 2012 at the South of England Showground at Ardingly.

London entered two teams out of 24 in total. A Flight: Rob Cliffe (Captain) and Ian Payn; Gordon Rainsford and Dom Goodwin; Mike Hill and Roger Morton; David Muller and Ian Casselton; Fiona Hutchison and Mark Lehto; Brian Ransley and Debbie Sandford. B Flight: Lorna Vestey (Captain) and Martin Baker; Richard Creamer and Mike Bull; Trevor Matthews and John Dean; David Hull and Peter Cogliatti; Graham Pollack and Paul Chapman. Owing to some confusion and an e-mail that went astray, the sixth pair for the B Team failed to arrive.

The A team came sixth out of seven (winners: Sussex) and the B team last of seven (winners: Essex).

I felt that my partner and I had a reasonable card, but we were paired-up with the no-show pair. We were therefore awarded 6-14 VP defeats in each of the six 7-board matches – better than our usual performance, I hear you say – so we were playing just for fun.

We failed to make 4♥ on this hand, losing a trick in each suit. It is not easy to see how declarer (South) could have done better, but there is a way.

Game all. Dealer South.

♠ A865	
♥ A874	
♦ K85	
♣ K9	
♠ Q94	♠ J103
♥ J1093	♥ 6
♦ J9	♦ Q1072
♣ AJ83	♣ 107642
♠ K72	
♥ KQ52	
♦ A643	
♣ Q5	

If hearts are 3-2 you have 10 tricks, so you should prepare for the suit to break

4-1. If trumps do not break, you require: (a) either diamonds or spades to be 3-3 (and you have to guess correctly which suit to play on), so you can discard a loser on the fourth round; (b) an opponent to duck ♣A at the crucial moment; and (c) the set-up and timing to be exactly right.

The club lead has to be to the King since if you play the other way the bare Queen will be exposed in dummy. It is hard to foresee, but you must avoid playing a second trump at trick two, since you can be defeated if the opponents play trumps at every opportunity. It is also best to get the duck in early. Thinking all this through leads you to the winning line.

Win ♥A and lead a low spade to the 3, 7 and 9: West might wonder what is going on, but let us assume that he exits in hearts and you win with the King, East discarding a club. You now lead a club towards the King. West should be suspicious but he might well fail to take ♣A, in which case he has just let through the contract. You cash two spades and find the suit breaking, then discard ♣Q on the fourth round.

One player found this exact line to make 4♥, and for London as well. The successful declarer would have been happy to remain anonymous, but I think that his brilliant effort deserves recognition. Have we found a new talent who should be brought to the attention of the London selectors? Possibly, but the successful declarer was Ian Payn, who **is** one of the selectors. *[Do we have to leave in the bit about him being brilliant? He's insufferable enough as it is – Ed].*

I can think of only one possible slight improvement on Ian's line. When you play a spade towards hand, pull out a card as if to play an honour, but ensure that the seven "accidentally" falls onto the table. This would explain why you have made a play that the defenders might otherwise have cause to question. However, to plan and execute this coup would require a devious mind and a low ethical threshold, as well as sleight of hand and some acting skills. Few declarers have all these attributes. *[Don't write in, it's a joke – Ed]*

♣♦♥♠

Game all. Dealer North.

♠ KJ10	♠ A82
♥ Q973	♥ AKJ6
♦ KQ86	♦ 9543
♣ 74	♣ AK
♠ Q743	♠ 965
♥ 82	♥ 1054
♦ A102	♦ J7
♣ Q1065	♣ J9832

The unopposed bidding was 1♥ - 1♠ - 2NT - 3NT. My partner led ♣3 to the King, then declarer tried a spade towards the Queen. Sitting North, I won and, unwilling to stake everything on partner having ♦J, led a heart. Declarer successfully finessed the Jack, unblocked ♣A and played the Ace and another spade. With the suit breaking, he had nine tricks. As you can see, switching to a low diamond would have killed dummy, but on another day this might have been run to the 10, tamely conceding the contract.

Try to work out declarer's hand. 2NT having shown 18-19 points, partner has at most three points – ♣J and one or both of the red Jacks – and declarer holds ♠A, ♥AK and ♣AK. If partner has ♦J, then declarer can duck a switch to ♦K and South will be unable to continue the suit when he wins the next trick with the Jack. Playing a heart at trick three might work if partner has the Jack, but you also need him to hold the 10 as well (or the 6 – which is crucial if you switch to the best card, the 9). On the other hand, a low diamond defeats 3NT every time you find South with the Jack, or indeed both Jacks.

The Principle of Vacant Spaces slightly favours my switching to a heart, unless East has five cards in the suit. But what would she have opened with a strong 4-4 hand in the red suits? I did not ask. And would she have upgraded a hypothetical Axx, AKJxx, 9xx, AK to a 2NT opener? In my judgement, this hand is worth an upgrade, but I seem to be in a minority: most players find it easier to count their points and stick to this valuation.

After the event there are several factors that one can consider, but I think that it is quite close whether I should play a low diamond or a heart. Still, it is easy to admit to mistakes when you know that they do not cost, so I will take the blame for letting through the contract.

♣♦♥♠

Love all. Dealer North.

