

*London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association*



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Spring 2012

*London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association*



Words from the Editor

It has been seven years since I spoke about junior bridge in this column, so I have no compunction about returning to this subject. I still firmly believe that encouraging youth bridge is one of the most important things we should be doing if we want the game of bridge to have a long-term future. Without new young blood, I fear the game will die on its feet.



There are those who say that bridge is best seen as a game for those of a mature age and that there will always be people who want to take up bridge in later life when they have more time for a sedentary activity. But I am not at all sure that this is true. People who now take up the game in their 50s or 60s mostly do so because they grew up playing cards with their family or because they came across the game at a younger age – it has always been something they have been aware of and so they find it natural to turn to bridge when they have a little more time on their hands. But the current generation of youngsters have grown up with television remote controls, computers and games consoles in their hands, rather than cards. They will not think of taking up bridge in later life because it simply isn't on their radar.

Just about the only young people who do play now are those with bridge-playing parents or other relatives. There is also a handful of schools where bridge is well-established, but nothing like the number there used to be when I was young. And the same applies to universities, where many of our current top players developed their game. For the last several years the entry in the Portland Bowl, the British inter-university knock-out championships, has comprised teams from only 9 different universities.

But the news is not all bad. In recent years there have been pockets of the country where dedicated teachers have gone to great lengths, giving their time voluntarily to encourage bridge in schools. Cedric Cockcroft was a prime example up in Harrogate a while back – many of his pupils have gone on to become members of the English junior squads. But nearer to home we have had Bomi Kavarana promoting MiniBridge to great effect in Surrey Schools, and Ron Adam working hard in Middlesex. The most recent example of this dedication I have come across is the work being done by Joan Bennett and Alison Nicolson. They and an army of volunteers – 65 to be precise – have been running MiniBridge and some bridge in the primary schools of Berks, Bucks and Oxon and now have 30 schools and 375 children playing each week. Absolutely terrific stuff!

The EBU Youth Education Trust is also helping the MiniBridge drive by supporting a project to teach the basics of MiniBridge to non-bridge playing school teachers. These teachers mainly use bridge as a teaching tool within the maths curriculum, and just about all who have tried it find it to be a very effective tool. As well as mathematical ability, bridge has been found to help with skills such as logical and lateral thinking, focus and concentration. Playing with three other players at the

same table also helps develop personal confidence, communication skills and sociability and playing cooperatively with a partner encourages team building and inter-personal awareness. So not only are future bridge-players being encouraged, the children also benefit greatly!

So what is happening in London? Well, the MiniBridge initiative mentioned above has been introduced to one or two primary schools in the capital, but the initiative was originally set up in the Manchester area and has been slow to reach the south. There are one or two volunteer bridge-players teaching in schools, but really very few. London does have its own problems in operating the type of scheme that has been so successful in Berks, Bucks and Oxon, because of the lack of a local focus for bridge and because of the way our children attend a multitude of different schools and travel from all over to do so. The travel problem can also prevent potential volunteers from going into schools, when the time available to teach in schools is usually very short – often only half an hour during a lunch break or after school.

Over the last year or so, the Young Chelsea BC has been running a few bridge days for children during half-term breaks and school holidays at a nominal cost. These are open to children of all ages and all levels of bridge experience and a small but enthusiastic group of players, mainly aged around 8-13, has been building up. All those who have attended so far have absolutely loved it and the club hopes to keep the days going and develop them into regular sessions.

By the time you read this, the half-term sessions will have come and gone, but another day is scheduled for Easter, on Monday 2nd April. Children can attend either in the morning from 11.00 am until 1.00 pm or the afternoon from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm, or both sessions – which most do. They are in the care of qualified, CRB-checked teachers and are looked after over lunch time. All are welcome and if you would like to know more, or to book in any children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces or friends, please just contact me.

Chris Duckworth
MetroNews Editor
201 Greyhound Road
London W14 9SD
chris.duckworth@lineone.net



AGM Notice

Please note that the 2012 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 6th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0EN.

This is just your formal notice of the date, so that you can put it in your diary now. Further details and an agenda for the meeting will be published in the next edition of MetroNews.

LMBA results this season

Mixed Pairs Championship

The Mixed Pairs Championship this season was held on 18th September 2011.

The winners from a field of 29 pairs were Jackie Fairclough and Graham Orsmond (*pictured right*), who were over two percent clear of their nearest rivals. In second place were Kitty Teltscher and Willie Coyle, whilst Janet de Botton and Thor Erik Hoftaniska were third.



Champions Cup

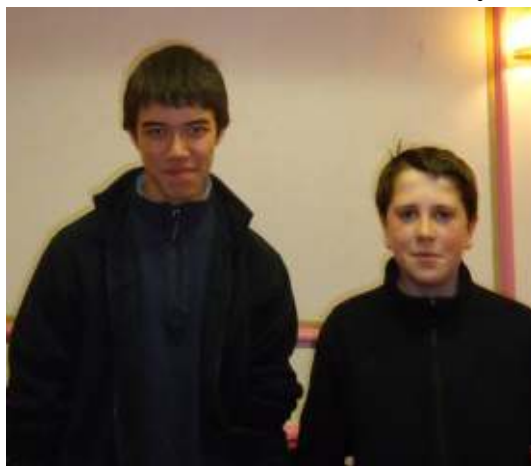
This year's Champions Cup event attracted seven teams, all winners of various Leagues in and around London during the previous season. The winners of the Cup were the Revenue & Customs team of Tony Verran, Brian Gladman, Reuben Lewis and Martin Baker representing the Civil Service League with a convincing score of +42 IMPs. In second place on +13 IMPS were the London Business Houses League winners Peter Cogliatti, Ken Barnett, Brian Kelly and David Hull.

Junior Teams-of-Four Championship

This year the Junior Teams was held as part of a junior training weekend being held at the Young Chelsea. In consequence there was a strong and enthusiastic field of ten teams competing. The winners were the teams of Alex Roberts, Shivam Shah, Frederick Illingworth and Christopher Huber, closely followed by runners-up Chris Derrick, Will Roper, Arthur Wolstenholme and Angus Tayler.

Alex and Shivam are the anchor pair in the current England Under 20s team, so it was no surprise to see them at the top of the lists. Shivam has been playing bridge since he was about six, and Arthur in the second-placed team has also been playing for over 10 years – and he is only 18 now! It certainly pays to start young!

Under-19 Pairs Championship



This year's Under-19s attracted a smaller entry of 6 pairs. The winners were Michael Alishaw & Sam Behrens (*left*), with Toby Nonnenmacher & Daniel Arwas second and James Zhao & Saravanan Sathyanandha third. The first four players all attend Latymer Upper School and Toby and Michael are a more regular partnership who also play for the English Under 20s. James and Saravanan attend Haberdasher's Aske's.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

It was a very strong field that competed in this year's Lederer. For details of the overall leaders and the winners of the various prizes for best bid, played and defended hand, see Paul Lamford's article on pages 6 to 10.

Teltscher Cups

The "Play with the Stars" event for the Teltscher Cups is held alongside the Lederer, with club players playing the same hands as are played in the main event, scoring up with NS and EW team-mates in the Lederer.

This year the event was sadly only held at one club, and the LMBA will be looking to rejuvenate the event next year. The Roehampton club who took part had a great time and they very much hope the event will continue. The winners were Les and Irene Hough (pictured below, teaming up with Tony Forrester and Peter Crouch) and Danny Gesua and Sally Birnage (teaming up with Zia and Fredrik Bjornlund).



