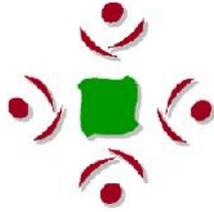


*London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association*



# MetroNews

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*



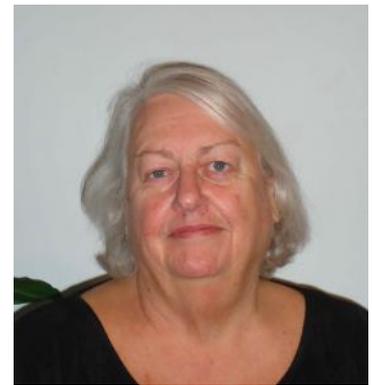
Spring 2015

*London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association*



# Words from the Editor

As I write this at the start of 2015, I am looking back on 2014 - a fantastic year for English bridge in the international arena. And London players have done more than their fair share to contribute to this



The highlight of the year was our success at the European Championships in Opatija in June, where all three English teams finished with medals. The Open team won bronze and three of the team members, David Bakhshi, David Gold and Andrew Robson, along with team coach Ben Green, were London members. The Women's team won silver and included London-affiliated Heather Dhondy as well as London residents Nicola Smith and coach David Burn. The Seniors team did best, coming home with the Gold medal, the team including London's Gunnar Hallberg and NPC Simon Cochemé. As a consequence of these results, all three teams have qualified to play in the World Championships later this year in Chennai, India, where they will aim to come home with world medals.

At the World Mind Games in Beijing our women shone again. The England Team of Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith, Sally Brock, Fiona Brown and Catherine Draper won gold in the teams, and Nicola won a second gold in the Individual, where Catherine took the bronze. Our juniors had their share of success too, with Graeme Robertson and Tom Paske capturing bronze at the Junior European Pairs Championships.

On top of this, 2014 featured a number of international events where English players did very well in open and trans-national events. At the World Bridge Series in Sanya, China, London member Anita Sinclair captained her team, including Zia Mahmood, to Gold in the Mixed Teams. England women Sally Brock and Nicola Smith also won Gold in the Women's Teams in Sanya, and England seniors Paul Hackett and John Holland were part of the Bronze medal winning team. Other successful forays included great wins by English players in the Pakistani international championships, the Icelandair Reykjavik Bridge Festival and Sweden's Chairman's Cup (see Paul Lamford's article on this on pages 21-30).

All of this should have meant that bridge was headline news in the newspapers – at least the sports columns, if not the main news. But it is notoriously difficult for bridge players to get the news space they deserve. The EBU does its best to publicise things, but the press rarely takes up the stories it issues. It seems it is only when there is a scandal, such as the “coughing Germans” incident, that we hit the news. Part of this must be because bridge is not recognised as a sport in this country and the EBU continues to fight to get this changed – not least because this will help to attract funding. This is important because the cost of sending three teams to India to compete in the world championships is not inconsiderable.

Whilst we don't all aspire to play internationally, every bridge player at any level aspires to improve their game - it is the nature of the game to try to do better. We

all need role models - club players need better club players who they can try to beat; good club players need county players who they can hope to emulate; and we all need our international super-stars to inspire us at the top level. Long may they continue their success.

Chris Duckworth  
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## Annual General Meeting

The 2015 AGM will be held on Thursday 10th September, at a venue to be announced. Further details and an agenda will be published in the next issue of MetroNews.

The 2014 AGM of the LMBA was held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, St John's Wood Bridge Club, Grove Hall Court, Hall Road, St John's Wood, NW8 9NU. The draft minutes of the meeting can be found on the LMBA website [metronews.co.uk](http://metronews.co.uk).

Two new committee members were elected at this meeting:

**Brian Callaghan** – one of London's top players, Brian is known throughout the bridge world as Binkie. He has served the LMBA for some time as a selector, but has now joined the committee as a full member. He also happens to be the husband of your editor!



**Elaine Kay** – Elaine has played most of her bridge in north London. She currently works for BP but will be retiring at the end of March, so hopes to devote more time to bridge then.



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## LMBA results this season

### Café Bridge Drive - Clapham

The Clapham Café Bridge drive has now become an established highlight of the social bridge calendar. Played in September in the cafés and bars of the pretty Abbeville Road, this year the event was blessed with the most glorious sunny weather, making the movement between venues particularly enjoyable.

32 pairs played this time and the winner was local resident and international star Robert Sheehan with partner Susie Lewis, who achieved a terrific score of over



71%. The event was held in aid of Trinity Hospice, for whom a total of £750 was raised. The leading places were as follows:

1	Robert Sheehan & Susie Lewis	71.36 %
2	Susie Behrmann & Malcolm Morris	64.51
3	Keith Clow & Monica Davis	61.71
4	Ray Joosab & Leo Zeglovskis	59.39

## **Mixed Pairs Championship**

This season's Mixed Pairs Championship was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, at its temporary home at the St John's Wood Bridge Club, and attracted a good turnout of 34 pairs.

There were a few problems in scoring the event, mainly due to the fact that the Bridgemates only worked in part of the club, so some manual scoring was necessary. When the final calculations had been completed, the winners were found to be two seasoned London players and officials – Chairman Ian Payn and Secretary Chris Duckworth. It was all very close, however, with the top 6 pairs separated by only two percentage points.

The leading scores were:

1	Chris Duckworth & Ian Payn	60.60 %
2	Victor Silverstone & Brigid Battiscombe	60.31
3	Stan Ruminski & Beata Ruminski	59.20
4	David Schiff & Anne Catchpole	58.38

## **Men's Pairs & Women's Pairs**

A new competition was introduced into the calendar this year – two competitions, in fact, for same-sex pairs, run at the same venue and with the same boards in play, but in separate fields. Scoring was by IMPs rather than the usual match-pointed pairs scoring, which made for more relaxed play.

Numbers were fairly small, with 8 competing male pairs and 11 female pairs, but were sufficient to suggest this can grow into a regular feature of the LMBA programme of events.

Results were as follows:

### **Men's Pairs:**

1	Nick Sandqvist & Tim West-Meads	+ 50.63 IMPs
2	Roger Morton & Mike Hill	+ 26.68
3	Nigel Freake & Paul Lamford	+ 23.36

### **Women's Pairs**

1	Brigid Battiscombe & Linda Pethick	+ 52.18 IMPs
2	Gillian Fawcett & Jane Moore	+ 45.47
3	Chantal Girardin & Mandie Campbell	+ 32.29

# Lederer Memorial Trophy 2015

The date for the Lederer has been changed from Autumn to Spring, and the next event will be held over the weekend of **Saturday-Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March 2015**.



*2013 Lederer in play*

The venue will once again be the elegant surroundings of the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, where ten teams representing the cream of national and international players have been invited to play for the trophy.

This great event provides a marvellous opportunity for bridge enthusiasts to see how the experts' minds work at the bridge table. As a spectator, you can rub

shoulders with the top stars from this country and abroad as they compete for trophy. Whilst this is a very hard-fought competition it is always played in the best of spirits, so you will enjoy the great atmosphere.

The teams to have accepted invitations this year are:

- **The Holders** – Bernard Teltscher, Victor Silverstone, Phil King, Stelio DeBello, Willie Coyle, with President's team regular John Matheson replacing Tom Townsend this time.
- **England Open** – Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Gold and David Bakhshi – a formidable team who will be representing England in the Bermuda Bowl later this year.
- **Ladies** – Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy and Catherine Draper, four members of the England gold-medal winning team at the World Mind Games in Beijing in 2014, with two of Scotland's finest - Liz McGowan and Sam Punch.
- **England Seniors** – Paul Hackett, David Mossop, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, Colin Simpson and David Price – European Senior gold-medallists.
- **Zia** – Zia Mahmood, Roy Welland, Sabine Auken and Denis Bilde – four international superstars.



*Holders - The President's Team – l to r: Victor Silverstone, Willie Coyle, Tom Townsend, Bernard Teltscher, Phil King, Stelio Di Bello.*

- **De Botton** – Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski, Nick Sandqvist, Tom Townsend and Thor Erik Hoftaniska – this team has won just about every major English competition and quite a few international ones as well.
- **Gillis** – Simon Gillis, Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist – Simon Gillis is bringing along a team of Norwegian stars.
- **Gold Cup** – Andrew McIntosh, Stefan Skorchev, Cameron Small, Jonathan Cooke, Dror Padon and Lee Rosenthal. Since most of the current Gold Cup winners are playing in other teams, Gold Cup holder Andrew McIntosh is accompanied by a team comprising mainly last year’s runners-up, but still a very strong squad.
- **Ireland** – Mark Moran, Tom Hanlon, Tommy Garvey, John Carroll and Rory Boland – the ever-popular and highly successful Irish squad.
- **London** – still to be determined.