♠ AJ1053	
♥ 4	
♦ KJ109864	
♣ –	
♠ K92	♠ Q874
♥ AJ6	♥ KQ3
♦ AQ75	♦ –
♣ 842	♣ AQ10753
♠ 6	
♥ 1098752	
♦ 32	
♣ KJ96	

On this hand I opened 1♦, East overcalled 2♣, South passed and West called 3NT. I would not now consider passing on this 7-5 hand, but there is a case for either 4♦ or 4♠. You might be able to play one level lower if you bid 4♦, whereas 4♠ offers partner an alternative trump suit. I chose 4♠, which was doubled, and so was my partner's conversion to 5♦.

♥K was led, and on seeing dummy I wished that I had passed 3NT: the Great Shuffler had arranged for there to be three club losers. The programme that analyses the hands (probably Deep Finesse) failed in 3NT, despite its skill in endplays. But Mike Bull played very well to bring in the contract for London, with some help from the defence.

I was rather lucky in the play since ♥K held the first trick and I ruffed the second round. West was at fault for failing to overtake ♥K and play two rounds of trumps. Two spade ruffs in dummy allowed me to limit our loss to 500, still a poor result compared with probably defeating 3NT.

♣♦♥♠

You might wonder why I have not written up any hands on which Peter and I were successful, but our routine good plays were just not very interesting, on what were slightly dull hands overall. Since our scores were not put into the Bridgemates, nobody is in a position to disbelieve our exaggerated claims about how well we played, so best not give in to temptation!

Things a bridge player would never say:

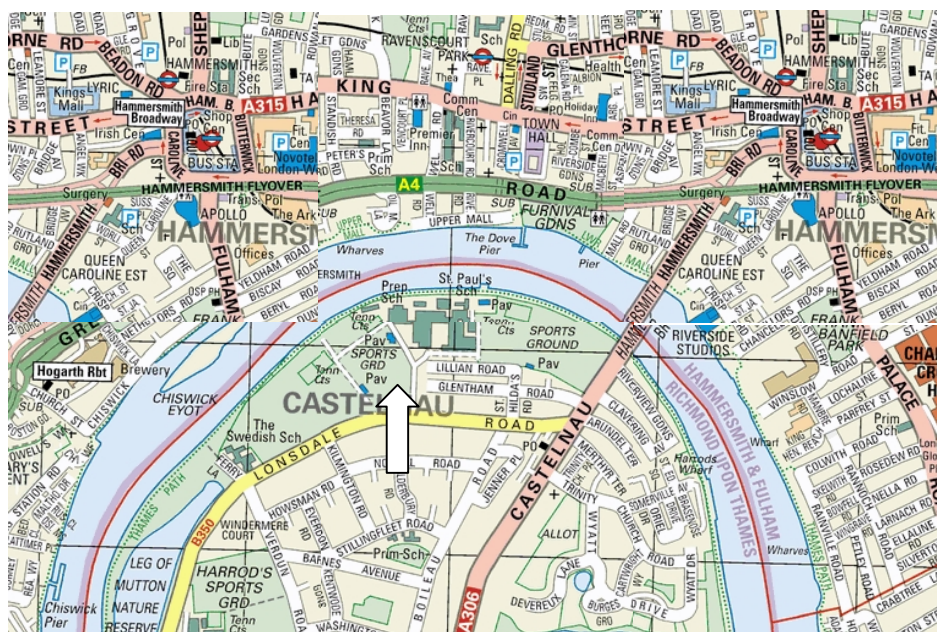
- ♥ This club's playing area is always at the right temperature – never too hot or too cold.
- ♥ Cool! A four-board sit-out.
- ♥ No. I don't think tournament fees are too high.
- ♥ I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
- ♥ I don't feel like bridge today. I'd rather jog and work out.



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. This 4-page schedule can be removed from your magazine for easy reference.

Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend Saturday-Sunday 9th - 10th March 2013



Swiss Pairs
Saturday starting at
1.00pm

Holder: *Alex Hydes & David Levy*

Swiss Teams
Sunday starting at
11.30am

Holder: *Andrew Abelson, Tim Gauld, Brian McGuire, Guy Hart*

Venue: St Paul's School,
Lonsdale

Road, Barnes, London SW13 9JT – as shown on the map above.

The venue can be easily reached by public transport or there is ample parking at the school for those coming by car. The nearest tube station is Hammersmith, about a 15 minute walk away across Hammersmith Bridge. There are numerous buses which run from Hammersmith across the bridge and down Castelnau, including route numbers 33, 72 and 283. Route 419 also goes along Lonsdale Road, running approx. every 16 minutes. In addition, Barnes Bridge overground station is only a short walk away to the south.

Both the Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams will be single-flighted, with green points awarded in accordance with EBU regulations, and cash prizes.

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

Entry fee: £25 per person per event, which includes free tea and coffee. A reduced fee of £48 per person is available to anyone playing in both events over the weekend.

Advance entry is strongly recommended and should be made to **Mike Hill** at michaelrd.hill@btinternet.com or on 01732 863283 or in writing to Winterbourne, Swan Lane, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6AL.

Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 11th April 2013 starting at **7.00pm**

Holder: *Young Chelsea BC*

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, SW5 0EN (Tel: 020 7373 1665)

The Garden Cities is the national teams-of-eight championship for EBU affiliated clubs. The winner of London's single-session qualifying heat will be eligible to play in the South-East Regional Final that takes place in Richmond on Saturday 18th May 2013 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 15th June 2013 in Solihull. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish, subject to space restrictions at the venue. (The LMBA reserves the right, if necessary, to restrict the number of teams per club).