Any team wanting to enter the event – next year we plan that it will be free with great prizes – should contact stefanieroan@metrobridge.co.uk. And don't forget to put the event in your club calendar when the dates are announced!

Puzzle Corner

As usual with these sorts of puzzles, you need to put the numbers from 1 to 6 in each row and column of the grid. The numbers in each shape must also produce the result in the top left of each area.

In a subtraction either number may be taken away from the other.

The solution can be found on page 29.



8x			1-	5-	11+
2÷	1-				
	3÷	11+	9+		
40x			2÷		4
	2÷		1-	20x	3÷
	3+				

Bouncing Back

by Paul Lamford

The teams for the Lederer are normally invited well in advance, and the impressive winners of last year's Premier League were clearly worth their place, especially as two of the team were Lederer winners four years ago. However, they had a poor Premier League campaign this year, getting relegated along with Jeremy Dhondy's quartet. They added the fine pairing of Erichsen and Selway to their Premier team, and the effect proved to be dramatic. They took the lead by beating the President's team in round four and never looked back.

Suprisingly all three of the prizes, judged by Brian Callaghan, Sally Brock and your author, came from the first sheet of hands. It was not clear whether this was because the players or the judges wilted as the event wore on, but there were candidates later on which did not usurp the early choices.

Breaking Bad

The winning hand of the best play award, won by Espen Erichsen, came as early as set one.

Game all. Dealer West.

- ♠ AJ
 - ♥ Q109
 - ♦ AKQ1084
 - ♣ 92
- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| ♠ 5 | ♠ KQ1087432 |
| ♥ 8764 | ♥ A5 |
| ♦ J976 | ♦ 3 |
| ♣ KJ84 | ♣ Q10 |
- ♠ 96
 - ♥ KJ32
 - ♦ 52
 - ♣ A7653

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Selway</i>
Pass	1NT	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Espen Erichsen showed good card reading on the above hand, and earned his side a double game swing. He opened a strong no-trump and pulled his partner's card-showing double of 4♠ to 5♦. East led a top spade and Espen won, cashed a top diamond and advanced the ten of



Espen Erichsen collecting his best play award from Tony Priday

hearts. East should probably duck this, but Espen would just have continued with a second heart. Instead East won, cashed the top spade, and exited with the ten of clubs. Espen won in dummy and finessed the diamond to land his game. Given that the spades are 8-1, the chance of West having the jack of diamonds has risen to 70%, while the chance of a 3-2 break has dropped to 35%, so his line is twice as good as playing for the drop.

In the other room, North, Allfrey, opened 1D and North-South gave in to East's 4♠ overcall, which seems a bit conservative. Robson led a trump, and

North won, cashed the king of diamonds, South giving normal count, and then switched to the ten of hearts. East won, drew the two remaining trumps and played the queen of clubs. South won with the ace and played back a diamond, allowing East to claim. Clearly South thought East had to have the queen of diamonds from North's play of the king, but he would have an awkward guess in any case. East could be either 8-1-2-2 or 8-2-1-2.

Not Josephine Today

Brian Callaghan remembers playing 5NT as pick a slam many moons ago, and this convention worked well on the following hand in which Zia and his Swedish partner, Fredrik Bjornlund, won the best-bid hand:

Game all. Dealer West.

<p>♠ AQ ♥ AKQJ652 ♦ 3 ♣ Q52</p> <p>♠ 104 ♥ 10943 ♦ KQ876 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ KJ9762 ♥ – ♦ A104 ♣ KJ73</p>	<p>♠ 853 ♥ 87 ♦ J952 ♣ 9864</p>		
<p>West <i>Byrne</i></p> <p>Pass Pass Pass Dble Pass Pass</p>	<p>North <i>Bjornlund</i></p> <p>2♣ 3♥ 4♥ Pass 5♠ 6♥</p>	<p>East <i>Bell</i></p> <p>Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass All Pass</p>	<p>South <i>Zia</i></p> <p>2♠ 4♣ 5♦ Rdble 5NT</p>

This table was the only one to reach Six Hearts – Hinden and Osborne had a good auction to the inferior but very reasonable Six Spades. Where North opened something showing a good 4♥ bid, that is where he played. Fredrik's 2♣ showed a very good hand. Zia bid spades and clubs naturally, while Fredrik showed a minimum with hearts. Zia still judged to move, and when North showed delayed spade support, he asked Fredrik to pick a slam with 5NT. North settled on his pretty solid heart suit, and declarer was able to claim when neither rounded suit proved to be 5-1.

Trump Rewards

The best defended hand featured a slight risk by East, who relied on his partner having the nine of trumps, and in South not finding a winning line. This was a bit of a gamble, as declarer was Espen Erichsen, but Simon Gillis was prepared to take the chance. (See *hand at top of next page.*)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Selway</i>	<i>Gillis</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Game all. Dealer South.

♠ Q83
 ♥ AK10873
 ♦ 10
 ♣ Q108
 ♠ 92
 ♥ 642
 ♦ J9852
 ♣ K73
 ♠ AK754
 ♥ J5
 ♦ KQ64
 ♣ J5
 ♠ J106
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ A73
 ♣ A9642

The defenders did well to start with three rounds of clubs. Espen Erichsen threw a diamond on the third round. He might have done better to throw a heart, play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, relying on both majors to break 3-2. He always needs a 3-2 trump break anyway, so this is probably the best line. Winning with the queen of clubs, he led a diamond off the dummy, and Simon Gillis rose with the ace of diamonds to play a fourth round of clubs, which Gunnar ruffed with the nine. Now declarer could have got



Simon Gillis receiving his "Best Defence" award from Tony Priday

home by running the eight of spades, but why should he do that when he will succeed if the remaining trumps are two-two?

Diamondback

E/W game. Dealer East.

♠ J74
 ♥ J10986
 ♦ —
 ♣ AK642
 ♠ AKQ9863
 ♥ K53
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ 7
 ♠ 1052
 ♥ 72
 ♦ J83
 ♣ QJ1085
 ♠ —
 ♥ AQ4
 ♦ AK1097542
 ♣ 93

West	North	East	South
<i>Priday</i>	<i>Gillis</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Zia</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦

Brian Callaghan spotted this hand where, holding the eight-card diamond suit, Zia was encouraged by his partner's second double. He bid a slam after a possibly lead-inhibiting 4♣ call. Unluckily, the slam was against the odds, as the chances of QJxx in diamonds is somewhat more than the chance of QJ doubleton. With the heart wrong Zia could not avoid one down. At the other table, where Panto, South, partnered Waterlow, there was no second double, so Panto settled for 5♦.

Only one South, Sandra Penfold, opened 5♦, instead of the usual 1♦, and when West ventured a 5♠ overcall, North doubled that for +800.

Mexican Wave

There seems to have been a flood of interest recently in the Mexican Two Diamonds, showing 18-19 balanced. The advantage is that one can use the auction 1X-1Y-2NT for many different purposes, such as showing good 3X or 3Y bids for example. It seems normal to play transfers in response, but this seems to only gain the ability to play 2NT from the right side, while losing the chance to stop in 2H. Given that will be the limit some of the time, it seems to this author that playing natural responses is better. By all means play 3C as five-card puppet Stayman, and other three-bids as your normal methods.

