

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Spring/Summer 2009


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Words from the Editor

What is going on in the bridge world right now? Well, P2P is still a big talking point. Despite having been approved by the EBU shareholders, there are still a number of people campaigning strongly against it – mainly on the grounds that they believe it will not work financially and will cripple the EBU. I guess this is always a possibility, but I believe that our efforts are currently better directed towards making the scheme work. The project developers are working hard at this, and have now sent out a pack to all clubs, containing Pay to Pay Guidelines on how the scheme will work in practice. I hope that clubs



read these and decide to give P2P the benefit of the doubt, at least initially. The guidelines seem to me to be well thought out, well written and easy to understand and follow – a pleasant change from some of the documents produced by the EBU in the past!



The documents I have in mind that have been less comprehensible include “the Green book” – the guide to issuing Master Points – and the infamous “Orange Book”. The former will become defunct with the introduction of P2P and the cessation of manually written Master Points certificates, which will cause much joy to anyone who has ever tried to use the book to figure out exactly how many Master Points should be allocated for some competition or other with an obscure format. The Orange Book is still with us, but there is more good news on this front – the Laws & Ethics Committee are currently writing a simplified version, to be known as the “Tangerine Book”, designed to be readable and of use to club members. This is something for which I personally have been pushing for a long time, and I am very pleased it is finally happening. I have read the first draft of part of the new book and it is straightforward and a huge improvement on the original. The L&E are also considering producing a simplified Law Book, as further help for clubs, though many already use simplified versions that have been previously produced.



Communication with members is clearly seen as very important by the current EBU administration. As well as the various new reference documents mentioned, there are now a number of other magazines and communication vehicles - printed or electronic - issued or planned. In addition to the long-standing *English Bridge* for the membership as a whole, there is the *Ruffian* for bridge students, *Accolade* for bridge teachers and *Club Focus* for club players. A new *Tournament Focus* has just been introduced for tournament players, no doubt with the aim of making sure tournament players are not overlooked as the other vehicles are tuned more towards the average club player. Maybe *Young Bridge*, the magazine I used to produce for junior players, should be re-introduced to complete the range (in electronic form now, of course)?



Turning closer to home, to LMBA publications, we will be making some changes in the future. More and more people now have access to the internet, and they customarily seek their information from electronic sources, so we have decided to phase out our printed annual competition brochure. It will be produced for the forthcoming 2009/10 season, but that will be the last in this format. The information contained therein is already available on our website (www.metrobridge.co.uk) where it will continue to be, and where it can be more easily updated when necessary. In addition, future issues of MetroNews will contain a pull-out central reference section for all the competitions in the following six months. This will provide a compact, portable reference document which we believe should meet our members' needs. I hope you will be glad that we have no plans to phase out the printed version of MetroNews just yet, though members will have the option of receiving it in electronic form.



Finally, an oft-repeated plea which relates to communication with you. We now use email as much as possible to communicate with both individuals and clubs – for reminding you about up-coming competitions, disseminating important information etc. Which means we do need to know your up-to-date email address. So if you use email but haven't heard from us in a while, it is probably because we don't have your correct address. Please, please send an email to our Membership Secretary, Roger Morton at rhl.morton@blueyonder.co.uk (or to me at the address below) so that your record can be updated. You never know what important news you might be missing out on!

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held at the **Young Chelsea Bridge Club**, 32 Barkston Gardens, SW5 (nearest tube station: Earls Court) on **Thursday 2nd July**, starting at **7.00 pm**. The Agenda for the meeting is shown on the next page.

Do come along in July and help to shape the future of bridge in London. As an added incentive, there will be a free glass of wine and nibbles on offer for all attendees!



AGM Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of the AGM of 3rd July 2008



(Note. These can be found at www.metrobridge.co.uk – the LMBA website – follow the link at the bottom of the home page)

- 4 Matters arising from these minutes.
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Adoption of accounts for 2008
- 8 Subscriptions (including Pay-to-Play) for 2010-2011
- 9 Elections to the Executive Committee



There was one vacancy on the committee after the last AGM and one resignation from the Committee during the past year, that of Marijke Van Beesten. Paul Lamford and Ian Payn were co-opted onto the committee to fill these vacancies and will be standing for election formally this time. In addition, Roger Morton and Stefanie Rohan will be standing down in rotation.

- 10 Appointment of honorary auditor
- 11 EBU delegates' Report
- 12 Any other business



Coming Soon!

Mixed Pairs



The first event of the 2009/10 season will be the **Mixed Pairs Championship**, which this year will be held on **Sunday 20th September** at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The entry fee is £22 per pair for the extended-session event, which is always sociable and enjoyable. You don't need to pre-enter, but it is helpful if you do – just call the Young Chelsea on 020 7373 1665 to say you will be coming along, or contact the event organiser,

Nigel Freake, at gelohnake@waitrose.com.

London Trophy

Now is the time to be thinking about getting together a team for the **London Trophy**. This knock-out teams of four competition provides inter-club bridge for non-bridge clubs. That can be a golf club, tennis club, place of work or any other formal or ad-hoc “club”, so if you can gather together a foursome this is the perfect way to introduce them to some not-too-serious organised bridge. The entry fee is only £16 per team, which guarantees you at least two matches, as all first-round losers in the main Trophy event get to play in the Della-Porta Plate, the consolation knock-out competition.

Teams should enter by **1st September**, though if you are a little later than that, don't worry – you can probably still be fitted in. All enquiries and entries should be made to Cecil Leighton on 020 8500 0700.

Your entry will also entitle you to free entry in the London Trophy Pairs Championship, provided you win at least one match in either the London Trophy or the Della-Porta Plate. This competition is a one-day pairs event which will be held at the prestigious RAC Club in Pall Mall in June 2010.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

It's not too soon, either, to get the date of this year's **Lederer Memorial Trophy** in your diaries. It will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on **Saturday and Sunday 17th – 18th October 2009**. Note that this is **not** the date shown in your EBU diary, which is incorrect!

The usual array of bridge stars will be present at this event, including the holders – Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester and David Bakhshi (*pictured right with the trophy*). These are players on form, having recently won the Schapiro Spring Foursomes – they will certainly be the team to beat this year.



Teltscher Cups

On the Saturday afternoon of the Lederer, clubs in and around London will be able to play with the stars, playing the same hands as in the main event and scoring up with two of the top pairs. Participants pay just £1 per player to participate in this event and the winning NS and EW pairs from these heats will be awarded the **Teltscher Cups** and be invited along to the competition to receive them on the Sunday.

Clubs interested in participating in this should contact organiser Paul Lamford at gampas@aol.com.

LMBA results this year

Ian Gardiner Trophy

The London Championship Teams of Four qualifying event for the Ian Gardiner Trophy was played in early January. Although the field comprised only eight teams, it was a closely fought contest. Previous holders of the championship, teams captained by Mike Hill and Brian Callaghan, only managed third and fourth places and on the day the winners were Anne Catchpole's team of herself, David Schiff, Paul Lamford and Stefanie Rohan, who edged it from the team of Liz Clery, Ryan Stephenson, Paul Huggins and Ken Barnett.