Clubs must be members of the LMBA. Players must be members of the EBU and of the club they represent but do not have to be LMBA members. It is not necessary for the same eight players to represent a team at each stage of the competition but no player may play for more than one club.

Entry fee: £56 per team

Advance entry is required and should be made by 4th April 2013 to **Chris Duckworth** at chris.duckworth@lineone.net or on 020 7385 3534.



London Trophy Pairs

Sunday 14th April 2013 starting at **2.00pm**.

Holder: *Neil & Christine Tomkin*

Venue: Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS (Tel: 020 7747 3296).

This is a single-session pairs competition open to players who have participated in the London Trophy in the current season. The rules regarding permitted systems and conventions in this event are the same as for the London Trophy.

This event provides an opportunity for pairs to practice and improve, so progress further in the Trophy itself. Or, if you have been unfortunate enough to have already lost in the main event, then simply another opportunity to meet and play against like-minded opponents in the very pleasant surroundings of the RAC.

Entry fee: Free!

Advance entry is required for this event. Entries should be made no later than 7th April 2013 to **Steve Eginton** at steve@eginton.co.uk or on 01628 780862 or 07989 557779 or in writing to The Kukris, High Street, Bray, Berks, SL6 2AH.



Café Bridge - Tonsleys

Tuesday 16th April 2013 starting at **10.30**
for **11.00 am**

Holder: *Jan Malcolm & Theresa Smith*
(pictured with Sarah Jackson from Age UK)

Venue: The Alma Tavern, 499 Old York Road,
SW18 1TF (for registration)

Our Spring Café Bridge Drive will once again be held in the Tonsleys in Wandsworth, and will again be held in aid of the local charity, Age UK.



For those not familiar with the idea of café bridge, the duplicate bridge tournament will be played during the day in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in the area, each round of the tournament being played in a different venue.

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 and entries should be sent to Imbaentries@gmail.com to arrive no later than 9th April 2013, putting “Café Bridge” in the subject line.

Any queries may be directed to **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534 or **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940. Please note that Café Bridge events are very popular and numbers are restricted. Entries will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 21st April 2013 starting at **1.00pm**

Holder: *Eric Duffelen & David Bakhshi*

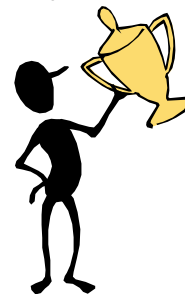
Venue: Young Chelsea BC, 32 Barkston Gardens, SW5 0EN (020 7373 1665).

This competition is a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs. The top fourteen pairs from the first session will compete in an all-play-all final with carry-forward scores whilst the remainder of the field competes in a consolation final. This major County Pairs Championship is green-pointed and is the qualifying event for the Corwen Trophy, the national inter-county pairs championship.

All players must be LMBA members, but only the leading four pairs with London as their county of allegiance (before playing in the event) will be eligible to play in the Corwen Trophy on 1st-2nd June 2013 in Daventry.

Entry fee: £30.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not essential but can be made to Imbaentries@gmail.com, putting “Championship Pairs” in the subject line. Enquiries may also be sent to this address or be made to **Guy Hart** on 07775 922605.



Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 12th May 2013 starting at **2.00pm**

Holder: *Mark Davies & Julia Holland*

Venue: The Queen's Club, Palliser Road, W14 9EQ
(Tel: 020 7385 3421)

This single extended session match-pointed pairs event for senior players will be held in the President's Room overlooking the main court at the prestigious Queen's Tennis Club in Barons Court, London, W14. The event is expected to finish at 6.30-7.00pm.



All players must be EBU members and must have been born in or before 1953.

Entry fee: £24.00 per pair

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to arrive no later than 7th May 2013 to **Steve Eginton** at steve@eginton.co.uk or on 01628 780862 or 07989 557779. or in writing to The Kukris, High Street, Bray, Berks, SL6 2AH.



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 may also be made to the LMBA account – Sort Code: 09-06-66 Acc No: 41838562 – please use your surname as a reference – but debit and credit card payments are not accepted.

Membership requirements for each competition are specified above. Where LMBA membership is required, players who are members of counties other than London can become LMBA dual members to meet this requirement 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.

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 need 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.

Full LMBA competition rules for individual events may be found on the LMBA website at www.metrobridge.co.uk.

We all hate leads and leads and leads ...

by Paul Lamford

The above was a common, rather moronic, football chant in the late 60s and early 70s. London members visiting the International bridge tournament at Pula were reminded of it because of their repeated unsuccessful leads against slams. This tournament on the Adriatic maintains its popularity and combines a cheap holiday with some excellent bridge (well, by our opponents anyway) and this year there were a dozen or so London players present. Hiring an apartment for a week costs around £250 only, and flights are about the same, using Ryanair.