John Matheson and Willie Coyle were the only pair to stay out of game on the following hand:

Love all. Dealer North

♠ 32			
♥ A96			
♦ 108642			
♣ K97			
♠ QJ1084		♠ AK7	
♥ J54		♥ 1083	
♦ J3		♦ AKQ	
♣ J106		♣ Q432	
♠ 965			
♥ KQ72			
♦ 975			
♣ A85			

West	North	East	South
Matheson	Crouch	Coyle	Forrester
	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Veteran campaigner Tony Priday, who will shortly celebrate his 90th birthday, presented the prizes. Espen Erichsen of the winning team dedicated the win to his father-in-law who had sadly died that day. Ian Payn, LMBA Chairman, thanked all

John judged well that his collection of quacks would not make game, and he was right in theory. 2♠ made comfortably enough when there was no club ruff, but although the operation was a success, the patient died, which seems an appropriate metaphor as Matheson is a retired GP. In the other room, Panto led a diamond against Allfrey's 3NT, and East won and played five rounds of spades. North threw two hearts on these, and when he ducked the jack of clubs, declarer was home.



Alexander Allfrey brought home his 3NT game

Probably a good hand for Smith-Peters. If North and South peter on the first round of spades, that suggests that they want a switch. Some play it the other way round, but it is clear that neither North or South realised that they needed to switch here.

who contributed to the success of the Lederer, particularly the manager Stefanie Rohan and the main sponsor Bernard Teltscher. The members of the Young Chelsea Club also gave of their time to act as monitors and the directors donated their services free of charge. Brian Callaghan gave an excellent talk on the three awards in this article, and he was assisted by Sally Brock and your author in selecting them.

The Final positions and scores:

1 Premier League	251 VPs
Espen Erichsen, Norman Selway, Michael Byrne, Mike Bell, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones	
2 Spring Fours	225
Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Stefan Skorchev & Rumen Trendafilov	
3 YC Knockout	220
Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Andy Bowles, John Howard, Mike Scoltock, Barry Myers	
4 Ireland	206
Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Adam Mesbur, Nick Fitzgibbon	
5 President's Team	201
Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, William Coyle, John Matheson, Tony Waterlow, Ian Panto	
6 Holders	195
David Bakhshi, Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, Peter Crouch	
7 Scotland (Commonwealth Gold)	192
Brian Spears, John Murdoch, Derek Sanders, Derek Diamond	
8 Gold Cup	190
Simon Gillis, Zia Mahmood, Fredrik Bjornlund, Robert Sheehan, Gunnar Hallberg, David Burn	



The winning team: Erichsen, Rosen, Jones, Byrne and Bell (with Tony Priday; Selway also played on the Saturday.

London News

EBU Awards

Last autumn two of London's hardest workers were honoured by the English Bridge Union by being given awards in recognition of all their endeavours.

Cecil Leighton was awarded the EBU Silver Medal for outstanding contribution and recognition of long service as a volunteer at national and/or County level.

Cecil served on the LMBA Committee in a number of different capacities, including a period as Chairman, for some 54 years until his retirement. This length of service deserved very special recognition in itself, but it is worth emphasising that he had been a very hard and active worker on behalf of bridge in the capital during all that time. Cecil had previously been awarded a Dimmie Fleming Award in **1992**,, so something more was appropriate. Cecil is the very first winner of this EBU award.



Roger Morton was awarded a Dimmie Fleming award at the same time as Cecil was honoured. The awards are made specifically to publicly recognise those who have worked hard promoting bridge locally at County and Club level



Roger, extreme right, with EBU Chairman Sally Bugden and other Dimmie Fleming winners

Roger first became involved in bridge administration in 1963 and has been a qualified bridge teacher since the late 1970s. He joined the LMBA Committee in 1997, and since then has been one of the hardest workers for the Association. He has been a tournament organiser, and county webmaster as well as our Membership Secretary since 2006. Most recently, he has volunteered to become the London County Club representative on the Regional Club Committee.

In addition to these major roles, Roger has been one of the most consistent and valuable contributors to all the general work of the London Executive committee, always with a sensible suggestion or useful point to make in all our discussions.

LMBA Treasurer

Many of you may be aware that the LMBA has had a few problems over recent years with its treasurers. Not, I hasten to say, that there has ever been even the remotest suspicion of any fiscal impropriety or any such thing with any of the people who have had a go at tackling the job over the years. But we have had problems with busy people not getting on top of the task of keeping track of the Association's finances, so that we went for a few years without any audited accounts. Worse, what should have been a relatively straight forward job became ever more complex due to the necessity of trying to back-track through the incomplete records.

Well, we are delighted to say that all this has become a problem of the past thanks to our new Treasurer, Sati McKenzie. Sati set to work with a dogged determination and sorted everything out, so that we are now completely up-to-date, with properly audited accounts. Furthermore, she fiercely chases up anyone who organises an event or incurs any financial outlay on behalf of the County, so that we are not allowed to let things slip again.

We owe her a very big vote of thanks and will make sure she is not allowed to give up the Treasurer's job for a long time!



Sati, centre, hard at work as a monitor at this year's Lederer Memorial Trophy

Dorothy Shanahan Memorial Pairs

Last October the London Duplicate Bridge Club held a special pairs event in memory of Dorothy Shanahan, a long-term member who died aged 91 in 2007. Dorothy was for three decades a member of the British Women's team. Her 1969 team line-up contained some of the most illustrious names ever in women's bridge – besides her they were Sandra Landy, Jane Priday, Joan Durran, Fritzi Gordon and Rixi Markus. She won a total of three gold, three silver and three bronze medals, the most successful member of the team.



The event was won by LDBC regulars Tony Clarke and Andrew Thompson (*pictured left*).

In Memoriam

We are said to report the recent deaths of three well-known London players:

Dick Clark, who died last October, was primarily a social bridge player – he competed in the London Trophy over many years. He was, as his obituary writer put it “not just a good bloke but one of the very best.”

David Sellman died at the beginning of November last year after quite a long illness. He regularly played in London competitions, and as a Queen’s Club member, he was of great help to us in arranging for the club to be used as a much-appreciated venue for the Seniors Pairs.

Freddy Herd died in January aged 95. He continued to play bridge well into his 90s, most recently at the Young Chelsea BC. He was also a keen tennis player when younger and his love of bridge was matched by his love of playing the piano, which he did every day until obliged to go into sheltered accommodation a year or two ago.

Bridge humour

Here are a few definitions I found on the internet that I thought might amuse:

Bath Coup: getting to use the tub before your roommate.

Doubleton: 4,000 pounds.

Free Bid: all of them, once you pay your entry fee.

Gerber Convention: annual meeting of baby-food manufacturers.

Jack Denies: headlines about Marilyn Monroe’s relationship with J.F.K.

Key-Card Blackwood: an ingenious convention that allows you to get to a grand slam off the ace of trumps.

Law of Total Tricks: recent Las Vegas ordinance to reduce prostitution.

Quick Tricks: last-minute scurry by hookers to beat the ordinance.

Reverse Bid: an opening like “Club One.”

Roman Discards: Caesar’s trash.

Short Club: a private organization for dwarves.

Splinter Bid: the only known way to become declarer with a singleton trump in each hand.

Texas Transfer: relocation to a branch office in Dallas.

Trump Coup: triumph of Ivana’s lawyers in securing a huge alimony.



Vienna Coup: the mating sound of Austrian doves.

Wolff Sign-off: the ending of Little Red Riding Hood



And here are some useful bridge maxims:

Rule 1: Partner is always wrong.

Rule 2: if by some quirk, partner happens to be right, refer to Rule 1.