## Come along and watch!

This really will be a feast of bridge and a terrific opportunity for all Londoners. As well as being able to watch at the table, there will also be a VuGraph presentation where you can follow the play at one of the tables, as it happens, but whilst seeing all four hands, with expert commentary to explain what is going on.

You can choose to come along on either day of the event, or both. Play starts at 1.30 pm on Saturday and continues until 8.30 pm. On Sunday there is an earlier 12.30 pm start and proceedings will end with a reception and prize-giving at around 6.30 pm for which spectators are welcome to stay.

Please note that entry to the event is by ticket only. Tickets cost £10 for Saturday or Sunday only, or £15 for both days. Entry is free for RAC members. Please note that there is a dress code at the RAC which must be adhered to.

Ticket applications and enquiries should be sent to [lederertrophy@gmail.com](mailto:lederertrophy@gmail.com). Tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Puzzle Corner

This issue’s puzzle is a straightforward Sudoku.

But instead of the numbers 1-9 you need to use the 9 different letters in the words: LONDON BRIDGE.



The solution can be found on page 19.

L				R				E
	B				D			
		I	E			R		
		D	N				I	
I				O				N
	E				L	G		
		R			G	N		
			I				B	
G				B				D

# 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.*

## Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend

**Saturday-Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

### Swiss Pairs

**Saturday** starting at **1.00pm**

Holders: *Ingar Hansen & Peter Taylor*

### Swiss Teams

**Sunday** starting at **11.30am**

Holders: *Ian Pagan, Lyn Fry, Catherine Seale, Tom Paske*



**Venue:** Aldersgate Room,

Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH

The venue is just off Parliament Square, close to both St James's Park and Westminster tube stations. Victoria Station is a 15-minute walk or short bus ride away. If coming by car, on street parking on single yellow lines and in paid-for bays is free at weekends in the adjacent D4 parking zone. You can also park freely in residents' parking zones on Sundays. Available spaces are very limited, however, and public transport is recommended for such a central venue.

The Central Hall Westminster has its own café – Wesley's Café – which is immediately adjacent to the Aldersgate Room. Reasonably priced teas, coffees etc will be available from here during most of each day, as well as snacks and meals in the breaks. There are also many food and drink outlets in the nearby area. Please note that the venue is a Methodist Church property, and no alcohol is permitted on the premises



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. 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.

# London Championship Pairs

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015** starting at 1.00pm

Holder: *Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan*

**Venue:** Wimbledon Bridge Club, Kenneth Black Memorial Hall, 56a Worplesdon Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4EY



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 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport.

**Entry fee:** £30.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not essential but is recommended. Entries should be made to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com), putting "Championship Pairs" in the subject line.

# London Trophy Pairs

**Sunday 19th April 2015** starting at 2.00pm.

Holder: *Peter Brook & Roy Westwater*

**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 and should be made no later than 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com).

Enquiries may be made to **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940.



## Café Bridge - Tonsleys

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015** starting at **10.30**  
for **11.00 am**

Holder: *Simon Prager & Dick Jordan*

**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:** £22.50 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](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com) to arrive no later than 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015, putting “Café Bridge” in the subject line.

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

## Fox Shammon Trophy

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015** starting at **2.00pm**

Holder: *Bernard Teltscher & Victor Silverstone*

**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 1954.

**Entry fee:** £24.00 per pair

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to arrive no later than 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to [Imbaentries@gmail.com](mailto:Imbaentries@gmail.com) putting “Fox Shammon” in the subject line. Enquiries may be made to **Dave Muller** on 07847 618105.

# Teltscher Cups - Lederer Satellite Pairs

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Holders:** NS: *Madhusinh & Manjari Rawji (Friends Bridge Group, Harrow)*  
EW: *Tim Pelling & Naomi Cohen (Wimbledon BC)*



*EW Winners with Bernard Teltscher and team mates David Bakhshi & Zia Mahmoud*



*NS Winners with team mates David Gold & Tony Forrester*

This is a parallel satellite event to the Lederer Memorial Trophy. Players at participating clubs play the same hands as are played in the Lederer itself on the Saturday afternoon, scoring up as team mates with the results achieved by two of the star pairs in the main event – one NS and one EW.

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

**Entry Fee:** £1 per player

Clubs that wish to hold heats should contact organiser **Elaine Kay** at [KayEF@bp.com](mailto:KayEF@bp.com) or on 07940 081406.

## Garden Cities Heat

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015** starting at **7.00pm**

Holders: Young Chelsea BC

**Venue:** Young Chelsea Bridge Club, St John's Wood Bridge Club, Grove Hall Court, Hall Rd, St John's Wood, NW8 9NU



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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to **Chris Duckworth** at [chris.duckworth@lineone.net](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net) or on 020 7385 3534.

## London Trophy Finals

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015** starting at **2.00pm**

You can't now enter the 2014/15 London Trophy, as this knock-out competition for teams of four representing social clubs of all kinds is well under way. But you can, if you wish, enjoy the drama of the final stages which will be held at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Spectators are very welcome, particularly if they are willing to help with recording the bidding and early play of the hands.

Entry is free, but please note there is a dress code at the RAC. Enquiries to **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940 or to [kstynes@talk21.com](mailto:kstynes@talk21.com).



## 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 as do, where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee.

Full LMBA competition rules for individual events may be found on the LMBA website at [www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk).

# London News

## Silver Award for Mike Hill

London is very proud to now have three EBU Silver Medal award winners amongst its members. At the 2014 AGM Mike Hill was awarded this most prestigious award, given by the EBU for “outstanding contribution and recognition of long service as a volunteer at national and/or county level”.

Mike's award was very well-deserved. He has been involved in bridge administration for over thirty years. At local level he helped to run the BP bridge club and the London Business Houses association. At county level he edited the London newsletter for many years and has served as our Chairman not once, but twice, the second time filling the post when nobody else was prepared to.



His work behind the scenes in the county was second to none, but in 2006 he made his mark on the national scene, when he joined the EBU Board. He took on the role of Treasurer soon thereafter, and saw the EBU through the most difficult and complex financial period in its history, as Universal Membership was introduced. Whilst now retired from the Board, he has maintained his place on the LMBA Committee and continues to provide invaluable support.

## Tony Priday

Most people will now be aware that Tony Priday died last October in Marbella aged 92. In addition to being a long-standing Vice President of the EBU Tony was an honorary life member of London and he has always supported the County. He was an abiding presence at the Lederer Memorial Trophy and his absence from the 2013 event was keenly felt, and will be felt in future.



Tony was an outstanding player as well as being the consummate gentleman – a rare combination. He first represented England at bridge in 1955 and his last match was in 2002 when, at the age of 80, he was in the same team as the 20-year-old David Gold — a record for a bridge team “age spread”. He set another record in May 2014 when he competed in the Teltscher Trophy, the Senior Home Internationals, as part of the sponsor's team, alongside Bernard Teltscher – they had a combined age of 182. As well as a player and

administrator, Tony was a long-serving bridge journalist, having been appointed the Sunday Telegraph's first columnist and holding the post for 36 years.

At a memorial occasion for Tony held in London in January, the EBU Chairman, Jeremy Dhondy, announced the creation of a new award to be called the Tony Priday Award which will be awarded for excellence whether that be in the playing arena or elsewhere. A fitting tribute to an excellent man.

Richard Fleet, also a LMBA honorary life member, knew Tony well and has provided his own memories in the following article.

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## **The last of the great ones**

*by Richard Fleet*

### **A tribute to Tony Priday**

In the two decades following the end of World War 2, Great Britain's open bridge team had a great run of success. Such players as Leslie Dodds, Kenneth Konstam, Nico Gardener, Maurice Harrison-Gray, Adam Meredith, Terence Reese, Boris Schapiro and the Tarlo brothers (Joel and Louis) were involved in many strong championship performances: Britain won the first post-war European championship in 1948 and were victorious on five more occasions during this period, the last one being in 1963. Dodds, Harrison-Gray, Reese and Schapiro all played in four of the winning teams whilst Konstam was a member on every occasion.

Virtually all the players who represented Great Britain at this time came from the London area. Apart from Harold Franklin, who whilst living in Leeds played most of his bridge in London teams, the only Northerners to break the London monopoly were Mancunians Ben Franks and Joe Lazarus in 1959. To a very large extent, bridge expertise was synonymous with London, and London players were often thought to consider themselves a cut above the rest (and, regrettably, they did not always trouble to conceal this opinion).