The final was played between these two teams on 21st March – see Paul Lamford's article starting on page 19 for more details – and this time the result was a convincing win for Liz Clery's team. They take the trophy and go on to represent London in the Pachabo in June, where we wish them lots of luck!

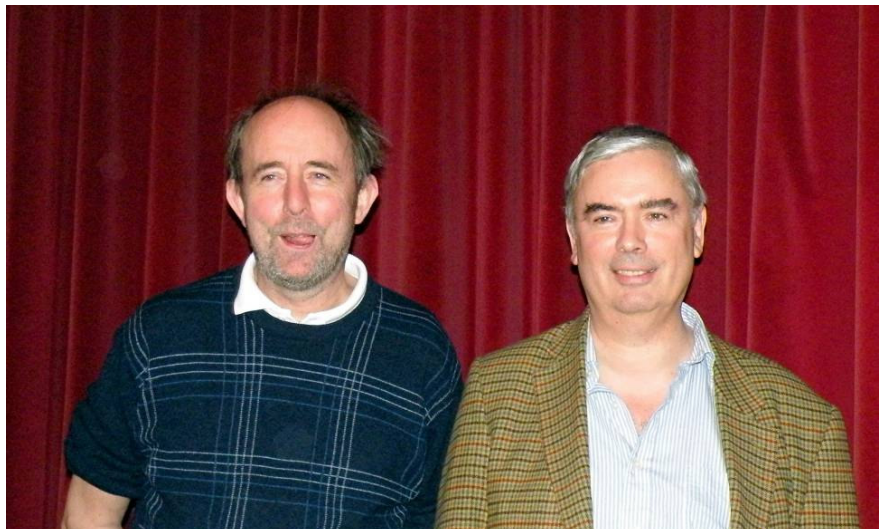
London Championship Pairs

This year saw 30 pairs competing for the LMBA Pairs Championship at the beginning of February, amazingly the exact same number as entered in the previous two years.

At the end of the qualifying session the leaders were Nigel Clayton and Richard Cumming-Bruce, but they weren't able to maintain their form in the final. Last year's winners, Ned Paul and Brian McGuire did well again in the final, but a stunning session from Paul Martin and Paul Lamford (*pictured below*) saw them surge through the field to take the title.

The leading positions, with their total MP scores, were as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Paul Lamford & Paul Martin | 270.27 |
| 2 Roland Gronau & Justin Wickens | 254.08 |
| 3 Ned Paul & Brian McGuire | 250.88 |
| 4 Ian Pagan & Geoff Lederman | 246.28 |



In the consolation event that was held alongside the final, the leading pairs were:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Liz Clery & Ryan Stephenson | 65.00 % |
| 2 | Frances Liew & Dom Goodwin | 57.20 % |
| 3 | David Wing & Barbara Cohen | 56.25 % |

Palmer Bayer Trophy

This “No Fear” Pairs event underwent a revival this year, when we had 23 pairs competing for the trophy. Last year’s winners, Jane Coupe & Peter Blumer, did extremely well again this year, but they were beaten into second place by a very experienced partnership who had come along to support the event and enjoy a relaxing afternoon’s bridge. The leading positions were:

1	Paul Lamford & Bob Brinig	68.82 %
2	Jane Coupe & Peter Blumer	63.47 %
3	Bryan Peers & Sheila Peers	60.02 %
4	Michael Elgin & Michael Stanton	58.93 %

Under-19 Pairs Championship

After a mix-up on the originally-scheduled date for the Under-19s Pairs, this event was re-scheduled in February and 8 pairs competed for the London title and the right to play in the National Under-19s Pairs at Easter. It was pleasing to see the only pair of girls in the lead at the end of the event!

The qualifying pairs were:

1	Alex Gauld & Rachel Kellett-Clarke	66.07%
2	Rohan Sheth & Grant Waissel	60.12 %
3	Andrew North & Matthew Morgan	51.19 %
4	Michael Alishaw & James Pickford Phimmai	47.62%



The picture shows Alex and Rachel playing in the finals, where they achieved a commendable 9th place.

Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

This event was played in March in Barkston Gardens, using both the Young Chelsea BC and the neighbouring Barkston Gardens Hotel as venues. There were 36 tables in play in the **Swiss Pairs**, the same number as last year, and the leading positions were:

- 1 Carrie Eden & Mike Eden
- 2= Paul Lamford & Paul Martin
Liz Hoskins & Matthew Hoskins
- 4 David Schiff & Anne Catchpole

Mike & Carrie Eden's win was very well-deserved – they won their first match 20-0 to go into the lead and they never lost their position throughout the event. They are pictured right with Chief TD for the event, Gordon Rainsford, receiving their prize.



In the **Swiss Teams** the following day there were 28 teams competing, slightly fewer than last year, no doubt because there was a similar event in Bedfordshire on the same day. After the seven matches had been completed, the results were:

- 1 Simon Cochemé, Tim Gauld, Espen Erichsen, Helen Erichsen 106
- 2 Justin Wickens, Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery, Andy Clery 91
- 3= David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Anna Roos Karlsson, P-A Karlsson 89
- & David Hull, Peter Cogliatti, Chris Brewin, Brian Kelly



This results meant that Espen Erichsen won the teams two year's running. The picture shows the team celebrating their cash prize!

Garden Cities

There was a record entry of seven teams from four clubs in this year's Garden Cities heat, held to determine which club would represent London in the Regional Finals of the national Inter-Club Teams-of-Eight Championship. The leading teams were:

- 1 **Young Chelsea Purple** Chris Duckworth, Mike Graham, Brian Callaghan, Michael Ranis, Margaret James, Martin Nygren, Liz Wright, Nick Wilson
- 2 **Woodberry A** Paul Lamford, Stefanie Rohan, Anne Catchpole, David Schiff, Nigel Freake, Gill Hutchinson, Ken Barnett, Chantal Girardin

Fox Shammon Seniors Pairs

This event grows every year, and this was no exception, with a record 37 pairs competing. The pictures show the winners on the left, and the runners up on the right. The final results:



- 1 Chris Burley & Steve Gore
- 2 Peter Aubeck & Linda Coombes
- 3 Neil & Christine Tomkin
- 4 Steve Eginton & Elaine Pencharz



London League

Not all matches have been played in the League at the time of going to press, but they are close to completion. In Division 1 the Young Chelsea 3 team captained by David Ould is at the top of the table, four points clear of Arni Anidjar Romain's Tartan, who in turn are one point ahead of last year's winners Young Chelsea 1 (Brian Callaghan). One match remains to be played, however, in which a big win by Simon Cearns' Young Chelsea 2 team could see them leap through the listings to take the title.

In Division 2, two matches are outstanding, but Graham Clay's London Duplicate team have completed their fixtures and can't be overtaken at the top of the table.

In Division 3 there are also still two matches to be played. Nick Bryant's Mad Axemen have completed their fixtures and top the league, 6 points clear of August Blue, captained by Mark Davies. But Mike Taylor's Concentric team have one match to play and could take the lead with a good win, as could the Monday Club A team, captained by Susi Behrman, who still have two matches to play.

The Newcomers League has been better at getting matches played and it has been completed. The LSE II team, led by Miu Suan Wong, have won the league with 79 VPs, closely followed by the Internationals, captained by Shelley Evans, on 77 VPs.