See if you can do better than our group by covering up the rest of the article and deciding on your leads on the following three slams

a) ♠4 ♥J963 ♦K10753 ♣QJ3. You are North and hear the auction:

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

2♣ was an artificial game force, 2♦ a relay and 3♠ showed a game force with four spades. 4♣ and 4♥ were cues and 5♦ was one key card. What do you lead?

b) ♠K109875 ♥K84 ♦73 ♣A5. You are North and hear the auction:

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

1NT was 15-17 and your 2♦ showed one major. 3♣ was game forcing and 4♣ a slam try. Cues followed and you now have to lead.

c) ♠KQJ9 ♥none ♦Q52 ♣KQ9874. You are South and hear the auction:

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

You choose to double on the first round rather than bid 2♣ and East's 3♦ is game-forcing. 4NT was a general slam try and 5♦ declined and was a bit slow, so it is possible that East was looking for grand. Your lead.

a) **Game all. Dealer West.**

♠ 4			
♥ J963			
♦ K10753			
♣ QJ3			
♠ A9765		♠ K1082	
♥ 2		♥ AKQ4	
♦ AQ4		♦ J2	
♣ A975		♣ K102	
	♠ QJ3		
	♥ 10875		
	♦ 986		
	♣ 864		

West	North	East	South
♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♠	Pass

4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
 4NT Pass 5♦* Pass
 6♠ All Pass

All leads other than a trump look possible here, but North rather unluckily picked the queen of clubs, which allowed declarer to get a diamond away from dummy on the long club, just losing a trump. I think the choice is right, as J9xx is a vile lead in a slam.

b) EW Game. Dealer West.

♠ K109875 ♥ K84 ♦ 73 ♣ A5 ♠ A64 ♥ Q52 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ K72 ♠ Q32 ♥ 10973 ♦ 8654 ♣ 83	♠ J ♥ AJ6 ♦ A92 ♣ QJ10964
--	------------------------------------

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

North quite sensibly reasoned that declarer seemed to be prepared for a spade lead, choosing to play in 6NT rather than 6♣, and looked elsewhere with a heart lead. Declarer had no choice but to run it round, and seconds later was racking up +1440. Most pairs were making the more mundane contract of Six Clubs, which is only around 50%, and I think it is too tough to find the spade lead. South would

not be doubling 4♥ with Qxxx, and it does look like West is protecting his spade holding.

c) NS Game. Dealer East.

♠ 762 ♥ 97653 ♦ 109 ♣ 1062 ♠ A8543 ♥ Q2 ♦ J743 ♣ J3	♠ 10 ♥ AKJ1084 ♦ AK86 ♣ A5 ♠ KQJ9 ♥ – ♦ Q52 ♣ KQ9874
--	---

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

South reasoned here that East probably had extra values for bidding 6♦ over the sign-off, and thought East was more likely to have two spades and one club, as that would give him the extra chance of a possible spade finesse. However, some of the time East has two spades, he will not have enough tricks, although he would have had here, and the club lead is necessary. 6♥ has no play and South now thinks the club lead is narrowly right.

Whatever the rights and wrongs, it was a bit like Southampton FC after three games. Lots of bad luck but null points. I knew I should have gone to the football instead

London News

Andrew Robson OBE

The LMBA has always been proud to have Andrew Robson as a member, but never more so than when it was announced in the New Year's Honours List that he had been awarded an OBE for services to bridge and to charity.

Andrew has of course been one of the country's very top payers for many years and is the Bridge Correspondent of the Times, but he has earned the OBE at least as much for his work in other areas of the game. In 1995 he opened the Andrew Robson Bridge Club, now located in Parson's Green, which has become one of the most successful in the world. Here he provides a huge range of classes, particularly ones for beginners and the less-experienced and runs duplicate sessions where "best behaviour at bridge" is strictly enforced. He also runs about 50 bridge events each year raising money for charities.

Andrew comments on his OBE on his club website, saying:

"I am absolutely bowled over by this award, which I accept on behalf of all Bridge lovers and especially Club Members. I hope you will all take some well-deserved reflected glory, as in many ways we achieved it together by our love of Bridge, plus the spirit in which we play it."



Gordon Rainsford, EBU Chief TD

Gordon Rainsford is well known to most London members in his TD role as the calm and efficient presence at many bridge events, ensuring an enjoyable game for every participant. He has also been the manager and welcoming face of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club for several years, where he has helped to ensure the on-going success of the club.

Perhaps less well-known is the fact that he has also served the LMBA for some years as the County's Chief TD. This was not a particularly onerous role, but one which we were very happy to have filled by someone of his stature. In this capacity he always ensured that suitable directors were found and appointed for County events, and he gave his services voluntarily to directing the Lederer Memorial Trophy, our most prestigious competition.

Gordon has been Assistant Chief TD for the EBU for a while but at the end of November last year he was promoted to become Chief TD for the EBU, stepping into the shoes of Max Bavin who was retiring from the EBU (though not from his role World Chief TD). In addition to actual tournament direction,



Gordon will now also manage all aspects of tournament organisation for the national body.

Gordon hopes to have more time to enjoy actually playing bridge in his new post, and he will continue to play for the County when called upon. But he felt it was not appropriate to continue as London's Chief TD, so he has resigned from this. We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Lillycrop has agreed to take on this role.



Junior Channel Trophy

This event featuring three junior teams – under 25s, under 20s and girls – from each of four countries – England, France, Netherlands and Belgium – is hosted by each country in turn. This year it was in England and the competition was held over the weekend of 21st-23rd December 2012 in London. Gordon Rainsford was match manager on behalf of the EBU and the LMBA was asked to help out.

Steve Eginton organised the BBO presentation, arranging for the event to be included in the BBO schedule and organising commentators as well as acting as one of the operatives throughout the weekend. He was helped by David Muller and Jonathan Lillycrop who also acted as operatives.

Brian Callaghan was present throughout as Bulletin Editor, working hard into the night to get the bulletins produced and ready for the players each morning. Brian was also Chief of Appeals, but fortunately was not needed in this capacity, the event being played in extremely good humour throughout.