Early in the 1950s, a young Londoner came to the attention of the established players. Partnering Charles Tatham, Tony Priday put together a number of good results and came to be regarded as promising material for the future. Somewhat irreverently perhaps, the partnership was generally referred to in London circles as Thursday and Friday.

In due course, the promise was fulfilled and Tony made his debut for Great Britain in 1961 in partnership with Alan Truscott. Perhaps benefiting from home advantage, for the championship was played in Torquay, Britain won. Reporting on the event, Franklin opined that Priday and Truscott were the most reliable pair on view.

As most LMBA members will now be aware, Tony Priday sadly died on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the age of 92. He was the last survivor of Britain's 20 year golden period and retained both his love of the game and his ability until the end – Tony and his partner, LMBA President Bernard Teltscher, took part in the 2014 Senior Camrose and placed second in the *Butler* analysis of individual pairs' results.

I suspect that one achievement of Tony's, in partnership with Claude Rodrigue (who also made his international debut in 1961, partnering Konstam), will never be emulated, far less superseded. They were selected to represent Britain in nine consecutive major international championships (Europeans and Olympiads) between 1971 and 1980, a record without parallel in this country.

As well as being a great player, Tony was a true gentleman. It is hard to imagine anyone not liking Tony, such was his kindly disposition and courtly manner - the arrogant attitude displayed by other London players from time to time was not for him.

I knew Tony for over 40 years, having first met him in 1972. Jim Niblett and I were playing in the Christmas tournament at the Europa Hotel and encountered Tony playing with his first wife, Jane (a considerable player in her own right). Tony and Jane had the sort of auction which gives Acol a bad name and arrived in a grand slam missing an ace. Jim, who had the ace on lead, led something else on the basis that two such eminent players must surely know what they were doing! Fortunately, the contract was so bad that the ace had to score a trick later. Although it seemed to me that Jane was largely responsible for this catastrophe (her choices in the auction were all dubious, to say the least), Tony took all the blame.

I came to know Tony quite well some 25 years later. He was extremely helpful to me on a number of occasions when I was Chairman of the EBU Selection Committee, a committee which he had himself chaired for 12 years. Whenever I had a problem, I knew that Tony would be able and willing to assist, and his counsel was never less than thoughtful and helpful.

It has been repeated on many previous occasions, but this anecdote from Torquay, reported by Reese, sums up the man, though reflecting less well on the generality of bridge players.

Two ladies staying at the championship hotel noticed Tony passing and one of them remarked what a nice man he was – the other agreed and said that she had been really surprised when she learned that he was one of the bridge players!

So goodbye, Tony - I will miss you, and to Vivian (Tony's "child bride") my sympathy and condolences, inadequate though this must be.

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## **An extra round of bidding**

*by Steve Eginton*

*Steve Eginton's account of this year's Auction Pairs at the St John's Wood Bridge Club.*

St John's Woods annual auction pairs took place as usual in mid-December. This differs from a normal competition in that the pairs are all "auctioned" before the event and the main prizes go to the auction buyer of the leading pairs, rather than the players themselves.



To main a vested interest however, they are required to buy a percentage of themselves back. I was playing with Kitty Teltscher and this issue did not arise for us as she outbid Bernard to add us to her portfolio.

In the past, I've had the feeling that the hands have been quite distributional, which is not too great for a single session event, but this year they were not particularly wild, but nevertheless interesting. Even more important, I didn't get the feeling that the values favoured either line in particular. Kitty and I had a sound but not spectacular set, yet managed to win by over a top with just under 64% - not high for a single session of 24 hands.

We finished with two good results with the hands both played by the opponents. On one, we both took a "conservative" view by modern bidding standards, which worked well on this occasion.

**Love All. Dealer North.**

<p>♠ 1043 ♥ 10872 ♦ 3 ♣ Q6542</p>	<p>♠ Q86 ♥ K653 ♦ J652 ♣ A10</p>
<p>♠ KJ9752 ♥ J94 ♦ 1074 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ A ♥ AQ ♦ AKQ96 ♣ K9873</p>

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Steve		Kitty
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I think that Kitty's decision was trickier, but a weak jump overcall is shaded at any vulnerability, and the odds facing a passed hand are surely low; they will play the hand most of the time, whether partner is fitting or not. It is unlikely to obstruct the bidding too much and may well simplify their bidding and play choices.

My choice was simpler – over a major balancing with 1NT has more chance

of gaining, but if partner can't overcall or double 1♦, it's hard to think of many hands where protecting gains, especially in a world where no-one has many forcing openers any more. Anyway, it worked well here as 5♣ was cold and 6♣ very good. Not always a bidder's game is it? Almost no-one else played 1♦, so I imagine that 2♠ from South proved irresistible for most of the field.

♠♥♦♣

There were a couple of interesting play hands at our table – this was the more complex:

**NS Vul. Dealer East.**

<p>♠ K865 ♥ K106 ♦ KQ32 ♣ K5</p>	<p>♠ QJ102 ♥ J72 ♦ A5 ♣ A987</p>
<p>♠ 43 ♥ Q843 ♦ J10974 ♣ 43</p>	<p>♠ A97 ♥ A95 ♦ 86 ♣ QJ1062</p>

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Kitty		Steve	
2♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

South led ♦J and I decided to duck it. This is a view, of course, but almost certainly right if the ♦A is wrong and not always costing if it is right, unless finds an unlikely major switch and the cards lie badly.

South continued with a second diamond, to the King and Ace (covering is right when North holds three, but also fine when he has two as a position is almost certain to develop, however the majors break).

North switched to ♠Q, won in dummy. When North won ♣A he continued a second spade. I cashed the clubs and South had to reduce to ♦9x and ♥Qx. Dummy to ♥Kx and North to ♠10 and ♥Jxx. Now a heart to the King and cashing the ♦J completes a non-simultaneous double squeeze.

As far as I can see, no combination of switches in the majors prevents the

overtrick (wherever ♣A lies) as one of the majors always provides the communications. I think it was necessary to win the first spade in dummy though, as a heart switch might be able to wreck the entries. In some positions (spades 3-3 and hearts 3-4) I think it is a more complex 3-suit squeeze against South, and 2 versus North. As often with complex positions though, it is not necessary to visualise the whole hand as long as you get the timing and entries right - you can count the squeeze operating and the specifics of the opponents shape as it develops.

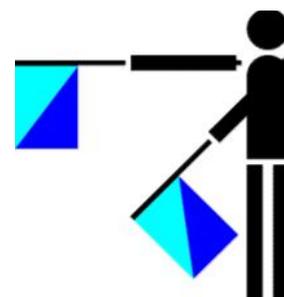
If you have deep finesse, try putting different combinations of the major holdings into it and see how they develop... better than getting headaches working it out mentally!

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## Signalling

by Mike Graham

*Learning how to signal, and using the right signals at the right time, is one of the most important steps towards improving your results as a defender. Here Mike explains some basics.*



What is a signal? Chambers dictionary says: “a token; an intimation, e.g. of warning, conveyed over a distance; a transmitted effect conveying information; the apparatus used for the purpose; a piece of play intended to give information to one’s partner (cards)” and so forth. A transmitted effect conveying information – to whom? To one’s partner, says the next definition, but, at cards, this information does not only go to your partner, it goes to your opponents as well.

When partner leads a suit, most pairs have agreements about which signalling methods they are going to use to indicate how many cards are held; this is a Length signal. A common method, often mysteriously described as “standard”, is to play a small card

followed by a higher card to show an odd number, and a high card followed by a lower card to show an even number. For example:

**Q107 (dummy)**

**K led**

**94**

Defending a suit contract, partner leads the king; we can deduce immediately that this is (almost 100%) from an ace-king holding. Assuming we are not void in trumps we can get a third-round ruff. We can indicate this to partner by playing the nine on the first round. Hopefully partner will get the message and continue with the ace (we play the four, a lower card) and another.

### **Q107 (dummy)**

**K led**

**943**

Same scenario, but here we have three cards, so no ruff is available. We play our lowest card, the three. If partner continues with the ace we can play the four, a higher card, to indicate an odd-numbered holding. Some players use “current count” – so after playing the three at trick one (leaving them with 94) they play the nine under the ace, to show a two-card holding remaining.

Some pairs play what is generally known as “reverse count”, probably because it is the reverse of “standard”. Playing this method, from 94 doubleton the four is played at the first trick and the nine on the second. From 943, it would be normal to play the nine at the first trick.