London News

New LMBA Treasurer

Due to illness, Marijke van Beesten has had to stand down as Treasurer and has resigned from the Committee. We were very pleased to have a volunteer to take over from her, and Ian Payn was co-opted on to the Committee earlier this year to take on the financial reins. In the handover period our Membership Secretary, Roger Morton, did a sterling job of helping to sort out the outstanding accounts from the previous year, enabling Ian to take over with a relatively clean sheet.

Committee Match v Surrey

The annual match between the executive committees of London and Surrey was hosted this year by London at the Young Chelsea on 26th March. The outcome this time was a convincing win by London, who retained the Committee Shield. The picture shows the two County Association Chairmen – Mike Hill for London and Julia Brough for Surrey, with the trophy.



Tollemache

The Tollemache qualifier - the national inter-County teams-of-eight Championship - was held in early December 2008, just too late to report in the last issue of MetroNews. Sadly the London team did not shine on this occasion, finishing 5th out of 9 in their group, though it must be said that the draw produced a particularly strong field against whom they had to compete. Still, the team's failure to qualify did save us the cost of sending a team to the finals – every cloud has a silver lining!



London hosts Channel Trophy

Every year, in the weekend before Christmas, junior players from England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands compete in the Channel Trophy. In 2008 it was England's turn to host the competition and it was held in London. The venue was the Rosebery Hall, part of the London School of Economics, in Clerkenwell, which provide both playing accommodation and board and lodgings in student rooms. There were 12 teams altogether, each country fielding one Junior Open team (Under 25s), one Junior Women's team, and one team of Under 20s.

LMBA members helped with the event organisation, both beforehand with general arrangements and the raising of sponsorship of hospitality and prizes and during the event, when we provided "meeters and greeters" for the foreign teams and a

bulletin service. Bulletin Editor Brian Callaghan did a splendid job, producing no fewer than four bulletins during the three-day event.

We were fortunate in getting the agreement of James Mates, Senior Correspondent for ITV News, to come along to the closing ceremony to present the prizes. He is a keen duplicate bridge player, playing mainly at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club in Parsons Green.

Unfortunately, England did not take any of the titles on this occasion – France won the Junior Channel Trophy (Under 25s) and the Netherlands won the other two events. But everyone had a very good time. – as can be seen in this picture of the Dutch women’s team with James Mates and their trophy!



Bill Gates visits YC



Young Chelsea players had a surprise visitor to the club one Friday in April, when Bill Gates turned up to play in the evening duplicate. Gates was recommended to the club by Andrew Robson, who knew who he would find a good standard game there, and Club Manager Gordon Rainsford arranged for him to play with YC Chairman Ian Payn. Although the club had previously been checked out by his people, Gates walked into the bar without any ceremony and immediately started talking system with Ian in the bar.

Wearing T-shirt and trainers, he looked like any other bridge player, and for three and a half hours he was treated as such by the club members.

Gates has played in a number of national competitions in the USA and in international events all over the world, partnering the likes of Fred Gitelman and Sharon Osberg. He also plays quite a lot of on-line bridge but, surprisingly, he told Ian that this was the first time he had experienced club bridge. The partnership finished about half way down the field, but Gates seemed to enjoy his evening, though he did say it was rather noisier than he expected!

YC Future

After a period of uncertainty, it is pleasing to be able to report that the future of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club has now been secured. The club will stay at its current address, but will pay a substantially lower rent, achieved by surrendering the upper floors of the property to the freeholder. The playing rooms will reduce

from three to two, but the club will continue to occupy the ground and lower-ground floors of the building.

Some aspects of the club operation will need to be adjusted to fit into the smaller area, but the impact of this change will generally be minor, and the club expects to continue with all of its current activities and services, including hosting all of the LMBA competitions that are held there at present.

Bridge for developing players *by Chris Duckworth*

The LMBA no longer runs an annual “Newcomers” event. This is because there are now a number of opportunities available in London for developing players – those who have completed an initial one or two courses of bridge tuition, but who now need to play and practice in order to improve.

Most such players are not really ready for a regular club duplicate - they need play opportunities which offer them a bit of a competitive challenge, but are not too scary and are rather more slow-paced than a regular duplicate. This is because it takes them a little longer to decide on the best bid or play, because they want to have a look at the hand after playing it to discuss what they should have done, and also because they want some time to chat and be sociable.

The Andrew Robson club in Parsons Green has its roots as a teaching club and provides plenty of opportunities of this type. They have a range of sessions at different times and on different days of the week, ranging from supervised play sessions, through “gentle duplicates” to other duplicate sessions of various standards. More details can be found at their website at www.arobson.co.uk . You do need to be a club member to play in any of these sessions, however.

Ned Paul, one of London’s principal teachers, also provides a variety of developmental opportunities. He runs both supervised play and duplicates at a range of venues all across London, from Richmond and Putney in the South West, through Ealing in the West, Clapham in the South and Camden in the North right across to Canary Wharf in the East. All are welcome at all of these venues. Go to Ned’s website at www.at44.dial.pipex.com for an overview of what he provides and follow any of the links for more details of the particular venue you are interested in. Many other London teachers run similar sessions – the best way of finding out more is to explore the EBU website’s teacher pages at www.ebu.co.uk.

The Young Chelsea now also provides a range of developmental opportunities. There is supervised play every Monday evening, a Novice Duplicate on the first Thursday evening of every month and a “Developing Bridge” duplicate about once a month on Sunday afternoons. These duplicates are also open to both club members and non-members. More details can be found at the YC website www.ycbc.co.uk – follow the links to the “Tuition” page for full details.

The hand below comes from one of the YC’s Thursday evening Novice Duplicates, where the hands played are the same as in the regular Thursday evening duplicate that takes place at the same time. It was an entertaining and

instructive hand for less experienced players, who often find it difficult to know just how much to bid in a competitive situation.

NS Vul. Dealer South

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

There were five tables in the novice game and at all of them, South passed, West opened 1♥ and North overcalled 1♠. These players have not yet learnt about Michaels Cue Bids, which can be used to show a two-suited hand such as North's, but that was no disadvantage on this deal! From here on things started to diverge widely.

Most Easts appreciated that although they only had 4 points, the hand was good enough to raise hearts, though most bid a quiet 2♥. South supported spades, of course, though again the level of support shown varied. Then the bidding continued to at least the game level at every table.

One lucky West was allowed to play in 4♥, which was made with an overtrick, but at all the rest the bidding went further. The player in 4♠ was happy to make two overtricks, but scored poorly for this. Another player was doubled in 4♠, another played in 5♠ doubled, but the best result came from 5♠ redoubled with an overtrick!

It is not often that there is a deal where both sides can make game, and I was

asked at the end of play how the hand should be bid. I explained about the concept of "bidding to the level of the fit" right away in competitive auctions. After an opening 1♥, playing 4-card majors, East can raise immediately to 3♥ as he knows the partnership have at least 9 hearts between them. Following the same logic, South knows that NS have at least 10 spades, so should raise to 4♠.