Question: Is sloppy dummy play due to ignorance or apathy?

Answer: I don't know and I don't care.



Chinese proverb: A gem cannot be polished without friction nor partner perfected without adversity.

- ♥ There are three kinds of bridge players: the experts, the presumptuous experts, and the majority.
- ♥ Living with a bridge expert is more difficult than being one.
- ♥ The road to hell is paved with good conventions.
- ♥ Get your zeros early. That way, you have more time to catch up.
- ♥ Never insult an opponent until the round has been called.
- ♥ If you haven't found the best line of play by trick 10, try divine guidance.
- ♥ There's more than one way to play every hand; that is, unless it's the hand you just played.
- ♥ Delay criticizing partner for one complete round and the urge will die of starvation.



- ♥ If you must go down, for heaven's sake, get on with it.
- ♥ The player who can smile when things go wrong has just thought of the dumb bid his partner made.
- ♥ If you want to bid naturally and still sound modern, just say your bid shows the suit below the suit above the one you bid.
- ♥ Somebody said down one is good bridge. Making is perhaps better.

Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated in the competition detail, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. All competition organisers' contact details are at the end of this schedule.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 26th February 2012 starting at 1.00pm

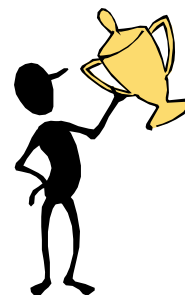
Holders: *Brian Ransley & Marc Smith*

This competition comprises a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs event and will be held at the Young Chelsea BC, 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 0EN (Tel: 020 7373 1665). 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. As the major County pairs championship, this competition is green-pointed and is also 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 26th-27th May 2012 in Daventry.

Entry fee: £30.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not required but a phone call to the Young Chelsea guarantees your entry! Contact **Nigel Freake** or the YCBC for further information.



London Trophy Pairs

Sunday 25th March starting at 2.00pm

Holders: *Bob Bowman & Arun Suri*

This is a single session pairs competition open to players who have participated in the London Trophy in the current season. The event will be held at the Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS (Tel: 020 7747 3295). The rules regarding permitted systems and conventions in this event are the same as for the London Trophy.

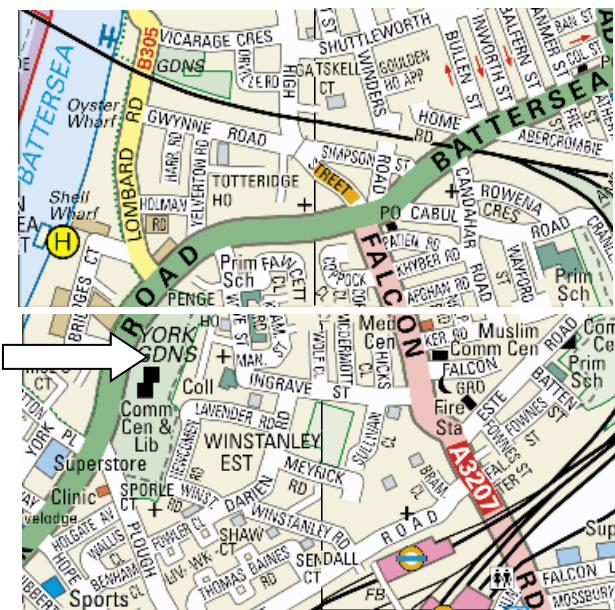
This event provides an opportunity for pairs to practice and improve, so progress further in the Trophy itself. Or if you have been unfortunate enough to have already lost in the main event, then simply another opportunity to meet and play against like-minded opponents!

Entry Fee: Free!

Advance entry is required for this event. Entries should be made to **Chris Duckworth** no later than 11th March 2012.

Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend

Saturday-Sunday 10th-12th March



Swiss Pairs:

Saturday starting at 1.00pm

Holders: *Malcolm Harris & Maria Budd*

Swiss Teams:

Sunday starting at 11.30 am

Holders: *Roger O'Shea, Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett*

This fully green-pointed two-day Swiss Weekend, comprising Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday, will be held this time at the York Gardens Library & Community Centre.

The address of the Centre is 34 Lavender Road, SW11 2UG, which is just south of the river not far from Clapham Junction station - see the map above. The venue is easily reached by public transport - train or bus - and by car.

Both events will be single flighted with green points and prizes awarded in accordance with EBU regulations. All players must be EBU members but LMBA membership is not required.

Entry fee: £25 per person per event, or £48 for those playing in both events over the whole weekend.

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to **Ian Payn**.

Café Bridge Drive

Tuesday 17th April starting at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Holders: *Mary Anne St Clair-Ford & Venetia Harper*

This is a duplicate bridge tournament played in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in a limited geographical area, each round of the tournament being played in a different venue. This drive will be held in "The Tonsleys", a charming area of Wandsworth tucked away south of the river. This is a charity event, held in aid of Age Concern Wandsworth and all are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.

Entry Fee: £15.00 per player, which includes lunch at whichever venue you find yourself in at lunchtime!

Advance entry is essential. Entries should be sent to **Ned Paul** to arrive no later than 10th April 2012.



Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 19th April starting at 7.00pm

Holders: *Young Chelsea BC*



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 19th May 2012 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 23rd June 2012 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: £56.00 per team.

Advance entry is required and should be sent to **Chris Duckworth** to arrive by 12th April 2012.

Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 22nd April starting at 2.00pm

Holders: *Bernard Teltscher & Victor Silverstone*

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 1952.

The full address of the venue is:

The Queen's Club, Palliser Road, West Kensington W14 9EQ

Tel: 020 7385 3421

Entry fee: £24.00 per pair

Entries: Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to **Steve Eginton** to arrive no later than 15th April.

Note to junior players: The LMBA offers reduced rates for juniors in most of its competitions. Please ask the organiser in each case for further details.

Tournament Organiser contacts

Chris Duckworth for London Trophy Pairs, Garden Cities Heat
chris.duckworth@lineone.net 020 7385 3534 or 07768 693168
201 Greyhound Road, London, W14 9SD

Steve Eginton for Fox Shammon Trophy
steve@eginton.co.uk 01628 780862 or 07989 557779
The Kukris, High Street, Bray, Berks, SL6 2AH

Nigel Freake for London Championship Pairs
gelohnake@waitrose.com 020 8801 2884

Ned Paul for Café Bridge Drive
ned@nedpaul.com 020 8892 9429 or 07944 768643
37 Sandycombe Road, Twickenham, TW1 2LR

Ian Payn for Green Pointed Swiss Weekend
ian.payn@charterchambers.com 07713 322420.
94 Settrington Road, London, SW6 3BA



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 is also possible – please ask the event organiser for the LMBA account details – but debit and credit card payments are not accepted.

Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the competition description. If players are members of counties other than London, they can become LMBA dual members in order to comply with a requirement for LMBA membership by the payment of our dual membership subscription, which is £5 per annum. Subscriptions may be paid along with competition entry fees, making sure that full contact details for the individual are provided, including email address and existing EBU membership number if appropriate.

Seating policy. Players may be allocated a starting position by the TD on arrival at a venue, or may be required to draw a starting position or cut for North-South. Players who require a stationary position for medical or mobility reasons should if possible notify the organiser or venue in advance.

Competition regulations. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2007) apply to all competitions. Where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee also apply, as contained in the current Orange Book and other published documents.