The same principles apply on lead. Let us assume that partner has bid a suit, and that RHO becomes declarer. We hold 85 in partner’s suit; what do we lead? Funnily enough, in England most pairs, whether playing “standard” or “reverse” count, usually start with a high card from a doubleton. So we would start with the eight. With a holding of 853, we would normally start with the three, although some pairs prefer top-of-nothing in partner’s suit,

and would start with the eight. It is not clear how partner can read this, though; a high card looks like a doubleton. For this reason a method called MUD (Middle, Up, Down) is popular; from three cards we start with the middle one, and follow with a higher. So from 853 we would lead the five and follow to a second round with the eight.

What might be “standard” in one country is not necessarily “standard” in another, however. In Poland it is considered standard to lead the low card from a doubleton – so from 73 you would lead the three.

Sometimes you will want to signal to partner whether you want him to continue a suit:

### **J86 (dummy)**

**A led**

**Q10754**

Playing in no-trump, partner leads the ace. This is likely to be from an ace-king holding, so we can run five tricks. We tell partner the good news by playing the seven. What we are hoping for is that partner, by looking at the spot cards played, can work out that we want the suit to be continued. This is the “standard” method – a high card indicates encouragement.

As ever, there are two camps; “standard” signallers will play the seven (we cannot quite afford the ten, as partner may be experimenting with a lead from Ax), “reverse” signallers play the four, a low card to encourage.

Sometimes, your signalling can be more violent:

### **95 (dummy)**

**A led**

**QJ10876**

Defending a notrump contract, partner leads the ace. Well, we could encourage with an encouraging card (whichever that would be in our methods), but here we can make things crystal clear for our partner; follow suit with the queen. Partner, bless him, had led from AK4.

As well as signalling whether or not we like a suit, or signalling our length in it, we can also signal that it might be a good idea if partner plays a particular suit. These signals are suit-preference signals (SPS). The basic idea here is quite simple: a high card indicates a preference for a high-ranking suit, and a low card indicates a preference for a low suit. Again, these meanings can be reversed.

As an example, this deal occurred in the 2014 Tollemache qualifier:

**Game All. Dealer North.**

♠ 8	
♥ J2	
♦ Q86532	
♣ A984	
♠ KQ63	♠ 1042
♥ AK976	♥ 10854
♦ K1094	♦ J7
♣ –	♣ KJ75
	♠ AJ975
	♥ Q3
	♦ A
	♣ Q10632

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1
2	Dbl	3	4
4	All Pass		

North led the eight of spades and South won with the ace, West playing the six. South then played the ace of

diamonds. North had to work out (and at a decent tempo) what to do. If South had the king of diamonds, it would be incumbent to play a length signal.

However, North concluded that the ace of diamonds was an odd card to play at trick two (a spade looked more normal) and that it was quite likely that it was a singleton. In that case, South would be looking for North to signal where his entry (if any) was.

Looking at the ace of clubs, North nearly played the two of diamonds (SPS for a low suit) but just in time remembered the bidding. If the ace of diamonds was a singleton, West had four. He had to have at least five hearts (from the Two Heart overcall) and was likely to have some spades, with North and East having only four between them. That left West with not many clubs, either a singleton or a void. If West was void, then a club lead would be ruffed.

North did well; he knew that he wanted a spade ruff (note that West had concealed the three), so under the ace of diamonds he played the queen, an unmistakable card calling for a high suit. South got the message, and the defenders cross-ruffed the next four tricks.

Sometimes, SPS's can be immensely rewarding. This deal came up in the first weekend of the English Premier League, and resulted in an enormous penalty (see *hand at top of next page*).

The auction was as follows:

West	North	East	South
		1 <sup>1</sup>	1NT <sup>2</sup>
Dbl <sup>3</sup>	Pass	Pass <sup>4</sup>	Rdbl <sup>5</sup>
All Pass			

**Love All. Dealer East.**

- ♠ J75
  - ♥ Q1096
  - ♦ AQ8
  - ♣ 932
- ♠ Q10
  - ♥ 743
  - ♦ K7
  - ♣ AK10876
- ♠ AK952
  - ♥ 42
  - ♦ 10954
  - ♣ 54
- ♠ 863
  - ♥ AKJ8
  - ♦ J632
  - ♣ QJ

1 East-West were playing an unusual system whereby an opening bid of One Heart showed any hand of 0-10 points that was not a classical pre-empt.

2 12-14 balanced.

3 Either penalty, or a single-suited hand in the 11-16 range (but not diamonds).

4 Aggressive, but holds nuisance cards in diamonds, as well as an ace-king combination.

5 Not systemic – a solo effort.

Nobody at the table was quite sure what the redouble was all about –

North's pass meant that he was content to play in One NoTrump Doubled, but maybe South, whose hand was hardly a good advertisement for the weak notrump, tried a get-out manoeuvre. Whatever the merits of that, everybody decided to stand by their previous decisions, which meant that a large swing would be scored one way or the other.

On a low club lead, South can win, take four heart tricks, and follow with three diamonds, thanks to the doubleton king onside (NS +840). However, West led the ace of clubs, and, when the QJ fell, played off six rounds. Playing reverse signals, East discarded the 4-2 of hearts and the 10-9 of diamonds. West then led the queen of spades (two from East) and followed with the ten; East overtook, and the defence had scored the first eleven tricks for down five and a penalty of 2200.

At the other table, defending 1NT, the clubs were cashed as well, but something went wrong with the signalling and 1NT scored 90 – a 20-imp swing. Useful when you get them.

**Puzzle Solution**

(See page 6)

Here is the puzzle solution.



L	O	N	B	R	I	D	G	E
R	B	E	G	N	D	I	O	L
D	G	I	E	L	O	R	N	B
O	L	D	N	G	E	B	I	R
I	R	G	D	O	B	L	E	N
N	E	B	R	I	L	G	D	O
B	D	R	O	E	G	N	L	I
E	N	L	I	D	R	O	B	G
G	I	O	L	B	N	E	R	D

# A Single Dummy Problem Hand

by Roger Morton

Simon Barb at Aylesbury sent the EBUTA members a most interesting and informative newsletter recently, *Accolade Winter 2014*. A hand on Page 10 caught my eye. Simon was asking us if he thought this hand suitable for a lesson. You be the judge! But first, how do you, as a seasoned campaigner, play the hand (teams or rubber) on a lead of the diamond King? Have a think about it before reading on.

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>EW Vul. Dealer North</b>			
♠ AK76	♠ Q3	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♥ AJ63	♥ K4		Pass	1♣	3♦
♦ 104	♦ A85	Dbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>	All pass
♣ 654	♣ QJ8732				

1 A take-out double, showing at least 4-4 in the majors

2 A 4♠ bid could not be criticised, holding only a single diamond stop and 2-2 in the majors. Still, then there would be no story.

♣♦♥♠

Obviously, North must hold both high club honours. If the clubs break 2-2 or 3-1 the hand is trivial. But can you make the contract if North has all four clubs?

I gave this problem to three of my most experienced, Grandmaster-standard pals. Two of them (plus myself) got it wrong, going to dummy to lead the first club up towards the honours.

No, the ♣Q has to be played from hand immediately to keep your entries fluid.

	♠ J84	
	♥ Q10982	
	♦ 3	
	♣ AK109	
♠ AK76		♠ Q3
♥ AJ63		♥ K4
♦ 104		♦ A85
♣ 654		♣ QJ8732
	♠ 10952	
	♥ 75	
	♦ KQJ9762	
	♣ —	

Say you play a spade to the ace after winning the diamond, and then lead a club from table. Your right hand opponent ducks the first club, you play the queen from hand and your left hand opponent shows out! You now have nowhere to go. You might play a club from hand, but right hand opponent wins and removes one of your entries for the future winning clubs by leading a second spade.

Winning in hand, you try a third club, but your opponent wins again and leads a third spade. You might try holding up, and he now leads a heart into the heart tenace

on the table, but that still doesn't provide enough tricks, and all you will win is three spades, three hearts, one club and one diamond for one off.

And, as an aside, if you hold up the first diamond, an astute defender can shift to a heart to scramble your entries as above. Tell that to students!

Is this fiendish hand for learners? Not for any of my classes Simon!!

# SEKs Appeal

by Paul Lamford

London County player Paul Lamford was victorious in the prestigious Chairman's Cup in Sweden last summer. This is his entertaining account of some of the highlights of the event.

When David Kendrick and I were invited to make up a team with Michael Byrne and Mike Bell for the Chairman's Cup in Örebro, we jumped at the chance. Sweden was a country I had not spent any time in, apart from flying there and crossing the magnificent Øresund bridge from Malmö to Copenhagen once on my way to a backgammon tournament. It has a reputation for good food and good hospitality and that proved to be the case. 166 teams from 13 countries entered the event, which had over 300,000 SEKs in prize money. The defending champions, Johnny Östberg, Anders Morath, Sven Åke Berregård, Christer Bjäring and Tommy Gullberg were justly the favourites for the event. They also had the most interesting name, Fem på nya äventyr, which Swedish speakers familiar with Enid Blyton will recognise as *Five Go Adventuring Again*. They probably had 500 Swedish caps between them and a dozen Bermuda Bowl appearances to their name.