West has a much better hand than he might have for his opening, so should certainly bid again, perhaps trying 5♦ to show where his strength is, which may help his partner evaluate his hand in turn. Now North has a sixth spade, one more than he might have had, so despite the vulnerability he should go on to 5♠. He is not necessarily expecting 5♠ to make, but if it does not then it won't go many off, and 5♥ probably would make, so it would be a good sacrifice.

After this, things get a bit more difficult! Each side has to guess just how far to go. You won't always get this sort of decision right at the table, but it often pays to be bold with very distributional hands and good fits. As we can see, NS can always make 6♠, so the "par contract" is actually 7♥ doubled, going three off on best defence. EW would lose 500 points in this contract, but NS can always make + 1430, so 7♥ is a good sacrifice.

Though no-one bid a slam, in the regular game one table played in 5♥ undoubled going 2 off, and one played in 4♥ doubled making only 11 tricks, so in comparison I thought the less experienced players did pretty well!

A life of Brians

by Ian Payn

"I need some copy. Quite a lot of it." The editor sounded desperate. "Don't worry about the quality, not that you ever have. Just churn some stuff out."

"How about a project?" I asked.

"What sort of project?"

"Why don't I play with five different partners on five different nights of the week?"

"It sounds like it'll be long enough, but it's not exactly what you'd call special, is it?"

"There's a gimmick."

"What gimmick?"

"Well, they'll all be called Brian."

"That's the most stupid thing I've ever heard."



Monday: Brian Ransley. I've known Brian Ransley for a number of years, although I've never partnered him. He's the sort of player who's the backbone of a club. He's never aspired to greatness at the bridge table, but is a competitive, careful player. He lives in Tunbridge Wells, but happily came up to the Young Chelsea (where all the games in this article took place) for our first-ever game. Monday nights at the YC is a normal match-pointed pairs evening, although it starts a little earlier than most games there, at 7.00 pm rather than half past. This is so that players who live further away can get away a bit earlier. Just the thing for people like Brian, in fact.

As always at the start of a session, I had a look around the room to see who the competition was. Brian Senior was in, so was Nevena. David Gold, Irving Gordon (never seen him there before), Kitty Teltscher and Barry Myers were all playing. Alan Woo was playing with Olivia. She'd just won three times on the trot (twice with Alan). Would she get the ...er... whatever one more than a hat trick is? We shall see. Brian and

I would expect to do reasonably well in this field. Did we? Did we buffalo...

It wasn't really our fault – we had one appalling board, which was entirely down to me, but the rest was just plodding along. Brian made an unlikely game, I guessed to stop in a part score. The good things were just about outweighing the bad, and then this came along:

Love All. Dealer West

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

West dealt and passed, so did Brian, sitting North, and West. I was very tempted to throw the hand in, but knew that almost everybody would be

opening. So, I opened One Spade. East wandered back in with a take-out double, and Brian redoubled. East bid Two Clubs, which I doubled, rather aggressively. West converted to two Diamonds, which Brian doubled. East was happyish with this. I wasn't, particularly, but couldn't think of anything else to do. So Two Diamonds doubled became the final contract. I was wishing I'd thrown the hand in.

What happened next, however, went our way. Note that from Brian's hand this auction has gone particularly well – because he's got the King of Spades he knows that we're probably going to be on lead at trick two, so we can plan the defence nicely. Dummy's Diamonds were a bit of a disappointment, but he was bound to have something, and after declarer ruffed the third Spade and played the Ace of Diamonds and (mysteriously) a Diamond to the Queen we took eight tricks for a slightly lucky 500. 300 would still have been a good score, as the norm was everybody making Spade part-scores. Yes, everyone had opened the bidding.

Emboldened by this, Brian and I expected to do quite well (although it didn't feel like a winning set). Alan and Olivia didn't win, but neither did we. Nowhere near, in fact. Disappointingly, we scored only about 52%. Turns out our earlier efforts had all got worse, not better. The evening swirled out in a spiral of bathos (*less of this sort of nonsense – Ed.*). Rather a shame, because I enjoyed myself, and I think Brian did too. Ah well, have to try and do better on...

Tuesday: Nick Boss. Now, I know what you're thinking, but my Tuesday Brian let me down, or, more accurately,

never responded to my original e-mail. At the last moment a thought occurred to me. The manager of Andrew Robson's club, Nick Boss, was normally at a loose end on Tuesdays. So, I rang him and he was happy to oblige. Cheating so early in the challenge? Well, up to a point. As it happened, several years ago I used to know Nick's father, a gentleman that I was proud to call friend. Alas, no longer with us, his name was Brian. Near enough, eh? Especially in an emergency.

We pitched up to the Young Chelsea expecting to do well. The Tuesday evening game is designed for the more social player, and there are restrictions on what systems one is allowed to play. Nick and I were convinced we'd win. We were *reasonably* convinced that we'd attain a score sufficiently high to get us into the record books. After all, two solid, experienced players in a field of people more interested in having a pleasant evening than fierce competition? Bring it on!

It all went, of course, horribly wrong. Board One was a small slam missing the Ace and King of trumps. Board Two was a complete misreading of opponent's hands to let through Three No Trumps. Board Three had us playing in the expert pairs contract Three No Trumps, making one fewer trick than everyone in the non-expert Bleeding Obvious Four Hearts...need I go on? As the results flashed up on the giant screen in the bar our woe became clear to all. It may have been my imagination, but I might have heard what I can only describe as "snickering." The misery continued over the whole evening. It was all two grim for words. At the end of the

session rather than grin and bear it like men, we grabbed the hand records and dived off to the pub on the corner. Once the drinks had arrived we just stood there shaking our heads. After a minute or two of silence, Nick looked at the hand records. "You know," he said, "I reckon if I'd played that Three Diamond contract differently I might have made an overtrick." I stared at him. "That," I replied, "would have made all the difference". He started giggling. Then I started giggling. And the bar staff wondered what it could be that was so amusing to those old guys at the end of the counter that they seemed to be laughing so hard they couldn't speak...

Wednesday: Brian Callaghan, or "Binkie" as he's known in many circles. One of the finest players in the country, and a friend – indeed, I've even been on holiday with him. How did it go? Well, without being too specific, shall we just fall back on the old truism that a picture paints a thousand words? I



don't mind him shaking his head at me. I don't mind his laughing at me. It's when he's shaking his head *whilst* laughing at me...

Thursday: Brian McGuire. On various Thursdays throughout the month the YC has special evenings. Last

Thursday is the Club Pairs, first Thursday an Individual, and the second Thursday is a Swiss Pairs. The other two Thursdays (or one Thursday, depending on the month) are similar to Tuesdays in approach. Avoiding those, and the Club Pairs Championship, we decided that an Individual was no good for the purposes of this article, so the Swiss Pairs it was. Would this rein back the poor results so far? Things were promising. Brian McGuire is an experienced and reliable player, whose enthusiasm remains undimmed after many years playing competitively. He was going to have to do well to redeem the week after the Tuesday and Wednesday fiascos.

Now, the thing about a "short" Swiss Pairs, five five-board matches, is that it can be fairly punishing. The VP scale isn't generous and there's little room to manoeuvre. If you get a poor result at the start of a longer match you have scope to recover. Less over five boards. Also, the smaller the movement the fewer "normal" results. In the YC Swiss Pairs usually about twelve tables turn up. For some reason when Brian and I played, the number was down to nine. Ugh.