Your editor organised goody bags to be given to each of the players and helped with registration of players on arrival. This year's bag was deemed to be the best ever and we were extremely grateful to the Chess & Bridge Shop, the Andrew Robson Bridge Club and the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, all of whom sponsored contributions to these, as well as the EBU.

The Netherlands won the Under 25s event, with the English team rather unlucky to drop to third place after lying a strong second going into the last match. The Netherlands also won the Girls event, with the English girls finishing equal second. In the Youngsters event, however, the Dutch had to make do with second place, as the young England team beat them into first place. It was particularly pleasing that the team included two of our own London members, Toby Nonnenmacher (*on left in picture*) and Michael Alishaw (*second right*).



Annual General Meeting

The 2012 AGM of the LMBA was held on Thursday 6th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0EN. At this meeting an amended version of the LMBA constitution was agreed, including a new Appendix covering our Disciplinary Procedures. The new constitution and its appendix can be seen at the LMBA website, www.metrobridge.co.uk, together with the minutes of the meeting

The 2013 AGM will be held on Thursday 12th September, at a venue to be announced. Further details and an agenda will be published in the next issue of MetroNews.

Lose those Losers

by Mike Graham

Endplays are something that many players find difficult. Mike explains in his usual clear step-by-step style how these may be mastered.

As declarer, it is important to keep in mind the number of tricks that we have to make. It may be a small matter of remembering that we are in 4NT and not 3NT, and thus need ten tricks rather than nine, or a matter of going three down but not four in a sacrifice bid. If we have bid to a small slam, we should keep in mind that we have contracted for twelve tricks, not thirteen, and that we can afford to lose one trick. In some cases, when we lose our losing trick can make a big difference.

To use a constructed example, let us assume that we have bid to 6♠ on these hands and West leads the queen of hearts.

♠ J10865
♥ A86
♦ K7
♣ KJ6

♠ AKQ42
♥ K74
♦ A3
♣ A105

Hands with mirror distributions can be a bit of a nuisance, because there is no ruffing potential. Here, we have a heart loser and a possible club guess to make. However, if we can time the hand in such a way that we lose our loser at an opportune time, we can circumvent the club guess.

We win the king of hearts in hand at trick one (we do not want to play the ace, in case of the (admittedly remote) chance that East is void in hearts) and draw trumps in as many rounds as necessary. We can also cash the ace of hearts.

We still have a heart loser, but if we exit with a heart now the defenders can play a safe diamond. We can remove this option from them by also cashing the two diamond winners. This leaves:

♠ J10
♥ 8
♦ –
♣ KJ6

♠ 42
♥ 7
♦ –
♣ A105

We lose our unavoidable loser by exiting with a heart. The defenders have no winning option; a red-suit lead allows us a ruff-and-discard, so we can ruff in one hand and discard a losing club from the other, and a club lead simply finds the queen for us.

This position in the end-game was guaranteed, because we have both the jack and the ten of clubs. Even with a slightly less robust holding – something like KJ6 opposite A95 – an end-play is there; the ten may be favourably positioned. With KJ6 opposite A32, there is the possibility of a forced lead into the KJ – and if all else fails, there is the simple finesse.

♠♥♦♣

Throw-in plays of this nature can be very useful in that they force the opposition to open up a new suit, hopefully to our advantage. This deal occurred in a recent match:

♠ KQ6
♥ A87
♦ KJ763
♣ Q3

♠ AJ
♥ 6
♦ Q1098542
♣ A102

Some rather forward bidding led to a final contract of 6♦ by South, and West led the king of hearts.

Counting winners, there are three spades, a heart, six diamonds, and a club; only eleven. Counting losers, there is the ace of trumps and a club; two. Somehow, therefore, a club loser has to be avoided, so some work has to be done.

One advantage we have is that we are only missing one trump. This removes a vital option from the defence – they cannot simply play ace and a trump, as there is no other trump. Consequently, we can play to postpone the trump exit until it is dangerous for the defenders to play back any suit.

This means that we have to strip out all the major-suit cards in the two hands, and this has to be done in the correct order. After winning the ace of hearts, we ruff a heart. Now we cash the ace of spades, cross to the king-queen in dummy (discarding the ♣2) and ruff the last heart in hand. Now we can exit with a trump. This is the position:

♠ –
♥ –
♦ KJ76
♣ Q3

♠ –
♥ –
♦ Q1095
♣ A10

There are two options; either West won the ace of diamonds, or East did.

If East leads a major we have a ruff-and-discard; we ruff in one hand and discard the club loser from the other. However, the defenders will know that a major-suit lead will do this, so they will play a club. When East leads a club, we have no option other than to play low from hand, hoping that East has been forced to lead away from the king. If West turns up with the king, well, too bad; there is nothing that we can do.

However, West may win the ace of diamonds and lead a club. If East holds both the king and the jack, we have no chance, so we have to hope

that the king and jack are split (or that West has both). But is West leading away from the king or away from the jack?

This is pretty much a guess, but there is one small consideration. We have the ten of clubs. West will not know this. If West has the jack, then from his point of view East may well have the K10. Although East should put in the ten if we play low from dummy, he may not do so. In such a case, West may well try to help his partner by leading the jack. So there is a small percentage that if West leads a low club, it is more likely to be away from the king than the jack, as with the jack he might very well lead it. So when West plays a low club, we should go up with the queen in dummy. This is not guaranteed, however.