In the Swiss we started steadily; then this hand occurred:

## Game All. Dealer West.

	♠ QJ2		
	♥ 8		
	♦ A42		
	♣ AKQ972		
♠ 6543		♠ K98	
♥ 1093		♥ A54	
♦ 103		♦ Q765	
♣ J853		♣ 1064	
	♠ A107		
	♥ KQJ762		
	♦ KJ98		
	♣ –		

West	North	East	South
Lamford	Lyngmo	Kendrick	Karlsson
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Our opponents had an undistinguished auction after a strong club start, and

South had little option but to bid 6NT at the end. Even though Kendrick ducked two hearts, declarer had to play a third round and that was 12 tricks and a 13 IMP loss. Despite that result and our first loss by 17-13 we steadily moved up the field. Kendrick jacked up a 1♠ overcall to four on ♠J9653 ♥J2 ♦J83 ♣763 and that caused opponents to misjudge to bid 5♥, which drifted one off, leading to a good win in the next round. Then this hand:

## EW Vul. Dealer West.

	♠ AK75		
	♥ Q9		
	♦ J98		
	♣ KJ54		
♠ 1094		♠ 62	
♥ KJ63		♥ A852	
♦ AK72		♦ Q4	
♣ A6		♣ Q10872	
	♠ QJ83		
	♥ 1074		
	♦ 10653		
	♣ 93		

West	North	East	South
<i>Lamford</i>	<i>Norberg</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Ström</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A strong NT auction led to the playable vulnerable game and North cashed two spades and played a third, South showing an even number. Lamford ruffed low in dummy, cashed the ace of hearts which went four, three, nine, and played a heart to the king, jokingly telling North to hold his cards up when the queen appeared.

This is an interesting problem, and the game-theory strategy for the defenders is quite complex. North should play the nine at least half the time from 9x on the first round, and South should play the ten from 107x at least two thirds of the time in total on either of the first two rounds of hearts. That would make the finesse right, but in the real world one pays off to these false cards, even against top experts. With Futile Willie as North and South, the drop is surprisingly around 2-1 on because 109 doubleton is half as likely as Q9 doubleton (adjusting for restricted choice). Anyway that was 11 IMPS and a further move up the field.

Eventually, we qualified fourth in the Swiss, which was pretty comfortable, as 32 teams made it through to the knockout stage. In the Chairman's Cup, the first 16 qualifiers choose their opponents from the teams that come 17-32 so we were therefore fourth to pick. The two Michaels had some Swedish spies who had played junior bridge with them and gave us some information on the strength of teams, so the picking of opponents was left to our skipper throughout.

They chose Västergötland about whom I knew less than my tour guide did when I visited the very interesting Örebro castle at the end of the event.

This match was quite close, but the following board helped:

**EW Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ K84	
♥ A1042	
♦ 72	
♣ Q983	
♠ AQJ7	♠ 106532
♥ Q98	♥ K753
♦ AKQ10	♦ 64
♣ J2	♣ A6
	♠ 9
	♥ J6
	♦ J9853
	♣ K10754

West	North	East	South
<i>Lamford</i>	<i>Lantz</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Carlsson</i>
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

A simple strong-and-four auction led to the normal game here. In the open room, on a much different auction, Mike Bell led the seven of diamonds and declarer had no problem. Lamford faced the more testing lead of the eight of clubs (third and fifth) and he rose with the ace, cashed the ace of spades, and played three top diamonds.

North ruffed perforce with the eight of spades, but Lamford over-ruffed, and exited with a club. Both opponents were Morton-forked simultaneously. If South won and played a diamond, dummy would ruff and play a trump and North would be endplayed, declarer playing for split minor honours in hearts. Similarly if North won the club, he would have to open up the hearts immediately.

Bowles and Allerton, commenting on Bridgebase Forum later, thought playing three rounds of diamonds immediately was slightly better, but that fails to some layouts with Kx of trumps with a low doubleton diamond, and even a singleton trump with a low doubleton diamond. Close, and certainly the line chosen at the table was solid enough and had the virtue of bringing home the bacon.

Sorry to hog the article (no pun on bacon intended) but there was another hand which was critical, and it was a missed defensive opportunity.

**NS Vul. Dealer East.**

- ♠ K
  - ♥ J983
  - ♦ 10984
  - ♣ Q985
- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ 10762 | ♠ A983  |
| ♥ 102   | ♥ AKQ74 |
| ♦ KQ7   | ♦ A53   |
| ♣ J1074 | ♣ 3     |
- ♠ QJ54
  - ♥ 65
  - ♦ J62
  - ♣ AK62

West	North	East	South
Lamford	Lantz	Kendrick	Carlsson
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West signed off quickly opposite the splinter of 4♣ and North picked a safe ten of diamonds lead. West, Lamford won with the king and wrongly played on trumps immediately. He did, however, trust North's king and reverted to hearts playing the ace, king and queen. North falsely showed an odd number of hearts and South an even number, so South naturally ruffed

the third heart after which declarer was home, overruffing, crossing to a diamond and ruffing the hearts good. The winning defence for South was to discard a diamond on the third heart, and then he can get a diamond ruff by under-leading his ace and king of clubs. West had an antidote to this strategy which was a Scissors Coup of leading a club at trick two. Less obvious was North's antidote to the Scissors Coup of leading the stiff king of spades on the go, when declarer cannot prevail. If he wins and ducks a club, South can clear the trumps.

We won that match 51-30, and were again fourth to choose in the round of 16, and our scouts thought that we should pick Sundsvallsgänget. I knew that this translated as Sundsvall Chipmunks, and also that Sundsvall did not have a team in the first division of the Swedish Allsvenskan, but I did not know until later that the city had been burnt down four times, most recently in the Great Northern War.

We won this match comfortably and were through to the quarters, where we had no choice but to play the defending champions, Fem på nya äventyr (*below*) who would present our toughest challenge. The match length went up to 64 boards over the last three rounds.



The first quarter was incredibly swingy and the Swedish juniors were impressed that we had managed to exchange 112 IMPs in only 16 boards, and we were quite pleased to enter the second segment only 10 adrift. Kendrick earned 11 IMPs from a solo effort on board 2, or we would have been further behind:

**NS Vul. Dealer East.**

<p>♠ A87 ♥ AQ73 ♦ Q7 ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ J1064 ♥ J106 ♦ K53 ♣ 743</p> <p>♠ KQ5 ♥ 85 ♦ J108642 ♣ Q5</p>	<p>♠ 932 ♥ K942 ♦ 9 ♣ AK1062</p>
---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Östberg</i>	<i>Lamford</i>	<i>Bjåring</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1NT	Dble	Rdble
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

South intended his 3♦ to be forcing, but Lamford decided that there seemed to be around 50 points in the pack, and the vulnerable opponents were less likely to be acting than Kendrick. 3NT in the other room was easy, and that was 11 in. That was about the only good board of the set, however, and Lamford gave back those IMPs by being conservative on ♠832 ♥A6 ♦A102 ♣108532, just inviting opposite a strong NT. Partner had ♠J96 ♥KQ4 ♦854 ♣AKQ4 and the good and cold game was missed, although only bid twice in the eight hands of the four matches in play.

The next set was also swingy, and Lamford went for 1100 when he overcalled 4♥ on ♠Q52 ♥KQ109876 ♦Q2 ♣3 at favourable vulnerability over an auction of 1♣-Pass-2♠ which was natural and game-forcing. In theory, the opponents could make 6♣ but nobody was getting there. He was consoled that the auction and result by Solodar-Nilsson was identical, but that was in the other match, so it was 7 IMPs out. When the smoke had cleared the lead was down to 4 IMPs. 103-107 after only 32 boards!

**Game All. Dealer East.**

<p>♠ 2 ♥ 962 ♦ K962 ♣ Q10643</p> <p>♠ A7653 ♥ KJ8 ♦ AQJ ♣ 92</p>	<p>♠ K8 ♥ AQ7543 ♦ 103 ♣ AK8</p> <p>♠ QJ1094 ♥ 10 ♦ 8754 ♣ J75</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Östberg</i>	<i>Lamford</i>	<i>Bjåring</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass

England galloped into the excellent grand here, entirely naturally. 4NT was RKCB and East showed 2 plus the queen of trumps. 5NT said please cue kings, and 6♦ was a general grand-slam try. East thought the king of spades was important and bid the grand. South led the ♠Q and Lamford drew two rounds of trumps and led a

spade to the ace, but North ruffed. An excellent grand, and even better on a non-diamond lead. Finding out that Sweden missed small slam here was quite a shock, but it is one of the downsides of bidding grands. The odds are poor if they are not in slam in the other room.