This one was a bit unlucky:

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

West dealt, and the auction passed round to Brian as South. Personally I'd have considered opening on the West cards, but that's not the point. Brian opened One Club, perhaps a bit top-heavy. There are downsides to opening Two Clubs when your main suit is Clubs, but on this hand you may well make game opposite virtually nothing, so...still, One Club it was.

The opponents were silent throughout (again, I'd have thought West might have wandered in over the opening bid, but what do I know?). I responded a normal One Diamond. Brian rebid Two Hearts, natural and forcing, so I raised him to three, with a song in my heart. Brian then cue-bid Four Clubs (showing first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh round control. Good bid!) and I thought Four Diamonds was a risk-free bid. Anyway, Brian bid Four Spades (can he bid Five Spades, to show no Spade loser?) and I just quietly bid Five Hearts. This fetched Six Clubs from Brian, another good bid. Shame I didn't pass it, really. Six Hearts went one down, losing the inevitable trump and the Ace of Diamonds. You'd have thought this was worth more than no matchpoints, and in a big field it would have been. Most pairs were in Five Clubs, one pair had bid and made Six Clubs. There was one unimpressive Four Clubs plus two, and Six Hearts had made once. How? Don't ask me. Trump lead? Revoke? I'll never know.

It's easy to whinge about bad luck (I've been in a lot worse contracts than that), so I'll stop. I'll just report that it was a very pleasant game, we were never in danger of winning but at least we scraped up to third place. Would victory never come?

Friday: Brian Senior. What can I say about Brian Senior that you don't already know? One of the country's top players, he makes his living playing bridge and writing about bridge. His wife, Nevena, is also a star player of some magnitude. They appeared last year on the TV show Wife Swap but have swapped back.

Based in Nottingham, Brian was happy to come down to London to round off my week of Brian-based adventures, having a sense of the ridiculous. I've known Brian for some while, and we're on nodding terms. We've never played together, but then I'd never played with Brian Ransley or Brian McGuire, either, and on both occasions I did better than I did with Nick and Binkie, both of whom I'd played with often enough. Senior usually plays professionally, and consequently has a vested interest in how he does. This wasn't the imperative on this occasion – I was more concerned with getting through the evening and having a laugh.

Even though there was nothing at stake, however, Brian never stopped trying. Consequently, we'd done quite a lot of work during the session (the better he played, the better I tried to play), and only needed a few gifts...

♠ A Q 5
♥ A K 8 4
♦ 8 6
♣ K J 9 3

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

♠ K 4
♥ Q 7
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ A 8 7 5 4

North/South ended up in a rather optimistic Seven No Trumps, declared by South. Brian led a Heart won by declarer in hand, and when his Queen of Clubs ceded the Club suit to declarer, he knew he was going to be squeezed in the red suits (try it). So, his first two discards were the Jack of Diamonds and the Nine of Diamonds.

After cashing eight black suit winners and three heart tricks, declarer took the finesse in Diamonds for his thirteenth trick. Brian won with the King, and produced as his thirteenth card a winning Heart. Two down. Baring a King is something we've all heard about and read about and indeed done, but it was Brian's speed in discarding his two Diamonds that was impressive. "There's nothing worse" he said later "than slowly chucking the Jack of Diamonds at trick eleven." On a few other hands he made calls or plays that taxed me. Sometimes I rose to the occasion, sometimes I didn't, but it was nice to be asked to the party.

We went upstairs to wait for the results. It wasn't a foregone conclusion – there were two pairs in the race, but in the end we won. Not by much, but the way the adventure had started (and indeed continued) victory was very welcome indeed.

Brian was a pleasure to play with – well, all my Brians were (it's okay Binkie, I didn't mean it earlier), and they have my undying gratitude for participating in such a foolish enterprise. Or maybe it wasn't such a foolish enterprise after all. Perhaps there'd been some point. As I said goodbye to Brian Senior I wondered if perhaps over the course of my five games, having atrophied for years at the bridge table, I might finally have learned something.

No, I hadn't. Ah, well. Never mind. It hadn't gone well, but it could have gone worse. You know what they say - Always look on the bright side of life.

Grand Finale

by Paul Lamford

David Burn began an interesting article for the Woodberry website with: "An expert", it has been wisely said, "is a man who knows exactly what he should have done the moment he has just done something else". That reminded me at the time of one of my favourite quotations:

An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field. - Niels Bohr

One of the advantages of chatting with experts in the YC bar, or at any social event for that matter, is that they pass on their gems of wisdom. But be sure to buy them a second (or third) drink if you want to give them a chance to explain the tip fully. Or else you will fall victim to Pope's strictures:

*A little lager is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
These empty jars intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.*



In the final of the London Teams of Four Championship, the winners took more heed of the experts' tips than the losers. Bidding and making two grand slams that were missed in the other room was just one reason why **Clery** (Liz Clery, Ken Barnett, Ryan Stephenson and Paul Huggins) won convincingly over **Catchpole** (Anne Catchpole, David Schiff, Paul Lamford and Stefanie Rohan). The final margin was not quite a cricket score (except by England standards) but quite enough for the latter to concede with eight boards to go.

Everyone, including newspaper columnists, likes a Grand Slam, and it also gives me a chance to include some expert tips I have been given of late:

EW Vul. Dealer East

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

Firstly the successful auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Rohan</i>	<i>Barnett</i>	<i>Lamford</i>	<i>Clery</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Many would not open the South hand, but it has 12 Binkie points, and therefore Brian Callaghan would do so. What are Binkie points? Well, quite simple really, you count your points in the normal 4-3-2-1 way and then add half a point for each ace, deduct one

third of a point for each queen and deduct one sixth of a point for each jack. This caters for the fact that aces are undervalued by the point-count system. The auction was a lot easier after this, and I was regretting not opening a weak 2♦ on the East hand.

After the 1NT rebid, North used checkback which uncovered the 4-4 heart fit. Keycard Blackwood now led to the good grand which needs trumps 3-2. 7NT essentially also needs a 3-2 heart break and is barely better. Does this make the grand with the odds? Well, let us assume that the other room is in 6♥ or 6♠, as it was. If hearts are 4-1, N/S will be -50 and lose 14 IMPs against the 980 in the other room. If hearts are 3-2, then N/S will be +1520, and win 11 against the +1010 in the other room. So you risk 14 to gain 11, and therefore need a 56% chance of success. For a vulnerable grand slam you similarly need a 57% chance.

The less successful auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Huggins</i>	<i>Catchpole</i>	<i>Stephenson</i>	<i>Schiff</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Here, South, not being a Binkite, elected to pass, and North opened 2NT, breaking the Burn rule:

"It is harder to reach the right slam if you open 2NT."

South learned that his partner had five spades, and three keycards, but it was tough to visualise the mesh that made the grand good, and that was a deserved 11 IMPs to Clery.