As the cards lay, it was a straightforward end-play against East. This was the full hand:

	♠ KQ6	
	♥ A87	
	♦ KJ763	
	♣ Q3	
♠ 9875		♠ 1043
♥ KQ953		♥ J104
♦ –		♦ A
♣ J762		♣ K984
	♠ AJ	
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q1098542	
	♣ A105	

The timing of the major-suit strip was crucial. If declarer cashes the spades before ruffing a heart, there is an extra heart left in dummy and no entry to ruff it. When the trump ace is conceded the defence can simply exit in hearts.

♠♥♦♣

In both cases above, there was nothing much that the defenders could do; they were faced with a choice of unpalatable options. However, that may not always be the case, and, as ever, counting the hand out may give a clue.

This deal came up in a multi-team event, more years ago than your correspondent cares to remember:

♠ AJ6
♥ K1042
♦ K1064
♣ 64
♠ KQ8
♥ AQJ6
♦ A873
♣ A7

A simple auction led to a contract of 6♥ by South, and West led the queen of clubs.

At first sight declarer needs to find the queen-jack of diamonds doubleton, but there is the extra chance of a possible defensive error. South won the ace of clubs, drew trumps (they were 3-2; East threw a small club on the third round), and cashed three rounds of spades ending in hand. Then he exited with a club.

West tried to win with the nine, but East had K10 left and perforce had to win the trick. He now played the queen of diamonds.

South had the option of playing for QJ doubleton, but there was an alternative; he decided to play East for both the queen and jack (the queen-switch had been quite prompt), so he won with the king in dummy and led the ten. This was covered by the jack, but West's nine was pinned and the 87 became good.

This was reasonable, as if East started with QJ9 of diamonds there was an inevitable loser. The full hand:

♠ AJ6	
♥ K1042	
♦ K1064	
♣ 64	
♠ 754	♠ 10932
♥ 983	♥ 75
♦ 92	♦ QJ5
♣ QJ983	♣ K1052
♠ KQ8	
♥ AQJ6	
♦ A873	
♣ A7	

Well done by South, but poor defence by East. When South exits with a club, East can count South for three spades and four hearts; therefore, six cards in the minors. If these are 3-3, a club exit is safe, as South will ruff in the dummy, but must lose a later diamond. If South has two diamonds and four clubs, he would surely have played to ruff diamonds in hand. And if he has four diamonds and two clubs, then leading a club will give a ruff-and-discard, but a diamond still has to be lost.

Meet Tom Townsend

by Chris Duckworth

Tom Townsend is one of London's top players, although these days he mainly lives in Warsaw with his partner, Ewa Kater, and their 3-year old son, Max. The couple met at the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008 when Ewa was playing on the Polish women's team and Tom was on the England open team. When Max was born he was very poorly and it was a natural decision for Ewa to stay in Poland with her family to support her, but assuming Max continues to improve they plan to settle in London this autumn. Tom makes his living as a bridge professional and his loyalty is very much to English bridge. Ewa has also made an impact on the London bridge scene, winning the 2009 Easter pairs with Alex Hydes.



I spoke to Tom just after the Gold Cup finals weekend last December. His team had just lost in the quarter finals, meaning that this was one more time that Gold Cup victory had eluded his grasp. But apart from this blip, Tom has had a terrific season and a hugely successful bridge career in general.

Tom has been playing in partnership with David Bakhshi, another star London member, since 2010. They came a very close second in the Premier League in their first season (they actually lost first place by 1 IMP – on an appeal and a split tie!) and were the only English pair to make it through to the main final in the

European Open Pairs Championship in Poznan in summer 2011. They were not originally selected to be members of the English team to play in the 51st European Team Championships in Dublin last year, but due to an unfortunate family illness, Andrew Robson and Alexander Allfrey were forced to retire from the team. Tom and David were called in at very short notice to replace them and the newly formed team went on to achieve a remarkably good 4th place, so qualifying England to play in the Bermuda Bowl in Bali in September this year. This was actually England's best ever performance in the European Championships (though of course British teams have done better in the past)

The team that qualifies to a World Championship is not automatically picked en bloc to go forward, but Tom and David have now been selected to be part of the team to go to Bali, a decision well-justified by their performance. Tom expressed his sincere thanks to Nick Irens for allowing all this to happen – as Nick generously released him from his obligation to play in his team in the Pachabo Cup last June, which clashed with the Europeans. I asked Tom for his opinion of the team's chances in Bali and he suggested that we should be realistic. There is some very strong opposition, including the new Monaco team who won in Dublin, the ever-strong Italian and Dutch teams, not to mention two fierce US squads, all of whom are more experienced and better prepared and resourced. But if every team member plays to his potential he feels the England team could qualify for the knock-out stages. That would be a good result in itself and then who knows?

Tom is an elected member of the EBU Selection Committee and also the chief selector for the LMBA. In both capacities he is dedicated to finding the best teams possible to represent the country and the County. He joined the national committee because he was persuaded that some balance was needed and a certain number of selectors need to be top players to provide informed opinion – though of course he can't take part in the final selection process for the Open team when he himself is in contention. I discussed the various options for selection that might be used by this committee and he firmly believes that the current method of choosing the best available three pairs is the way to go. His view is that England does not have the strength in depth to afford to leave out any top pair or to follow the US model of picking a whole team based on performance in specific events. He freely admitted that when he was originally left out of the team for Dublin and for the Olympiad in Lille he did not much like it, but he respected the committee's choice and supported the decision, or at least kept his thoughts to himself.