Meet Helen & Espen Erichsen *by Chris Duckworth*



Helen and Espen Erichsen are one of London's most successful bridge couples. Both are tall, blond and strikingly good-looking, and both are very talented bridge players. They are also unusual in that they enjoy playing with each other as much as with other partners – in fact, as Helen told me, they had a “pre-nup” agreement that they would always play a certain amount together each year, an arrangement that has suited them both well.

Espen is Norwegian and was brought up playing cards from a very young age. His first love was tennis, however, at which he excelled – at his best he reached a national ranking of 8th place as a junior player in Norway. At the age of eighteen, though, he and some school friends decided, that if they were going to play a lot of cards it really ought to be bridge, so they taught themselves from a book. Espen quickly took to the game, developing his play as an officer in the Norwegian army for a brief spell – there was little else to do when he was assigned to a camp in the north of the country where it was dark for 23 out of 24 hours a day! After a couple of years in the army he returned to Bergen as a student, but bridge quickly took over his life.

In 1995 Espen came second in the World Junior Pairs Championship playing with Thomas Charlsen, in 1996 he was a member of the Norwegian Junior Team that won the Junior European Championships in Cardiff and a year later he came second in the World Junior Championship. It was following this that he decided to try to make a living playing rubber bridge. He and a friend came to England to try their luck at TGRs Bridge Club, with only a smallish amount of money each to stake. His friend's money ran out and he returned to Norway, but Espen is still here! Espen now makes his living as an online sports gambler, betting mainly on tennis using his in-depth knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the game

Helen, in contrast, did not take up bridge until she was 30. Her father, a keen player, bribed her to learn by offering her a bridge holiday in Tobago. So she learned on a cruise ship with the likes of Gus Calderwood and Freddie North. But she soon became equally keen as a player, playing regularly at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club. Helen went on to teach bridge at her old school, St Paul's Girls School. Amongst others, she taught her niece, Alice Kaye, to play and Alice is now a key member of the English junior squad.

The couple met at Helen's first ever bridge tournament – the Mind Sports Olympiad held in London's Olympia in 1999. After being good friends for about a year things escalated and they married in 2002. They have two beautiful daughters Claudia, 8, and Evie, 6. The girls are just starting to learn bridge, but

Espen would really rather they learned to share his love for tennis first – as indeed they are doing.

As a partnership, Helen and Espen have a great record in Mixed Pairs events in Canberra, Australia – they won in 2002 and came second twice more. Their finest achievement, though, was winning the Mixed Teams at the European Open Championships in Tenerife in 2005 in a team with Tonje & Boye Brogeland and



Tor & Gunn Helness. This was particularly pleasing as the team had really entered on a social basis – Helen was several months pregnant with Evie at the time, and Tonje had her very young baby with her.

In open events, Espen has played frequently for England though he continues to play in those Norwegian events that he can. His English achievements include winning the English Premier League in 2008 and 2011, winning the Camrose Trophy for England and coming second once and winning the Lederer. In Norway he has won the Norwegian Premier League, qualifying to play for Norway in the Nordic Championships – the Scandinavian equivalent of the Camrose, and he went on to win that event for Norway. In England his regular partner is Norman Selway, who he very much enjoys partnering. But Espen is currently qualified to play for either England or Norway internationally and for the future he hopes to represent Norway. He has a new partner there, a talented young 22-year old, and Espen is looking forward to developing this into a winning partnership.

I asked Espen why he has chosen to play for Norway rather than England. His main reason is that he is happier playing there. The standard of bridge is higher and he believes players play more for the joy of the game. He also said that tournaments are very well run in Norway, with good commercial sponsorship. Immediately after we met he was leaving to play in the RAGN-SELLS Grand Tournament in Bergen, an event for the top 52 pairs in Norway with a really good prize list. Espen also particularly recommended the Norwegian Festival of Bridge held each July for any English players interested in trying bridge in Norway – with a great range of events for all players and medals for the top three in each!

Helen's best result outside her partnership with Espen was probably coming second in the Norwegian Ladies Pairs in 2010 with Gunn Helness. She would like to play more women's bridge in England, but hasn't yet found the right partner. She wants someone who she likes and enjoys playing with as well as being able to get results.

For the future, Helen would like to win another medal in a Mixed Championship – if only to prove that her Tenerife medal was not a fluke! Espen would like to win the Bermuda Bowl as part of a Norwegian team. I think it very likely that both will achieve their goals!

Turkish Delight

by Peter Burrows

These hands come from the 12th World Teams Olympiad played in Istanbul in 2004. I haven't had a chance to include this account by Peter Burrows of some hands from the open event before now, but although not recent the hands are still very interesting.

An impressive grand slam sequence (with the opponents silent) was produced against Portugal by Costa Rica who were playing in their very first world championship match):

West	East
♠ 52	♠ AJ103
♥ AQ962	♥ KJ10
♦ KQ6	♦ A
♣ KQ3	♣ A8654
<i>MacGregor</i>	<i>Allen</i>
1♣(1)	2♣
2♥	3♥
4♥(2)	4♠
4NT(3)	5♣(4)
7♣	7♥ End.

- 1) Artificial, strong.
- 2) Clearly a minimum.....
- 3)so that now the top clubs make him enormous, hence RKCB.
- 4) 1 or 4 of 5.

The 7♣ bid was astute, I think, catering for the possibility that East's intermediate clubs were better than his intermediate hearts. Allen deduced that partner must hold the ♥Q, so he converted to the suit that was completely solid. Thus, if the clubs proved to be 4-1, dooming the club grand slam, declarer would have the option of ruffing them out and still coming to 13 tricks. Nicely done.

♣♦♥♠

There was high drama in the Japan-Sweden match in the round-robin on this hand. Sweden played 3♣ in the

Open Room and made 130. The Japanese were more ambitious:

N/S Vul. Dealer East

	♠ AQ109	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ Q	
	♣ QJ10874	
♠ 52		♠ 8763
♥ A53		♥ J9872
♦ AJ632		♦ K7
♣ 962		♣ A3
	♠ KJ4	
	♥ K64	
	♦ 109854	
	♣ K5	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ina</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♣	Double	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

West led the ♥3 and declarer played the ten from dummy, winning with the King over East's Jack. When he next played on clubs, the defence was in a position to make eight tricks and 1100. East won ♣A and returned ♥2, whereupon West won and led – wait for it – spades! Declarer gratefully settled for ten tricks. Presumably West placed South with ♦K and another heart stop, and the general consensus was that East should have returned the ♥9, which ought to have avoided this misunderstanding.

The English Open team was outstanding in the round-robin when the Hackett twins were easily the best pair according to the Butler scores. Unfortunately, the team seemed to go off the boil when losing in the first knock-out round, particularly disappointing when Tom Townsend-David Gold and David Bakhshi-Andrew Robson had also been in the top dozen pairs in the preliminaries, no mean feat in a field of over 200 pairs. One of the Hacketts' fine results came on this deal from the round-robin match against Hungary.

E/W Vul. Dealer South

<p>♠ 64 ♥ 1062 ♦ AKJ842 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ A732 ♥ K8 ♦ Q3 ♣ AQ542</p> <p>♠ KQJ1095 ♥ 9 ♦ Q765 ♣ 106</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ AQJ7543 ♦ 9 ♣ K987</p>
--	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Szalay</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Macskásy</i>	<i>Jason</i>

			3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

West must have been tempted to bid 3NT over 3♠, and East to try 5♥ over 4♠. The commentators felt that the latter was more clear-cut than the former, and that over 5♥, West would have been duty-bound to bid the slam. As it was, declarer had four top losers, but.....