We got those 13 IMPs back on the last board of the set, bidding another grand, 7♥, that was even better.

♠– ♥AQJ8652 ♦KQ87 ♣A10 opposite ♠A875432 ♥K ♦A4 ♣KQ8.

If that one had failed I would have been sad, but all was well and we still trailed by 4 at the end of the third segment after an exciting draw in set 3.

The final set was surprisingly comfortable, and far less swingy. Byrne and Bell bid an excellent and cold slam which was missed in the other room with a combined 26-count with ♠KQT3 ♥A8 ♦K ♣Q108653 opposite ♠AJ986 ♥K1076 ♦AT54 ♣–. When the dust had settled, England had won by 15, 175-160.

♠♥♦♣

So, on to the semifinals, and the other team Zmrzlina, who were the only team in the event whose name had five consecutive consonants, chose Solodar. (As an aside, I suppose you all know the only London underground station with six consecutive consonants? *Answer at the end of the article.*) We were therefore due to play Westerlund in the semi-final. We were flattered that we had not been picked first, as John Solodar had won the Bermuda Bowl in 1981 and is still a strong player at the age of 74.

The first set was very swingy, and a slam swing went to England when

Karlsson and Svensson had ♠AK2 ♥AK853 ♦7 ♣AJ82 opposite ♠J8 ♥QJ1093 ♦A1083 ♣53 and did not bid the slam reached at the three other tables. Given that it only needs trumps 2-1, and was still cold as the cards lay when they were 3-0, that was a “fumble” as they say in American Baseball.

Mike Bell received a more testing lead against a Four Spades contract, and his reasonable line was unsuccessful. Byrne made a thin 3NT on another board, which Kendrick and Lamford tried to let through in the other room, and an over-aggressive non-vulnerable overall of 2♦ by Westerlund on ♠Q7 ♥K95 ♦K10863 ♣J92 led to an 800 penalty. So, when the smoke had cleared, England led by 32 IMPs, 65-33.

The second set was equally swingy. Westerlund and Sundell bid a vulnerable slam on minimum values with ♠10 ♥AJ5 ♦AQ754 ♣KQJ9 opposite ♠A752 ♥KQ8 ♦2 ♣76432. With diamonds 4-3 and clubs 2-2 that could not be touched, and the solid 800 teammates extracted from 3♠x in the other room was not enough compensation. Teammates found an excellent sacrifice in 5♣ at Love All on one board, and that paid rich dividends when Karlsson and Svensson misjudged to go on to 5♥ for a 10 IMP pick up.

Lamford and Kendrick reached a very good 5♦ on a combined 21 count with ♠AK1095 ♥965 ♦A10764 ♣– opposite ♠J2 ♥82 ♦KQ82 ♣A8754 and that was another 10 IMPs. One final board of the set clawed back the early losses and was definitely one that got away.

**Love All. Dealer East.**

♠ A9  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ KQ732  
 ♣ K532  
 ♠ KJ62  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ QJ10987  
 ♠ 1053  
 ♥ AKQ10543  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ 4  
 ♠ Q874  
 ♥ J72  
 ♦ A854  
 ♣ A6

**EW Vul. Dealer North.**

♠ KQ3  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ QJ6532  
 ♣ 53  
 ♠ A62  
 ♥ K832  
 ♦ A987  
 ♣ K6  
 ♠ J104  
 ♥ AQ9  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ AJ972  
 ♠ 9875  
 ♥ 10754  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ Q1084

East's opening bid of 4♥ closed proceedings, so the danger of another -1100 had been averted. South led the seven of spades, third and fifth, and declarer played low, and would have needed to unblock the six if he had had it and the five had been in dummy! North put all his eggs in one basket by returning a spade, correct if his partner has the ace of hearts, but wrong on most other layouts, and South covered the ten with the queen. That was the last chance for the defence, as Lamford could now finesse the six of spades for his contract after drawing trumps. "I can't make it on a fourth-best lead", joked Lamford to his screenmate, Sundell who, like Queen Victoria, was not amused.

The third set was quieter, with only two double-figure swings. This was flat, but exciting (see diagram at top of next column)

West	North	East	South
Kendrick	Sundell	Lamf'd	West'lund
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Kendrick does not like too much auction, so picked 3NT on the first round, and South led a deceptive ♠9, in theory showing shortage

Lamford, East, ducked, won the small diamond switch with the king, noting the fall of the 10, and ran the jack of clubs. South ducked smoothly, but Lamford ran it, and could claim even if North won. If South had covered, declarer would give up a club to him and rise with the ace of spades on the next round of clubs and knock out the remaining club guard while the spades were blocked. The only way he could be beaten was if South had ♠98x, so South was hoisted on his own petard by the false-card lead of the nine!

Not covering was criticised by some commentators, but if Lamford had risen (as he might have done if the heart pips were weaker) and played one back, finessing the seven or nine and South had won to play another spade, declarer might well go wrong by ducking again, necessary if South had only three spades. Or he might play a failing squeeze. Covering meant declarer would discover who had the long clubs in time to take the necessary line in spades.

On another board, Kendrick overcalled 3♣ with 4♣ on ♠1075433 ♥J98543 ♦AQ. ♣-. Lamford expected a better

hand and drove to slam, which had some play but went off when the diamond finesse was wrong. They made up for this bad result by collecting 800 from 3♦x when North, Sundell, balanced, not unreasonably, at Game All on ♠Q ♥Q10742 ♦A8752 ♣J9 after the auction Pass-(1♣)-Pass-(1♠)-Pass-(2♠)-Pass-(Pass)-Dble. To rub salt into the wound, they guessed to play in the worse 5-3 fit and that was 800 from nowhere.

A few small pick-ups by Westerlund trimmed the lead to 22, but a solid last set, with no double digit swings led to England running out comfortable winners by 156-114, only conceding a few overtricks and 4 IMPs.

♠♥♦♣

So, we go to the final, where we faced the redoubtable John Solodar and his team of top Swedes. The match started well, with Larsson and Tornqvist reaching a slam that needed the club finesse. That failed and 11 IMPs to England was the punishment. There was a mis-claim by Lamford, who specified the correct remaining tricks in 3NT, but the total was 8 not 9, and only the director (who was watching but could say nothing) noticed. That was discovered at the break, and corrected. Potential misinformation led to Michael Byrne making the wrong lead against a game, which he would have beaten with his normal lead, and the score was, at one time, 34-1 to England for the set, but later, as England pulled away, the Solodar team were given those IMPs back as they persuaded the director that Byrne had received the correct information but Nielsen had misbid. We gave in on three potential

rulings in the final in the interests of good relations, and because our lead grew at times to close to 100.

How would you feel if you decided to overcall 1♥ over 1♦ at game all on the following hand: ♠J5 ♥AK94 ♦1087643 ♣6? It now goes 1♠ on your left, 6♥ from partner, all pass. Dummy hits with ♠A ♥Q1086532 ♦— ♣KQ987. You don't need the queen of clubs and score up +1430 only to lose 6 against the -1660 in the other room in 6♥x on a far longer and far more competitive auction. And par on the board is only 500 for East-West in 6♠x! The biggest board of the second set was the following:

**NS Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ J52	
♥ KJ10984	
♦ 9	
♣ 965	
♠ KQ63	♠ A954
♥ —	♥ AQ2
♦ AKQJ10	♦ 7543
♣ KJ43	♣ Q10
	♠ 107
	♥ 7653
	♦ 862
	♣ A873

West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick</i>	Sundell	<i>Lamf'd</i>	West'lund
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The only good thing I can say about the Kendrick-Lamford auction is that it was better than the one in the other room which got to 7♦, for a 14 IMP pick-up to England. I do not have that auction, but in any case it would not be allowed in a family magazine.

In this room, 5♠ was intended by Lamford to be a general slam-try, or possibly asking for a club control, but interpreted as asking for good trumps by Kendrick. I am not sure what West thought 5NT was, but East thought it was “pick-a-slam”, a sensible attempt to avoid a potential spade loser when spades were 4-1, but that did not seem to tally with the wrong correction to Six Spades from a much safer slam.

*All's Well that Ends Well*, as the bard said, and I think that South's lead of a low club was excellent, despite the commentators criticising it on BBO. Had I held the jack of spades instead of the queen of clubs, I might well have gone down.