As a London selector, his main task is to pick the team for the Tollemache Cup, the inter-county teams of eight, in conjunction with co-selectors Ian Payn and Brian Callaghan. London had a strong team which won four Tollemaches in successive years in the noughts but it has taken a few years to rebuild a new team after this disbanded. This has resulted in a fallow period when we have not managed to reach the final stages. But this year we sent an excellent team of five pairs plus a non-playing captain, and this team completely routed the opposition in their section of the qualifying field. In fact, in the cross-IMP of their section, the London pairs came in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th out of the 40 pairs! So as I write, we

are just before the national Tollemache finals. By the time you read this, you will probably know how the team did – I do hope it was a good result!

Tom's greatest achievement in the past was reaching the final of the 2008 world championships in Beijing (and giving the Italians a run for their money), though he rates his most exciting as winning the European Junior Teams in 1994, partnering Jeffrey Allerton. The British junior team captained by Raymond Brock went on to win the World Junior Championships in Bali the next year. This was a convincing victory with not so much excitement. So Tom obviously hopes to find a similar level of form when he returns to Bali this year, His regime for being at his peak is to minimize his alcohol consumption and to cut out the curries – he says he needs his sleep! At home, he simply looks forward to whatever is the next event in the calendar. I am sure he will continue his string of successes – he has been at the top of the bridge scene for so long that it is easy to forget he is still only aged 41.

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

Finally, I asked Tom for a hand and he gave me this amusing one from a Spring Foursomes match, where his team was well behind and needed a swing. Tom was South and opened an off-beat strong 1NT. His partner raised to 3NT and LHO led ♠Q.

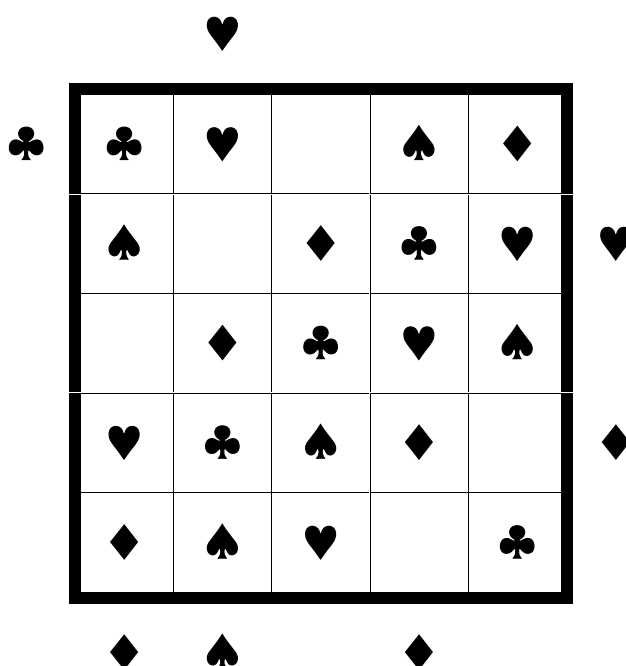
It looks like you can quickly wrap up nine tricks – two spades and seven hearts, But have you spotted the problem? If you play too quickly you will realise too late that the hearts are blocked and your nine tricks have evaporated. Tom realised in time and took a successful first-round heart finesse against the queen to bring home his contract!

Puzzle Solution

(See page 6)

Here is the puzzle solution.

Did you get it right?



Congratulations ...

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



Andrew Robson, David Gold, Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi, all of whom have been selected (with Alexander Allfrey and Tony Forrester) to represent England in the World Championships in Bali later this year. The same team will also play for England in the second weekend of the Camrose in March.

David Gold and **Andrew Robson** have had a great year. They were members of the winning 2012 Gold Cup team (pictured right with the trophy).



They also came second in the Premier League, whilst **David Ewart, Gunnar Hallberg** and **Phil King** came in third place.

Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw were selected to play in the England U20 team in the Junior Channel Trophy and in the England Peggy Bayer team

At the Brighton Summer Congress there were a number of successes.

In the main Swiss Pairs over the first weekend **Martin Nygren** was second with **Espen Erichsen** and **David Bakhshi** fourth. **Alex Hydes, Alan** and **Olivia Woo** (pictured below) won the Teams B final over the second weekend.



The new one-day Swiss Teams on the first Saturday was won by **Mark Lehto, Fiona Hutchison, Guy Hart** and **Tim Gauld**.

Rob Cliffe and **Millie Jones** were third in the Sunday Open Pairs.

In the Seniors Congress, **Mike Hill** was third in the Seniors Pairs A final; **Chris Duckworth** and **Brian Callaghan** won the B final of the Seniors Pairs; and **Carla Sidney-Woollett** was second in the Senior Pairs consolation event.



At the Autumn Congress **Alex Hydes**, **Alan Woo** and **Olivia Woo** were once again at the forefront – they won the Eastbourne Bowl, the main teams event, again with Simon Cope as their fourth team member.

The secondary teams trophy, the Burlington Cup, was won by a team including **Jorrit Schafer** (*on the left in the picture below*). **Rosie White**, **Brian Ransley** and **Brian McGuire** were

second in this field, with **Ryan Stephenson**, **Liz Clery** **Andrew Clery** and **Ken Barnett** third.

The Sussex Cup was won by **Kath Stynes**, **Millie Jones** and **Rob Cliffe**, playing with David Burn (*below right*).

The final success at this congress was from **Stefanie Rohan** and **Paul Lamford** (*below*) who won the Satellite Pairs, with **Ryan Stephenson** and **Liz Clery** second.