West led a small trump, and declarer won ♠J and played ♠Q straight back. West won the Ace (it would clearly be better to hold off so as to see two signals from partner) and East played ♣7. This apparently induced West to switch to a club, and East won the King. He played back ♣9 (but could well have cashed ♥A first) and West won. West now tried to cash the other top club, and declarer was home for +590.

In the other room, a lower pre-empt left East-West more space, but it was still difficult to identify the perfect fit:

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Dumbovitch</i>

			2♠
2NT	Pass	3♦(1)	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠(2)	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1) Transfer
2) Presumably a relay, after which West, with decent controls might have tried 4♠, or East perhaps have given it another roll. However, in view of the result in the other room, the failure to reach slam was not disastrous.

♣♦♥♠

Italy won the Open event. I am almost tempted to add "inevitably", but there was nothing inevitable about their victory over the USA in the first knock-out round. After a see-saw match, Giorgio Duboin faced the following decision with just nine boards to play at a point where he estimated that his team was still slightly in arrears (in fact they were 6 IMPs in front).

Love All. Dealer West

♠ Q43	
♥ A985	
♦ Q6	
♣ 10652	
♠ AJ8	♠ K106
♥ 63	♥ Q107
♦ AK532	♦ 984
♣ Q83	♣ AKJ8
♠ 9752	
♥ KJ42	
♦ J107	
♣ 97	

Both sides played in 3NT by West after a simple auction. North led a small heart, and the defence cashed four tricks in the suit and exited with a club, so everything depended on the play of the spades. Declarer cashed the top diamonds, both defenders following, and then the four clubs, throwing his last diamond (two having gone on the hearts). On the clubs, South parted with two spades (he had to keep a diamond as West still had his last card in the suit). Declarer deduced that South had probably started with four spades, making him marginally the more likely to have been dealt the ♠Q.

At this point, Duboin, playing on Vugraph, made a point of studying his scorecard to assess the state of the match, and then played North for the critical card. In the other room declarer went with the odds, and who can blame him? Yet the result was a game swing to Italy.

The drama continued till the very last deal, with the Italian lead still in single figures. The American closed room pair did their best with the following auction (West first with opponents silent): 1♣-1♥-2♦-

2♠-2NT-3♣-3NT-4♦-4♥-7♣-end.

E/W Vul. Dealer West

♠ Q105	
♥ QJ96	
♦ 8764	
♣ 74	
♠ A3	♠ K72
♥ A4	♥ K853
♦ AK102	♦ Q
♣ A6532	♣ KQJ108
♠ J9864	
♥ 1072	
♦ J953	
♣ 9	

There was nothing to the play, so the match hinged on whether the Italians could duplicate that result. They produced a longer auction, spinning out the tension:

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	7♣	All Pass

So, tired but happy, as Terence Reese once remarked, the Italians just prevailed in a thrilling match that many had hoped would be the final.



A Little Learning

by Mike Graham

In this article Mike explains the thinking of an expert declarer – which doesn't always lead to the best outcome....

At favourable vulnerability in a teams match we pick up as dealer:

♠ K985 ♥ J2 ♦ A86 ♣ A765

Personally, I would be quite happy to pass this hand, but, as the opposition are aggressive bidders, it is likely to be opened (probably with a weak notrump) at the other table, so I will try to stay even. We are playing a 15-17 notrump, and One Club picks up the balanced 12-14 and 18-19 hands, so I open One Club.

Partner bids One Heart, showing at least four spades (we play transfer responses to One Club, a method that seems to have caught on in the last few years). East doubles, showing hearts. Reflecting that every method has a price somewhere, I jump to Two Spades – this simply shows four-card spade support and a minimum opening bid. West bids a prompt Three Hearts. Partner raises to Three Spades and all pass.

West leads the king of clubs.

♠ AJ104

♥ 104

♦ QJ109

♣ 832

N

S

♠ K985

♥ J2

♦ A86

♣ A765

Some years ago, the American writer Larry Cohen published a book about

an idea originated by the French player Jean René Vernes – the “Law of Total Tricks”, which states, in a drastically shortened form, that it is correct to compete to the level commensurate with your combined trump length. This means that with eight trumps you should compete to the two-level, and with nine trumps to the three-level. My partner is a bit of a fanatic about this, so I am surprised that he has only four spades.

There are two clubs and two hearts to lose, so I must assume a favourable lie in diamonds, and I must pick up the trumps without loss. However, this early in the play any spade guess is just that. The first question is whether to win the first trick or not.

East takes several seconds to decide on his play, and he finally contributes the nine. It is easy to see why he is thinking; from his point of view, with the eight in dummy, the nine could be costly. However, it does mean that the nine is not a singleton, so it is safe to duck the first trick. West follows with the club queen, and East plays the four. It looks as though the clubs are breaking four-two, so we have to win the second trick.

As we have a club to lose anyway I exit with a club at trick three. West wins the ten and East throws the seven of hearts. At trick four West plays the jack of clubs.

Well, we could ruff this, but there is the possibility of an over-ruff. Instead of ruffing, we can discard a heart loser

from dummy. West cashes the ace of hearts (nine from East) and continues with the five of hearts. We have lost four tricks, so we need the rest. We ruff the second heart with the four of spades.

West has turned up with ♥A and ♣KQJ10, but I am still undecided about the queen of spades. We need East to have the king of diamonds, so we run the queen; this holds, West playing the seven. We repeat the finesse, and West plays the two. I'm not too keen on this, as it means that we have an easy set of Three Hearts – two spades, two diamonds, and a club. I think the spades are three-two, as with a singleton one of the opponents might have gone to Four Hearts. Anyway, a minus score will be bad.

Some kind of count is emerging, provided that I can trust the opponents' signals, which I think I can. West has four clubs and two diamonds; he bid Three Hearts happily enough, but surely he would have bid Four Hearts if he held five. I think it is more likely that West has four hearts and East five. East thus has five hearts, four diamonds, two clubs (he showed out on the third round), and therefore two spades. On this count, West has a 3424 shape.

Well, point-count notwithstanding, that means that West is more likely to hold the queen of spades. However, that leaves East with king-queen to five hearts, king to four diamonds, and two small cards in both black suits. Would he double One Heart with just that?

I think he would. The opponents have been bidding aggressively all match, and I don't see why this deal should be any different. I'm going to go with the

percentages. I play the ten of spades to my king, and finesse the jack on the way back. East wins with the queen and leads a diamond, which West ruffs. Two down. So much for percentages.

The full hand:

	♠ AJ104	
	♥ 104	
	♦ QJ109	
	♣ 832	
♠ 732		♠ Q6
♥ A865		♥ KQ973
♦ 72		♦ K543
♣ KQJ10		♣ 94
	♠ K985	
	♥ J2	
	♦ A86	
	♣ A765	

“Good defence,” says West to East. I presume he means that he did well to find the club lead and to cash the ace of hearts when dummy was down to a singleton.

Minus 100 was 3 imps away as, rather surprisingly, the deal was passed out at the other table.

♣♦♥♠

Playing in the Tollemache qualifier, a teams-of-eight event with cross-imp scoring, we pick up as South:

♠ A9875 ♥ A1075 ♦ 10 ♣ KQJ

It is Game All, and we open One Spade. This guarantees a five-card suit. West bids Two Diamonds, and partner raises to Three Spades, which we play as pre-emptive – four trumps and about 6-9 points. East passes, and we have to decide whether game will have a decent play.