The other grand bid in the match also featured a better, or more successful, rebid:

EW Vul. Dealer East

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

Firstly the successful auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Schiff</i>	<i>Steph- enson</i>	<i>Catchpole</i>	<i>Huggins</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

When South elected to rebid 3♣, Ryan Stephenson sailed into the grand slam; indeed it is hard to envisage a hand opposite on which it is not cold, and bidding RKCB on the North hand was a sensible approach despite the void.

In the other room, Rohan, South, elected to rebid 2NT, infringing the Burn tip:

"It is harder to reach the right slam if you rebid 2NT."

Indeed, Brian Callaghan thought 3♣ was an overbid, and he would have rebid 2♣. After 1♥ – 1♠ – 2NT, Lamford, North, checked back with 3♣, and bid a lazy 6♣ when his partner showed only two spades and only five hearts. This was a poor bid, despite the void in partner's first suit, as there was no reason why South could not have had something like ♠Kx ♥AKJxx ♦Axx ♣QJx when 7♣ would be excellent. North thought that 6♣ did not rule out a raise to 7♣, and some might have raised on the South hand, but the main fault lies with North. He might have heeded:

An expert is a person who avoids small error as he sweeps on to the grand fallacy. - Benjamin Stolberg

Instead he followed Hamman's advice: "In the bidding, partner should not play for me to show up with the perfect hand because I will never have it."

Generally the cards ran the way of the team playing the better bridge, and the losing side all wish the **Clery** team every success in the Pachabo at Hinckley.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

The new EBU venue at the Hinckley Island Hotel is much nicer than Kettering was. Whether it is nice enough to go to the Leatherhead Leisure Centre on a Sunday to try to qualify for the National Pairs Final is arguable, but I felt duty bound the following day to make my annual pilgrimage there with YC Chairman, Ian Payn, who has recently taken over the poisoned chalice of LMBA treasurer.

We trundled along at much the same speed as we trundled along the A3 – slow but sure – until this hand occurred (*rotated for convenience*).

North-South managed just about the minimum result, and it was perhaps a joint effort:

EW Vul. Dealer North

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Ian</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<i>Broker1</i>	<i>Payn</i>	<i>Broker2</i>	<i>Lamford</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South counted his Binkie points, which came to 19.167, but thought that the tens and nine must push it up to the 20-22 range for 2NT. He temporarily considered the Burn rule that it is harder to bid slams after opening 2NT, but chose it anyway. North-South were playing Young Chelsea Standard, where a 3♠ response shows both minors, slam try. Handicapped by these unsuitable methods, Ian chose the simple 3NT. No doubt he would have put forward the expert reason that he did not want 3♠ to be doubled for the lead if I had even noticed at the time that he could have bid this instead. Perhaps he should have noted the advice:

Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it.
- Robert Heinlein

How should the hand be bid? I guess: 2NT – 3♠ – 4♣ – 4NT(RKCB) – 5♣ – 6♣.

But the play's the thing, as they say, and West led the six of spades, which was stated to be fourth best, and the Surrey Stockbroker in the West seat looked the truthful sort. Not an FSA investigation in sight. These fourth-best leads are helpful; we all know the rule of 11, and some of us know the rule of 7 which gets into *Wikipedia*! One deducts the combined number of cards in a suit, in which you just hold the ace, from seven, and this is the number of times one should hold up. So in our example this means you should hold up twice. Great play at IMPs, but not as useful at matchpoints. It all depends on whether you think the diamond finesse is right.

The next question is how are the spades divided? This time I have a tip, which is that you can allocate the chances of each division of the spade suit based on the number of cards missing below the pip of the suit led, using the number of available spaces. "Not many people know that", Michael Caine might say. West has three spades above the six, and East must have two. So the chance of West having the five of spades is 10/21, and of the four of spades it is then 9/20. In rough terms, West is about 21% to have six spades, 53% to have five spades and 26% to have only four spades. And this last is reduced a lot, because with only four spades he was much more likely to have had a longer or equal length suit he might have led instead. Complicated, but the general

rule is that the more cards the opponents have jointly below the pip of the fourth-best lead, the longer the suit led is likely to be.

My definition of an expert in any field is a person who knows enough about what's really going on to be scared. - P. J. Plauger

Anyway, to cut a long story short, I decided East was quite a bit more likely than West to hold the king of diamonds. So I ducked the first two spades, and soon realized that I could have made more tricks when West,

perforce, covered the first round of diamonds. +460 did not score any matchpoints at all. It is not clear whether this was because others were playing it better or bidding it better, but it must have been one or the other.

And it was sad to realise that, had I won the first spade, I would have made 13 tricks on the major-suit show-up squeeze on West after the nine minor-suit winners are cashed. And, as the squeeze occurs automatically, I would not need to be an expert to execute it!

Meet Bernard Teltscher

by Chris Duckworth

Bernard Teltscher was elected President of the LMBA in 1990, following the resignation of former President Terence Reese, so after 19 years an interview with him is probably long overdue. He invited me to his Chelsea home, where he lives with two adorable long-haired dachshunds, and entertained me with stories about his life for this article.



Bernard was born in Vienna in 1923, though he is actually native to Czechoslovakia. He came to this country in 1938, when his brother was coming to England to study anyway, and his family were astute enough to realise it would be a good idea for the rest of them to join him. At the age of 15 Bernard was sent to a boarding school near the south coast, the name of which he cannot remember, as he stayed there only three days before running away. The public school culture was alien to him, and he was permanently cold! His family relented and his schooling continued in London until he went to university - for a first degree in engineering at University College London, which was actually evacuated to Swansea during the war, then a second degree in economics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Because of a childhood illness which left him with a limp in one leg, Bernard was deemed unfit for military service during the war, though he did join the Home Guard and later the university Air Squadron. His original intention was to become an electrical engineer in the Air Force, but circumstances changed and instead he joined the family firm of wine importers. The company was started by Bernard's grandfather in 1875, and was subsequently managed by several of his 11 sons – there were no daughters! The eldest surviving son was always the “emperor” of the firm, as Bernard described it, and as Bernard's father was the seventh son it

was a while before his turn came to run things. Bernard himself joined the company in 1946 and in due course it became his. The company started importing Yugoslav wines in 1948, which became very popular. At their peak, in about 1980, 2% of all white wine drunk in this country was from Yugoslavia and Teltscher Bros imported 95% of the total. The company was eventually sold to Martini and Rossi in 1991, who sadly wound down the Yugoslav wine imports. But Bernard kept a number of the properties, including a major building in the Isle of Dogs which he turned into a successful Business Centre. This in turn was sold in 2006, just before the current property slump!

Bernard started playing bridge as a young child in 1931, whilst in a sanatorium in Switzerland. Although he had a grandmother, an aunt and several cousins who played, his immediate family did not. He's not exactly sure whether it was auction or contract bridge, but whatever the game, its attraction was lasting. He continued to play bridge at university in Swansea and again in Cambridge. The bridge club re-started there after the war in 1946, during Bernard's second year, and he became first President of the University Bridge Club. He played in the first Oxford v Cambridge Varsity match, which he was pleased to report that Cambridge won. (They lost the following year, when a certain Alan Truscott played for the Oxford team!) Bernard also restarted the University table tennis club and again they won the first match against Oxford, with Bernard personally beating their first, second and third players.