This was an interesting board:

**NS Vul Dealer West.**

♠ Q5	
♥ AJ83	
♦ 5	
♣ QJ8742	
♠ 962	♠ K874
♥ Q762	♥ 9
♦ KQ32	♦ J9764
♣ 63	♣ K105
♠ AJ103	
♥ K1054	
♦ A108	
♣ A9	

In the Open Room, North-South bid, after three passes, uncontested, 1NT-2♣-2♥-4♥, which seems a bit pessimistic, although slam is only so-so. They were nearly in Four Spades, when North bid 3NT over 2♥, and then told East, his screen-mate, that he had made the wrong bid, just as East was

about to pass. East asked North if it was a mechanical error, and North stated it was, so East allowed North to correct it. Of course, the director should have been called then, not later by East when he saw dummy and realised that it might have been some inexplicable error, but was not likely to have been mechanical. The TD ruled that the auction had ended, so the change of call stood. Lamford, East, had noticed by the end of the hand that 4♠ was cold, so did not complain. In the other room North was in 6♥, and mis-guessed the play. It can be made, as one can see, but Michael Byrne's line of playing for hearts to be 3-2 looked right at the time. I will leave readers to decide how they would have played it, as it is easy to make looking at all the hands.

Byrne and Bell, with ♠852 ♥Q7 ♦K4 ♣AQ8752 opposite ♠AQ43 ♥AJ2 ♦AQ10 ♣K64 bid to an excellent Six Clubs, missed in the other room, and on this occasion one of the major finesses was right, so they gained 10 IMPs against the +490 by South in the other room. By the end of the set, England had stretched their lead to 69-31. And we still had one or two potential rulings if things got sticky, but we hoped that it would not come to that.

The third set began wildly and it was clear that the Solodar team was going to overbid in order to try to get the IMPs back. And this approach led to an opportunity on the second board of the set after a dull first one. Instead of 17 in, it could easily have been 14 out, and I think this may have been the point where the match was effectively decided:

**NS Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ AQ6542 ♥ Q6 ♦ AJ6 ♣ A3  ♠ 1083 ♥ KJ742 ♦ – ♣ 108765  ♠ K97 ♥ A53 ♦ K1072 ♣ K92	♠ J ♥ 1098 ♦ Q98543 ♣ QJ4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick Nilsson</i>		<i>Lamford Solodar</i>	
		Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The double of 7♠ was correctly alerted by Lamford on his side of the screen, so maybe North should have corrected to 7NT, which, as observant readers will notice, is cold on the double squeeze. I might have led a diamond anyway (as partner did not double 5♥) but I think doubling by West is right. And North viewed that Kendrick was quite capable of making a psychic lightner double when leading by over 50 IMPs. East dutifully led a diamond and that was 17 IMPs to England.

Another 13 came when declarer did not view to drop the queen of hearts doubleton offside in a slam with ♥AJ5 opposite ♥K9432. I think he might have got this right at the state of the match. He needed a swing, and opponents might also be there, so playing the standard line might just get a flat board. One might as well be hung for a sheep as for a lamb, as they say

in Wales. The opponents went a little on tilt after that board, but managed to pull back 10 IMPs when Nilsson raised a strong NT to three with ♠63 ♥1098 ♦AQJ109 ♣1053. On this occasion, there was Kxx diamond in the hole, and partner has ♠AKJ72 so 12 tricks rolled in. Par was 6♠= but 2♠+4 was normal!

Perhaps the final nail in the coffin was the following board where teammates were given a chance to make 4♥x, and we were gifted a large penalty in our room for 14 IMPs in.

**Game All. Dealer South**

♠ 65 ♥ J1072 ♦ KQ ♣ KQJ74  ♠ 109742 ♥ 4 ♦ J1043 ♣ 965  ♠ KQ3 ♥ K985 ♦ 87 ♣ A1082	♠ AJ8 ♥ AQ63 ♦ A9652 ♣ 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick Nilsson</i>		<i>Lamford Solodar</i>	
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

East, Lamford, thought NS might be punting again, and decided to have some of 4♥ – after all it is not making overtricks, and the forcing defence of ace and another diamond polishes it off comfortably. East ducks the first two rounds of hearts, wins the third round (actually he can surprisingly play the queen on this trick and declarer still cannot get home!) and plays a fourth

round and declarer cannot make it. I understand that Michael Byrne could have made 4♥x as the play went but he said that he lost concentration at a crucial moment. North lost more than concentration in our room when he ran to 5♣, and West led his singleton heart. East returned the three, ruffed by West with the three of clubs, He returned the three of diamonds to East who returned the queen of hearts and West ruffed and returned the ten of spades. East could work out that it did not cost to try to give his partner another heart ruff, because even if South did not have the king of spades (and that would have given him at most a ten-count), there would be nowhere for the spade loser to go.

West should ruff the first heart with the six, return the jack of diamonds, to tell

The prize-giving was splendid, with a Grand Prix style podium, flowers, and a rendering of God Save the Queen (not officially England's national anthem; "not many people know that", as Michael Caine might say), The trophy winged its way to Manchester Bridge Club, to join the Premiership trophy for at least a year, while



*The victorious team – left to right: David Kendrick, Michael Byrne, Mike Bell, Paul Lamford*

the 50,000 SEKs found their way to Foreign Exchange.com, to whom I am happy to give a free plug, in Liverpool St Arcade. The flowers had to remain in Sweden, owing to Ryanair's stringent "no plants" regulation, but we had no difficulty in finding suitable recipients among the kibitzers in the final. This was certainly an event I would play in again, and I will try to form a team next year assuming I do not get selected.

*The London underground station with six consecutive consonants is, of course, Knightsbridge.*

his partner that South does not have it for a spade discard from dummy, ruff the second heart with the three, and then play the nine of spades, as East will then know for certain that West does not have the king of spades then. So, +1100 anyway, and the Solodar team seemed to mentally give up after this blow.

The score had climbed to 46-125 when they decided to throw in the towel with a set to play, which is the first time, according to one of the organisers, that the final has not gone the distance. We owed most of our success to the excellent bidding using the TRIBAL system of Byrne and Bell, who were better than Lamford-Kendrick on the Butler IMPs. We played in luck, and the chances for gains for them that did come along went begging.

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# Congratulations ...

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



Premier League Winners

**Tom Townsend** and **Nick Sandqvist** (first and second left in the picture, right) were in the team that won Division Two of the Premier League, while **Kieran Dyke** was a runner-up.

**Andrew Robson, David Gold and David Bakhshi** won the 2014 Premier League, with **Heather Dhondy, Brian Callaghan and Franklin To** in the runners-up team, both well clear of the rest of the field. All these players (except Frank) have earned places in the 2015 England Camrose team



Premier League Div 2 winners



At the World Mixed Teams in Sanya, China in October, **Anita Sinclair** (second left) won the gold medal along with Zia Mahmood and her multinational team of stars.

At the Cavendish Open Pairs in Monaco, **Andrew Robson** came second. **Nick Sandqvist** and **Tom Townsend** also made the main final.

**Paul Lamford** won the Chairman's Cup in Sweden. (See article on pages 21-30 for more details and pictures.)

**David Bakhshi** was a member of the Chairman's Team that won the main teams at the Commonwealth Nations Championships in Glasgow last September. He also won the Open Pairs there along with Andrew McIntosh (see pic). **Ben Green** and **Phil King** were members of the English silver medal winning team.





At the World Mind Games in Beijing in December, **Heather Dhondy** (*third from left*) was a member of the English gold medal winning team. She also came fourth in the Individual there.

**Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw** were selected to play in the England Under-25 team in the 2014 Junior Channel Trophy and in the 2015 England Junior Camrose team. **Sinéad Bird** was selected to play in the England Under-25 Women's team in the Channel Trophy. **Sam Behrens** and **Nick Dean** were selected to play for the England Under 20s in the Channel Trophy and the Peggy Bayer.

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



**Tom Townsend** and **Mark Teltscher** (*left*) won the Swiss Pairs over the first weekend.

**David Gold** and **Andrew Robson** won the Four-Stars A final (*below*). **Phil King** and **Ben Green** were members of the third-placed team. **David Gold** also won the GCH Fox Pairs and the Mid-Week Knock Out Teams, and he came second in the Play-with-the Experts Pairs.

**Tom Townsend** and **Ewa Kater** (*below*) won the Four-Stars B final, along with **Mark Teltscher** (*not in the picture*).