Well, only 14 points, but there are a number of good features. We have

nine trumps, which is always a good thing. We have a good heart suit. Our minor suit holdings are as good as possible – a singleton in the overcall suit and only one loser in the other. It may be wrong, but vulnerable games are not to be sneezed at. We go to Four Spades, which is passed out. West leads the ace of diamonds.

♠ KJ103
♥ Q943
♦ 987
♣ 96

♠ A9875
♥ A1075
♦ 10
♣ KQJ

Not a bad dummy. Partner has good trumps and some help in hearts.

East plays the three at the first trick. West follows with the king, on which East plays the four.

Digressing for a moment, this is not the time to check the East-West convention card to find out what their signals are. The time to do this is when they arrive at the table and you are familiarising yourself with their methods. There was a pair once who, if declarer looked at their signalling methods after the play had started, *stopped playing them*.

As it happens, East-West are playing high-low to show an even number, so it looks like the diamonds are 6-3.

To keep the trump pips fluid we ruff with the seven. There is no danger in delaying drawing trumps – we would like to find out a few distributional clues first. East is very unlikely to have short clubs, so it should be safe to play the suit. We lead the king, and West takes the ace in order to play another

diamond. East plays the queen on this trick and we ruff with the eight. Both opponents follow to the queen and jack of clubs, West playing four-three and East seven (under the ace)-two-eight. It looks like the clubs are four-four.

It is time to play trumps. What have we learned so far? West has six diamonds, and, if we can trust the defensive signals, four clubs. That's ten cards, so if anyone has long trumps it will be East. Hoping that they are not four-zero, we play the five to the king. This gets the two from West and the four from East. Now the spade three from dummy, and East plays the six. If they are signalling their trump length, they are three-one, but would the defenders really do that? This is the Tollemache, after all.



East has seven unknown cards to West's three. We decide to play East for the trump length and insert the nine. This is successful - West discards a diamond. We take the ace of spades, and West discards a club as East follows with the queen. Now there is only one trump in the game, in dummy.

All well so far. We have lost to the two minor-suit aces, and all we need to do now is to pick the hearts successfully. If our count of the hand is correct, West has two hearts and East three. West has turned up with the ace-king-jack of diamonds and the ace of clubs, so he has plenty for a Two Diamond overcall. He need not have the king of hearts as well. We have discarded a low heart from dummy on the third club, so it look like the position is this:

♠ –	♠ 10	♠ –
♥ ??	♥ Q94	♥ ???
♦ XX	♦ –	♦ –
♣ –	♣ –	♣ X
	♠ –	
	♥ A1075	
	♦ –	
	♣ –	

The full hand:

♠ 2	♠ KJ103
♥ K2	♥ Q943
♦ AKJ652	♦ 987
♣ A543	♣ 96
	♠ Q64
	♥ J86
	♦ Q43
	♣ 10872
	♠ A9875
	♥ A1075
	♦ 10
	♣ KQJ

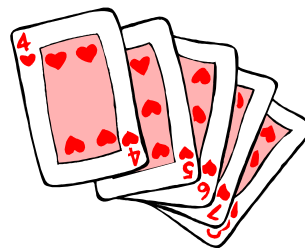
The five of hearts towards dummy will put West under pressure if he has Kx. No, he plays low without a flicker. We have a choice now – we can play either the nine or the queen. If the nine fetches the king, then West will have started with Jx, and all our hearts will be good; if the nine fetches the jack, East will lead either a heart or a club. It makes no difference – we have the option of playing East for KJx. If we play the queen, and it loses to the king, we will still have to guess who has the jack.

If the nine forces the king, then we are home. We play the nine from dummy. East wins with the jack and plays a club. It looks like East has ♥KJx. We ruff in dummy and lead a heart to our ten.

West wins with the king and has a diamond left for the last trick. Two down.

Counting the hand can be done by the defence, too. West knew from the play that South had five spades, one diamond, and three clubs, so therefore four hearts. If they were as good as ace-jack fourth, nothing could be done. However, if East held the jack without the ten, as he did, declarer might be lured into a double finesse.

It was imperative that this thinking was done before a low heart to the queen – any hesitation at that point would have been fatal. As it was, West had plenty of time to think about the hearts while declarer was thinking about the spades.



Tollemache

The mention of the Tollemache in the article above reminds me that I have to tell you the sad news that once again London failed to make it through the qualifying weekend. Once again they were in a very strong group – Middlesex and Surrey were the qualifiers, and Berks & Bucks, another strong team, also failed to qualify in the same group. I am sure that next year things will be different!

Congratulations ...

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



London members had a lot of success at the Brighton Summer Congress. The best achievement came from **Mark Teltscher & Martin Hoffman** (pictured left) who won the Swiss Pairs over the first weekend. **David Gold & David Bakhshi** came a close fourth in the same event. At the second weekend, **John Reardon** was second in the Four Stars A Final; **Sarah Dunn, David Ewart, David Gold & Gunnar Hallberg**

were third in the B final; and **Olivia & Alan Woo & Alex Hydes** (pictured below)

were three-quarters of the team winning the Brighton Bowl Swiss Teams while **Nick Irens, David Bakhshi & David Gold** were third in the Swiss Teams.

In the midweek events, **Alex Hydes & Tom Townsend** were second in the Mixed Pivot Teams and **Alex** was also second EW in the Brighton "Play with the Expert" Pairs. Our star juniors, **Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw** were first in Friday's Open Pairs; **Bernard Teltscher**, LMBA President and father to Mark, came second in the Seniors Pairs. **Mandie Campbell, Ben Hackenbroch & David Schiff** were third in the Seniors Swiss Teams.



In the Really Easy Congress **Edd Edmondson & Ros Nanayakkara** were winners in the Tuesday afternoon Pairs, while **Natasha Regan & Oscar Selby** (her 8 year-old son) were impressive winners two days running – in the Wednesday evening and the Thursday afternoon pairs.



Well done to all the following who did well in the Autumn Congress:

In the major pairs event, the Two Stars Pairs, **David Bakhshi** was first and **David Ould** was second. In the Satellite Pairs, **David Gold** was first, **Rob Cliffe** was third and **Ryan Stephenson & Liz Clery** were fourth. In the teams events **Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery, Andrew Clery & Ken Barnett** were third in the

Eastbourne Bowl, while in the Sussex Cup **Mike & Carrie Eden** were second and **Martin Baker** was third.



The third major congress we are reporting on was the Year End Congress in London, where again there were several successes. **Helen & Espen Erichsen** were second in the Swiss Pairs (after leading the field for most of the event). **Willie Coyle & Steve Eginton** won the Swiss Teams (with team mates Kitty Teltsher and Colin Simpson). And in the Open Pairs **Roland Gronau & David Wing** were the winners, with **Gunnar Hallberg** in third place.



Congratulations to **Andy Bowles**, 2011 Gold Cup winner. Andy is on the left in the picture (*left*). **Andrew Robson** and **David Gold** were losing finalists.

Andrew Robson and **David Gold** also won Division 1 of the Premier League, earning themselves a place in the English Camrose team. They have also been selected for the English European team. **David Ewart** and **Gunnar Hallberg**

were winners of Division 2 of the Premier League and **Andy Bowles** was a member of the second-placed team.

Gunnar Hallberg was a member of the winning team in the European Seniors Trials challenge match.

Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan came second in the Mixed Teams at the Pula Bridge Festival in Croatia. **Chris** and her partner **Nicole Cook** also came third in the Lady Milne trials, earning themselves a place in the English Lady Milne team.

In one-day events, **Lyn Fry** came second in the Essex & Herts Swiss Pairs in July and **Steve Popham** was fourth in the Surrey Swiss Pairs in September.

Puzzle solution(see page 5)

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

The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

Well, here we are again, and yet again there has been a seismic shift in the corridors of bridge power (Corridors of power? Who am I kidding? Nobody). At the last London AGM held...oh, last autumn sometime, Mike Hill stood down as chairman after a second lengthy spell (and a fair few years as editor of this newsletter, as well). The county owes him an inestimable debt. He has agreed to stay on the committee in an advisory capacity for a year, but then the siren call of the golf course may prove too tempting. In the meantime, there has to be a chairman, and, to cut to the chase, it's me. Don't know whether to laugh or cry, really, do you? But I'm only in the hot seat as a temporary measure. I'll be serving for two years at the most, and if anyone wants to step forward to take over at this year's AGM I'll be happy to talk to them about it. That goes for any position on the committee. New blood is welcome – no, wanted. Drop me an e-mail if you're interested and we'll discuss what's necessary (nothing too onerous, I promise).



The other thing that's happened to me lately is that after being co-opted I was elected on to the EBU Board at the last EBU AGM (these AGMs. You turn up, sit at the back minding your own business and suddenly...). I was also elected to serve on the Tournament Committee, of which I was subsequently elected chairman. Now, a churl might suggest that the reason that I end up as chairman of things is that I'm constitutionally incapable of doing the other important tasks (secretary, treasurer etc). Happily, I am sure that my readership consists of anything but churls. Anyway, the reason I mention this (apart from boasting about how important I am) is that when I went on the tournament committee I realised that I don't really play in many tournaments, certainly not as many as I used to. So, I thought I'd play in one ("The man's a genius" I hear you cry). The Year End Congress looked like a good bet, and pretty close to home. The Swiss Pairs looked like the best bit to enter, because I'd only have to find a partner, not teammates. Consequently I cast around for someone to play with.

What makes an ideal partner? Three things, I'd suggest.

1. Someone with whom you are evenly matched, both in terms of bridge ability and temperament.
2. Someone whose approach to the game and philosophy are roughly the same as yours.
3. Someone with sympathy in their soul.

That's not unreasonable, is it? Why then, given this rubric, did I end up with Brian "Binkie" Callaghan? Firstly, he's a much better player than I am. In some respects he's out on his own. Secondly, he likes his system: I tend to find "one, two, that'll do" a bit on the complicated side. Thirdly and finally, well, let's just say he isn't given to false blandishment...If he expects you to do better than you actually do,

well, he's never rude, but it's not an experience for the faint-hearted...All this aside, he was the first person I called, and he said yes. There was a price, however. And that price was Nirvana.

Nirvana is, in the maestro's own words, an eightfold path to the 3-level, a complete system of responses to One No Trump. No Stayman, no transfers, no hope of my remembering it at all. At the start of the event, I tried to duck out, but no, my man had printed out two convention cards. I was doomed.

My fears were, more or less in vain. Over the course of two days it only came up five times. The first time, I completely messed up the explanation to the opponents, so we had to call in the director who adjusted the score to our disfavour (and quite rightly, too). On three occasions it didn't matter whether I knew what I was doing or not. The fifth hand, however...

I dealt and held:

A x x
x x x
K Q 10 x
K x x

A Weak No Trump. With heavy heart, I opened one. I'd already opened a hand I should have opened 1NT with something else just to avoid Nirvana kicking in (cowardice is a terrible thing) so I didn't reckon I'd get away with it too often.

The opponents remained silent throughout (praise be!) and the auction continued with 2C from partner. The whole auction, in fact, looked like this.

<i>Me</i>	<i>Him</i>
1NT	2C
2D	2H
3H	4NT
5D	5NT
6H	6S
6NT	7S

I give up.

It will come as no surprise to you to learn that Brian's hand was:

K Q J x x x
A x
A
A Q x x

It came as a complete surprise to me, however. Here's what the auction meant:

1NT – 12-14 balanced. Bid with a confidence doomed to evaporate very, very soon.

2C – Nirvana. Opener has to rebid 2D, after which responder will describe his hand further.

2D – So far, so good.

2H – Showing Spades and promising another bid. Unfortunately, I had forgotten this, and thought it showed Hearts.

3H – I had been given firm instruction that over two-level bids I was just supposed to bid the next suit up. I had forgotten this, as well. I thought now was a good time to support Hearts. I don't know why. I therefore made this bid, which, systemically, doesn't exist. And if it did exist, it probably wouldn't show Hearts anyway.

4NT. In the face of a non-existent bid, Binkie took the line of least resistance. He bid Blackwood. Fair enoughski, frankly.

5D – One key card out of five.

5NT – Blackwood for Kings. Again, fair enough, but I didn't know what the responses are. Normally without discussion I'd assume this was for specific Kings, but I managed to

convince myself that it was just the old “how many” system (which no-one has played for years) so I bid

6H – An each way bet. Either two Kings, or signing off in our agreed trump suit. Or what I thought was our agreed trump suit. There was no unanimity about this, however. No sooner had I signed off in what I thought our trump suit was than he...

6S – ...Signed off in what he thought our trump suit was, thinking I had the King of Hearts. Yep, the one King out of a possible three that I didn't have.

6NT – I still didn't realise Spades were trumps. I had no idea what Six Spades meant. I thought that by bidding Six No-Trumps I could maybe salvage some match points by being in a playable contract (although I had no

idea whatsoever what Brian had, apart from the fact that he must have a good hand of some description).

7S – Having no idea what I was up to. At which point, I gave up.

And, as you can see, bizarrely, I shouldn't have! 7NT is cold but by now I couldn't have cared less, I just wanted the earth to swallow me up, preferably leaving my convention card and Nirvana notes on the surface, for future generations of archaeologists to ponder over. The relief when the contract rolled home was indescribable. 7S was worth almost all of the board, 7NT would have been undeserved icing on the cake. The opponents took it well, I must say. Partner shook his head. He shook it quite a lot, in fact.

All in all we had a pretty mediocre time, mainly my fault, I wasn't playing well. We were in with a shout with one match to go, but lost it, rather gratuitously. And after the dust had cleared, what did my partner have to say on my inadequacies on the Nirvana front? Nothing. Not a word of reproach or criticism. He briefly opined that I should have protected on one of the boards from the final match, and he was quite right. The opponents would have bid one more and we would have beaten them. Instead, I allowed them to wallow at the three level, where they couldn't be beaten. Once I agreed with this, the inquest into the campaign was over. No hard feelings. And that's probably the fourth thing that makes an ideal partner.

So, is it over? Well, I play in several teams with Binkie, and the line-up of most of them is flexible. I spoke to him the other day. He told me that he had some good news. We have a match in the Young Chelsea knock-out in three weeks, but I'll be playing with Jeremy (Dhondy) in that one, so I don't need to mug up on Nirvana for that. No sooner had I let out a long sigh of relief than he continued. Unfortunately, there's a league match the day after tomorrow and I'm playing with him. He's bringing the convention cards.

From the depths of my despair I suppose I can conjure up a little optimism. Being a league match it's only twenty-four boards. What can possibly go wrong in just twenty-four boards?

In Earls Court, no-one can hear you scream...