After graduating, Bernard continued to play bridge at a number of London clubs. These were mostly rubber bridge clubs in those days, and he really only started playing duplicate when he played for his tennis club in a south London league and met a talented 20-year old who had recently taken up the game – this was John Collings! Bernard and his partner teamed up with John and his brother-in-law, who had introduced John to the game having learned himself as a prisoner of war, and together they won the Lady Rose, the main Surrey Teams-of-four Championship in 1954. This was the first of many competitive bridge successes – since then Bernard has won many of the major domestic competitions, including the Spring Foursomes, the Championship Pairs at Brighton, the Lederer – three times – and the Hubert Phillips.

Through his membership of Crockfords Club, Bernard became friendly with Irving Rose, who was the bridge professional there. They played together in a number of events including the Cavendish, the prestigious annual world invitational Pairs competition, where they came last in one session and first in another - that was typical Rose, who Bernard described as his most amusing partner. He has titles for all his bridge partners, and Irving was, of course "The Great Rose" – after whom TGR's bridge club, originally set up by Bernard along with Howard Cohen, is named. Bernard reckons he learnt most of his bridge technique from "Sir William" – Willie Coyle – and he greatly enjoys playing with "Sir Victor" Silverstone, now a regular partner. But his favourite partner of all is "His Serene Highness, Prince of Quedgley" – Tony Priday. Bernard rates Tony, at almost 87, as still as good a player as any of the younger stars around now. He is also justly pleased that at his own age, his bridge is still as good as it has been at any time

over the last 30 years. In fact, he assured me that Sir Victor says he plays better now than he did in his 60s!

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

Victor provided this hand which shows Bernard's sharpness at the table in a 6♠ contract. A club lead would have left him without resource, but West led the ♥J which allowed Bernard to display his skill. He won in hand and played Ace and a low trump, catering for Qxxx with West. Now when West won the ♠Q and played a club Bernard was in control. He rose with the Ace, cashed the Jack of trumps, crossed to hand with a heart and drew the last trump. Next came three rounds of diamonds and a diamond ruff to establish the twelfth trick and Bernard still had ♥A entry to enable it to be cashed.

Bernard has mixed with all the greats of British bridge and is full of stories about them. He recalled an occasion in St Moritz where he was with Rixi Markus and Fritzi Gordon. Although they were a long-standing women's partnership who dominated the game for a period, there was no love lost between the two of them. On this occasion Rixi came to the table after skiing looking particularly tired. Fritzi solicitously enquired how she was, saying she did not look well. Rixi snapped back "Don't tell me how I look, or I'll tell you how you look". Of course he also knows the current players well too – another anecdote is about Heather Bakhshi, who had just played a session with her husband, David. "How did it go?" Heather was asked. "Oh, very well" she replied "I only cried twice". His favourite story, though, is about a Polish diamond merchant, Leslie Barr, who played rubber Bridge with an English lady called Dodo Davidson. At one stage he stopped and said "Madam, every day you play worse, but today you play like tomorrow"!

Bernard of course sponsors the Lederer, and more recently he has taken on a new sponsorship, that of the Seniors Camrose. This was introduced last year to complement the junior and open home internationals. As there are five countries competing for the title, and an even number of teams is much better for a weekend competition, Bernard brings a Patron's team along to play in this. The team of himself and His Serene Highness Tony Priday, Sir Victor and "Commodore" Chris Dixon, the Learned Doctor Robert Sheehan and "Chief Superintendent Colombo" Colin Simpson came second in last year's inaugural event. If Bernard has an outstanding ambition in bridge, it would be to win this competition. And he probably will, before long!



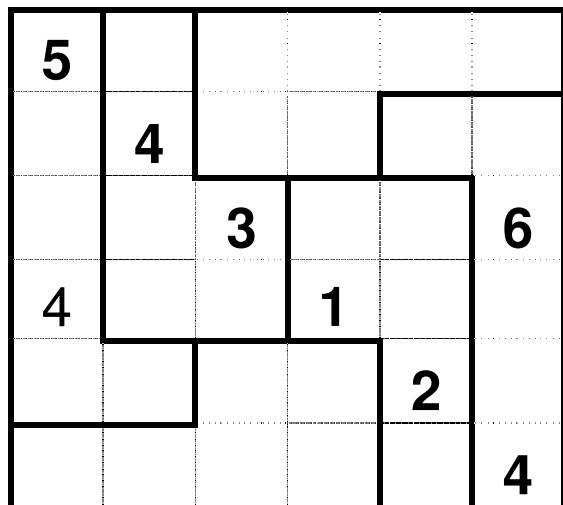
More Kaplan Kwotes

A further selection of the "bon mots" of ace VuGraph commentator Edgar Kaplan. Although Kaplan died nearly 12 years ago, his comments still seem totally fresh and entirely apposite to today's game.

- "Good players guess well on some days and bad players guess well on some days. But good players guess well on more days."
- "In the old days, you had to grit your teeth and pass with the North hand. Now you can make a negative double with the result that you go down instead of the opponents."
- "East is wondering why he didn't pass one spade. So am I."
- "East-West can make a singular number of hearts but not a plural number."
- "Some people bid three no trump over their partner's three-level suit bids on the theory that it's more dignified to go down in game."
- "In the Closed Room, the defenders seem to have gone to sleep with their ace of trumps."
- "East's 3♥ bid on Qxxx shows great fortitude. Personally, I'd rather have fiveitude."
- "Defenders hate to lead suits they have bid – they like to surprise the declarer."
- "The modern fashion in cuebids is not to show anything in particular but to cast a rosy glow over the whole auction."
- "Declarer led the ace of trumps and it held. So now he must reconsider his options."
- "As you can see, neither pair had any difficulty reaching their 19-point game. The difficulty will come in the play."
- "To equal the result in the other room, he needs 16 overtricks."
- "North doubled four hearts to tell himself what to lead."
- "He has left himself no flexibility. He can no longer go down."
- "It is well-known that in third seat, you must have 13 cards to open the bidding."
- "The number of players who enjoy doubling the opponents into game can be counted on one toe."
- "No swing on a board that was touch and go at both tables. It touched and went."
- "North obeyed the old rule--if you can't follow suit, follow colour."

Puzzle Corner

An easier puzzle than usual this time – for those of you who have found the previous ones a bit tough. Simply fill the numbers 1 to 6 into the boxes so that every row, column and outlined shape contains one of each number.



If you get stuck, the answer is on page 31.



Congratulations ...

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



Nick Irens, Tom Townsend, David Gold, Espen Erichsen and Alex Hydes won



the national Premier League. Pictured to the left are Tom, David and Espen, with team-mate Norman Selway, being presented with the Brock Trophy by Sally and Bryony Brock.

As a result of the League, London had no fewer than eight players representing either England or the EBU in this year's Camrose matches - namely **David Bakhshi, Andy Bowles, Peter Czerniewski, Espen Erichsen, Tony Forrester,**

David Gold, Andrew Robson and Tom Townsend. The EBU team went on to win the Camrose, so especial congratulations go to the winning team members **Andrew Robson, Andy Bowles and Peter Czerniewski.**

Gunnar Hallberg, Ross Harper and Peter Czerniewski won the Seniors Trials in January, earning places in the England team in the Seniors Camrose.