**Robert Sheehan** was second equal in the Brighton Bowl Swiss Teams.



**Shahzaad Natt** (*right, on left*) won the Under-25s Pairs with **Sinéad Bird** second.





**Mahmoud Sadek, Ned Paul, Kath Stynes and Simon Prager** (*left*) won the Mixed Pivot Teams.

**Tom Townsend and Ewa Kater** were third in the Mixed Pairs.

**Neil & Christine Tomkin** were second in the Saturday Bracketed Pairs.

**Hannah Cornfield, Kath Stynes, Rowena Clow and Dan Cardnell** won the Speedball KO Teams.

**Alex Hydes** won the Tuesday Open Pairs. In the Sunday Open Pairs, **Nick Boss** and **Claire Robinson** were second and **David Wing** was third. **Alan** and **Olivia Woo** were second in the Wednesday Open Pairs.



At the Autumn Congress:

In the Pairs events, **Alex Hydes** (*left*) won the Two Stars Pairs, while **Richard Johnson** and **Nick boss** were third.

**Nick Sandvist** and **Tom Townsend** (*right*) won the Satellite Pairs. **Shahzaad Natt** was second in the Satellite Pairs.



In the teams events at the Autumn Congress, **Nick Sandqvist** and **Tom Townsend** won the Eastbourne Bowl, the main teams event, as part of the de Botton team.



The Burlington Cup, the secondary teams, was won by **Angus Simpson** and **Claire Robinson** (*on right in picture, left*) along with former London member **Alex Gauld** and her partner **Dan McIntosh**. **Mike** and **Carrie Eden** were in the second-placed team.

The Yellow section of the Sussex Cup, the tertiary teams, was won by the team of **Graham Pollack**, **Paul Chapman**, **Tim Chanter** and **Helen Wildsmith**, with **Richard Johnson** and **Nick Boss** in second place, but the trophy went to the Red section winners, including **David Gold** and **Susannah Gross** (*right*).



At the Junior Teach-In, **John** and **Alex Pemberton** won the Friday duplicate, and **Michael Alishaw** won the Saturday duplicate.

At the Guernsey Congress, **Angus Simpson** and **Alex Gauld** won the Swiss Teams. They also won the Multiple Teams along with **Tim Gauld** and **Ricci Hammond**.

At the Year End Congress, **David Gold** and **Kevin Castner** (*right*) won the Open Pairs, with **Phil King** third.

The Swiss Teams was won by a team including **Susanna Gross** and **Franklin To**, while **Andy Bowles** and **Shireen Mohandes** were members of the second-placed team.

In the Mixed Pairs, **Anne Catchpole** was second with partner Phil Mattacks.



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## Grimm's Tales

*by Barry Grimm*

*Veronica had to pop back to Thicke Towers to supervise the works, which have not been going well. But we've found a substitute...*

Hello there!

Welcome to the first in a series of articles by me, Barry Grimm. You've probably heard of me (all modesty aside) as one of London's top bridge players, and founder and owner of one of the most successful Bridge Clubs and Schools in West London. The Brentford Bridge Academy has been flourishing under my aegis for ten years now, and throughout that time I have been aided and abetted in no small measure by my assistant (and current life partner) the lovely Shirley Harlow. Shirley keeps an eye on the books, arranges the rubber bridge, directs the weekly duplicates and runs the supervised practices. She also fills in for me teaching a lot of the classes when my other commitments preclude it. Phew! And if that weren't enough, she takes a keen and active interest in the catering side, much to the delight of the members. Her skills at hob and griddle are without parallel – a couple of extra inches around Barry's waistline can attest to that!

Anyway, enough about me, it's what you think of me that's going to be important, because now that both Dalton's Weekly and the Farmer's Gazette have dropped my bridge columns (purely for reasons of economy, I am assured) I have a little time free, and am happy, until a more remunerative gig comes along, to dispense a bit of the old Grimm wit-and-wisdom free, gratis and for nothing in a good cause. As I speak, the lovely Shirley Harlow is taking down my words in shorthand – I don't know where I'd be without her – and it's thanks in no small part to her sterling efforts at the keyboard that my hard work appears on the printed page before you. Or on your computer screen. Or, if you were looking at it on the

computer but have now printed it out, you're back looking at the printed page, I suppose.

Still, that's none of my business, nor indeed is anything you get up to in the privacy of your own home. "Don't ask, don't tell" has always been my motto, and there's no better example of this being a good maxim (a fairly neat segue, literature lovers will agree!) than the bridge table. Don't sidle up to me clutching your hand record from last night! I've got better things to do with my time than dish out advice, especially if I'm busy behind the scenes at the school. Similarly, I promise not to burden you with my tales of woe from the bridge table (not that there are many of those!) but I reserve the right to pass on instructive hands where that ol' Grimm magic that I weave so well has pulled off yet another coup. I think it's important that those of us with a smidgeon (!) of talent to pass on some idea of how the expert mind works. I find that the recipients of my wisdom are sometimes pitifully grateful. You can see a look in their eyes as they're listening – it's a kind of glazed look, and I like to think that it's the closest thing that an old reprobate like yours truly will ever get to seeing beatification.

So, my brief from your editor is to try to find a new and interesting way of looking at things, avoiding the trite old tropes, and bringing something fresh and interesting to the world of bridge columns. Here's a hand from the other night's club duplicate.

The lovely Shirley Harlow had finished the washing-up, but it was the end of the month, and she had to cash up, as well as setting up the movement and calling the move. I was having a quiet drink and a fag outside the pub when the mobile rang. I had to go back, and partner the lovely Shirley Harlow's regular partner Phyllis-Doris Madoc, not, it must be said, the greatest striker of the ball. She is, however, almost easy on the eye, which is more than can be said of most of my members, and whenever we end up partnering each other at the table I'm always conscious of what a pleasure it is for her.

We were seated at the table (I have to play South: my sciatica is a cruel and unyielding slave-master) and Phyllis-Doris Madoc was politely greeting two new arrivals. I didn't know their names, but their faces were familiar: they'd done the beginner's course, the next step, the intermediate and advanced courses, spent two years in the supervised practice and had been coming to the E-Z Tuesday Duplicate for several months. Phyllis-Doris Madoc was introducing them to me but I was a bit distracted – I'd shouted out to the lovely Shirley Harlow a couple of minutes previously for a cappuccino and there was no sign of it. I did hear that this was their first "proper" duplicate and it struck me immediately that they should have been playing North/South, getting to grips with the business of putting the boards on the table and scoring on the BridgeMates, instead of leaving all the hard work to muggins here (or in this case, Phyllis-Doris Madoc, as my shoulder can cope with neither picking up the boards nor the pressure of pushing the buttons on the BridgeMates. Sometimes I wonder how I manage to carry on, I really do).

Anyway, let's just call these two rather nattily-dressed young men (perhaps suspiciously natty, but live and let live, that's what I say) East and West. The first board passed without incident.

Then came this:

**Game All. Dealer West**

<p>♠ A987 ♥ 2 ♦ A10872 ♣ Q109</p>	<p>♠ J643 ♥ KJ1096 ♦ K ♣ K83</p>
<p>♠ 102 ♥ AQ853 ♦ 4 ♣ AJ754</p>	<p>♠ KQ5 ♥ 74 ♦ QJ9653 ♣ 103</p>

West	North <i>Phyllis- Doris</i>	East	South <i>Moi</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl <sup>1</sup>	2NT <sup>2</sup>	3♦	4♥
All pass			

1 He didn't learn that from me

2 The usual

Okay, the Grimmster may have pushed the old bateau out a bit in the auction, but I often find that my superior skill is worth a trick or two in the play. Especially against people who haven't played before.

West led out the Ace of Diamonds, and without much thought tried to

Anyway, that's all for now – time and tide wait for no man, especially Barry Grimm, Esquire. So, until the next time, here's two thumbs up, from me, to you.

cash a second. I threw a Club from dummy, and trumped in hand. I ruffed out the clubs and now an unmakeable contract was unbeatable. I don't know – maybe people just get over-awed playing against me.

After setting all this up, I played a Spade from dummy to my ten. West won and played...another Diamond! I couldn't help myself. I turned to him and said "To concede on ruff-and-discard is unfortunate. To concede two smacks of carelessness!" I think that's a quote, but I can't remember who from. Shakespeare, probably. "You'll never," I continued, jabbing my finger on the table, get anywhere in this game if you don't count. You've just conceded an over-trick in an unmakeable contract!" West opened his mouth to speak, but I had turned to his partner: "Why didn't you open a Weak Two in Diamonds? Textbook! Textbook! Then your partner would have switched at trick two! Losing bridge, squire, losing bridge."

I then turned to Phyllis-Doris Madoc who had been tapping the scores into the BridgeMate. "Presumably that's one hundred per cent for us?" snatching it off her. The lovely Shirley Harlow called the move. East/West stood up, nodded politely at Phyllis-Doris Madoc and left the table. And, as it happens, the club, as they left and haven't been seen since. Some people really can be poor losers, I must say!