Roland Gonau and **David Wing** won the Guernsey Congress Swiss Pairs. **Graham Pollack** and **Paul Chapman** were second in the Felixstowe Congress Swiss Teams.

Benji Hackenbroch was third in the Essex/Herts One-Day Swiss Pairs. In the Kent Congress Swiss Teams **Brian Ransley** and **Brian McGuire** were second and **Robert** and **Penny Sheehan** were third.

At the Year End Congress, **Ingar Hansen** and **Szczepan Smoczynski** were second in the Swiss Teams and **Alex Hydes** was third in both the Mixed Pairs and the Swiss Teams.

The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

Before Christmas, I had a conversation with the editor of this august journal, and we agreed that this column had suffered a bit lately from that well-known condition Binkie Blight. It seemed that every time I was called upon to produce a thousand words or so of stream-of-consciousness garbage I just spewed forth a load of facetious nonsense about my most recent game with Brian Callaghan. It seemed perfectly reasonable to lay off him for a while. Not because the effect that playing with him has on my blood pressure has eased, but because my repeated tales of woe were becoming a bit...well, possibly a bit samey.



So, my instructions were clear. Lay off the Binkster for a while. Now, if I were a more prolific player this wouldn't be too much of a problem, but, although I have a few games lined up in the near future with various people of varying degrees of delightfulness, I've only played once since the editor and I had our little chat. At the Year End Congress with...yep, you've guessed it.

So, current events this ain't. Even if everything that happened over the Year End was my fault (which it was) there's an embargo on it. So, what else is new?

Well, as you'll read elsewhere in this edition of MetroNews, after some years in the wilderness the London team has qualified for the **Tollemache final**, for the first time in several years. Back in the noughties London didn't just qualify, but won the event four years in a row, a record unlikely to be beaten anytime soon. As a member of that team on a couple of occasions, I've felt the failure to qualify in the years following it particularly keenly, especially as I've played in the Qualifier every year since. Anyway, this time I didn't play, as happily we had a team of experts without having to call on my services. So, the first time I don't play is the first time we qualify for years. There's an obvious, if unkind inference to be made. I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.

I made the trip to downtown Daventry anyway, as Non-Playing Captain, a role I was obviously born to play, since I couldn't work out the scoring, lost the recap sheet and couldn't remember who was in the team. I did, however, choose who sat out jolly well, and that was the main bit. History may well record that it all went so well because of my unparalleled skill at sit-out selection. It may equally well record that it was because the team en bloc played so well and finished so far ahead of everyone else that drug-testing was being mooted by representatives of lesser counties. I reckon it's about fifty-fifty.

In other news, Chris has come across an excellent new venue for the next **London Green Pointed Event**. It's in the *salle* (fencing room to you and me) at St. Paul's School, just south of the river near Hammersmith Bridge. It promises to be a top-class site, and after all the hunting high and low for somewhere (you'd never believe how far afield some of the suggestions were getting) it's rather sweet that the final choice was found not only by our secretary (who had been

dispatching people hither and yon in the search) herself, but that it's only just over the river from Hammersmith & Fulham, where she lives.

You'll have read elsewhere that London didn't exactly prosper in the **Metropolitan Cup**. Again, I don't know what it is about this event: the teams we send aren't lined with all-stars but all the players involved are perfectly respectable performers. Somehow it just never seems to gel. We'll be entering again this autumn, though, and once again the cry goes out - If you might be available (it's liable to be on Sept 8th or the 15th somewhere in Sussex) let me know.

Like many of you I'm aware that the **Young Chelsea** is about to reach the end of the line at 32 Barkston Gardens, where it has been *in situ* since long before I started playing. The current lease expires on July 23rd 2013, and no, there is no chance of an extension. The club has, in effect, been living on an extension for the last three years, when the landlord, instead of evicting the club as he had every right to, agreed out of respect for the club's long tenancy to allow it some breathing space.

Anyway, after a long search, alternative premises have been found. Full details can be found on the club website, of course, but the long and the short of it is that it's a very suitable building, ripe for tailoring to the exact needs of a bridge club, but it is south of the river, on the Wandsworth Road between New Covent Garden and Stockwell.. Now, it's patently clear (to me, at least) that a dramatic change of locale was always going to happen. Rents anywhere near the current club are prohibitive, and the club just couldn't afford to go anywhere without increasing subs/table money to the extent that attendances would nosedive, thus defeating the object of the exercise. The new premises, apart from being more or-less made to measure, are also affordable, and the price of playing shouldn't increase dramatically (there is actually talk of potential reductions, but I wouldn't hold anyone to that). That all sounds like good reason to stroll down the Wandsworth Road one autumn evening and give the new club a go. Preferably in a practise game for the Metropolitan Cup. I wish new club manager, Nick Sandqvist the best of luck, and not sarcastically, either.

Former YC club manager, **Gordon Rainsford**, has moved to the EBU, where he has taken over from Max Bavin as Chief Tournament Director after Max's retirement. How did that happen? It seems that it was only five minutes ago that he was helping out on Tuesdays. Is it something to do with hard work and application? I suppose it must be. And the fact that it makes sense for the best Tournament Director in England to be the EBU's Chief TD...if only it were that simple in other walks of life.

Finally, I think I've found my way around the embargo on Callaghan stories. I'll tell you about the game of Trivial Pursuit we were teamed up in over Christmas. I find it amusing, and I think you will too, as long as I don't run out of spa -

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