Alice Kaye (*pictured left*) was selected for the England U25 Women's team in the Channel Trophy and has been selected to play with **Sarah O'Connor** (from London, though not an LMBA member currently) in the Women's Under 25 team in the Junior European Championships to be played in Romania in July. Alice was also a member of the Oxford team that won the Portland Bowl, the Inter-University Teams Championship.

Janet de Botton and her team, which included **Nick Sandqvist** and **David Burn** won the Gold Cup. The photo shows the happy captain with the trophy and all the members of the team.

The same team went on to win the National Swiss Teams in January – for the second year running! **Mike Clack** was in the second-placed team at the same event.



Olivia Woo came second in both the Pivot Teams and the Swiss Teams at the Tenerife Congress. More recently **Olivia** and **Alan Woo** (*pictured right*) also won the Swiss Pairs at the Jersey Congress.

London players did well at the Year End Congress. **Nick Irens, Nick Boss, David**

Bakhshi and **Tony Forrester** (*right*) won the Swiss Teams A flight whilst **Jonathan Jacobs, Tim Pelling, Naomi Cohen** and **Andrew Clery** (*belowt*) won the B Flight.



Also at the Year End Congress, **Mark Teltscher** and **Tom Townsend** won the Mens Pairs (*pictured below left being congratulated by Tony Priday*) and **David Schiff** came second. **Shireen Mohandes** (*below right with partner Maureen Dennison*) won the Women's Pairs and **Susanna Gross** and **Anne Catchpole** came second. **David Gold** was second in the Swiss Pairs.



At the Ranked Masters, **David Bakhshi** was second in the Premier Grand Masters.

Dom Goodwin and **Gordon Rainsford** (*seen right with EBU Board member John Carter*) won the Premier Life Masters for the third year running.

Paul Huggins (*below left with partner Mike Wenble and the trophy*) won the Regional Masters.

Paul Chapman and **Adrian Ring** (*below right with their trophy*) won the Masters and **Tim Chanter** and **Helen Wildsmith** were second in the Masters.



Corinne and **Jean-Marie Poitou** won the French Federation's Roy René Simultaneous Pairs.

Paul Lamford and **Ian Payn** were second in the National Pairs regional finals.

At the Easter Congress, **Andrew Clery** and **Robert Balchin** were second in the Open Pairs.



Alex Hydes (seen left with partner *Ewa Kater*) won the Championship Pairs, whilst **David Bakhshi** came third.

Simon Gillis was third in the Swiss Teams.

Paul Lamford and **Bob Brinig** were second in the Swiss Pairs A flight.

Simon Pollack won the Swiss Pairs B flight.



At the Schapiro Spring Foursomes, a number of teams with London players made it to the final stages. **Alice Kaye** was a losing finalist in the Punchbowl. In the main event, **Simon Gillis** reached the semi-finals and the Irens team, including **Nick Irens, Espen Erichsen, Tom Townsend** and **David Gold** went one further, into the semi-finals.

But the crowning achievement was by Alexander Allfrey's team, including **Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi** and **Tony Forrester**, who were undefeated throughout the event and took the trophy, a terrific achievement for a team of only four players.

The picture shows the team with the trophy – and yes, that is a bearded Andrew Robson!



Puzzle Solution

(See page 27)



5	2	6	3	4	1
6	4	2	5	1	3
2	1	3	4	5	6
4	6	5	1	3	2
1	3	4	6	2	5
3	5	1	2	6	4

On the Verge of Pique

by Veronica Thicke

A collection of Veronica's travel writings over the last twenty years, *A Cucumber up the Cairngorms*, published by Hamish Hamilton at £19.99, should be in all good bookshops in time for Christmas.



Don't ask. Just don't ask. Since last we spoke it's been an absolute nightmare round here. Not only have I not been near Putney (sorry Ned! Truly sorry!), but the business with Rex Benison and the odious Ralph Segal got totally out of hand in a very dangerous way. I'm not allowed to write about it, though! I've had a D-Notice slapped on me. I can reveal, however, that Rex and Ralph have been very naughty boys indeed, and won't be seeing daylight other than through bars for some while yet, all thanks (and this is the worst bit) to not only Mr. Thicke, but bloody Titus bloody ap Llewelyn, who have been working with British Intelligence for some time using *me* as a catspaw! The cheek!

As if this weren't bad enough [*What, disposing of two years' worth of subplots in a single paragraph?* – Ed] the corker, the real corker that's just about put a lid on it for me this spring, is that Bill Gates has been in London, and played bridge at the Young Chelsea one evening. Did he call me, did he e-mail? Did he heck as like. After all I've done for that man! He ended up playing with...no, I can't even mention the wretch's name, but he knows that I know who he is, and if he thinks he's getting invited to my annual Henley bridge'n'boules BBQ this year he's got another think coming.

Anyway, the upside of all that for you, dear reader, is that I can return to my bulging postbag while I gather my wits around me. I've been neglecting it for a while, so some of these queries may be a bit old.

Colonel B de V. "Sniffy" Mountshaft of Pall Mall asks:

"My partner and I had a curious auction. Playing Culbertson 4/5 we..... " [Not that old. Next case! – Ed]

A London-Member asks:

"My partner and me are reasonable players, and would like to represent our county, London, in an event. Obviously events like The Tollemache and The Pachabo are out of the question but is there something just below these competitions where we might be able to take part?"

It so happens that you're in luck. On September the thirteenth, a Sunday, in the pleasant surroundings of the Ardingly show ground just over the borders into Sussex, the annual Metropolitan Cup will be taking place. Home Counties are invited to send three teams of twelve to play in three divisions. In recent years, or, to put it more bluntly, in living memory, London has made a bit of a poor showing in terms of attendance, scraping up just an A-Team and sometimes not even that. This year, the aim is to get two teams at least, but the organiser needs volunteers. Apparently there is a move to stuff the A-Team with internationals (or near-internationals) but the B-Team stands wide open, and if enough people volunteer we might even run to a C-team! Come on everybody, give it a go! Do we want everyone else to think that we're an association of smug dilettantes? We do not!

E-Mail idp@charterchambers.com if you'd like to do your bit. This counts for internationals and other top-class players, too: you might as well volunteer because if the organiser doesn't hear from you, I am assured that you will be hearing from him. There's enough talent in London to conquer every division, so let's, for once, go for it. Send that e-mail! Tell him Veronica sent you!

Well, that's about all I've got room for, readers [*Eh? This has been a bit thin, even by your standards* – Ed]. Let's not forget amid all the doom and gloom there's actually a bit of good news floating around for a change - the news about the Young Chelsea has brought a sigh of relief. See the club web site for details. It's important to remember that the place has been the crucible of bridge in England for longer many of us have been alive. Celebrity Grand Slam might bring a whole new crowd of bridge players into existence (the Susan Hampshire fan club alone must have...ooohhh, loads of members). Perhaps things are beginning to look up after all, and the great game of bridge is on the up, and one might forget one's own personal misery and reflect upon the joy this can bring to thousands.

Not to the extent of ending Mr Thicke's exile in the spare room, of course. He's going to have to sweat a bit before he sets foot in the master bedroom again...

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