

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Spring 2016



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Words from the Editor

The LMBA committee is constantly reviewing the programme of events we organise for our members, with a view to presenting well-run competitions that are attractive to as wide a cross-section of our membership as possible. We have many long-established competitions which offer great competitive opportunities for our better players, but recently we have been concentrating on trying to provide events for the lower levels of the pyramid of players in London. In particular, we would like to engage the players who joined the LMBA through the introduction of universal membership, who play regular club bridge but who do not often venture into the perhaps more competitive field of county-organised bridge.



One of the most successful of recent innovations has been the introduction of Café Bridge events, which we have now been running for five years. These provide a fun day's bridge, an opportunity to try some of the cafés, restaurants and bars of a part of London that may be new to many and to meet and play with and against other like-minded people, with the added benefit that they raise money for well-deserving charities. They are particularly enjoyed by those who don't take their bridge too seriously and we now have two thriving annual events in the calendar. The next event will be in the Tonsleys in April – full details are on pages 9 –10. It is already filling up fast, so do get your entry in soon if you would like to play.



September 2015 – Café Bridge in play

We have so far been less successful in attracting these players into the new Men's and Women's Pairs, which we have now run for two years. The venue for the event in its first year was inconvenient, however, but now that it is established at the new Young Chelsea premises we are optimistic that interest in these competitions will grow. And now, this year, we are introducing the new **London Congress**, which will incorporate a '**London Lite**' Congress for those who might appreciate a gentler form of competition.

The main part of the Congress will be the two one-day green-pointed Swiss competitions that we have now been running in London for over 20 years. These are popular events that will continue unchanged. We have traditionally run them in March, but have always suffered from a clash of dates with other home-counties

competitions. So the main change this year is that we are moving to a new summer date when we hope there will be fewer competing events - the congress will be held over the weekend of 16th – 17th July.

The venue will once again be the Central Hall, Westminster, which is a beautiful building that is close to Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, and is thus very easily accessible from all sides of London. And there is plenty of playing space, which is why we are also able to accommodate the new 'London Lite' events.

The London Lite Congress will comprise two single afternoon duplicates – Pairs on the Saturday and Teams on the Sunday. They will be simple multiple pairs and multiple teams competitions, in which you will play as many as possible of the other participants. You will play alongside the main congress, so be part of the atmosphere of the overall event, but be separately scored and will be able to win separate prizes!

So if you are one of our members who usually only plays local club bridge, why not try venturing out next summer. We aim to provide a most enjoyable game that it would be a shame to miss! If you are a pair without team-mates, don't despair about playing on the Sunday. You can enter giving an idea of your experience level – your Master-point ranking or your NHS grade, if you know either of these – and the organiser will aim to match you up with suitable and congenial team buddies.

More details of the congress are on pages 11-12 of this issue of MetroNews (and in the enclosed brochure, for those of you receiving this my post). I look forward to seeing you there!

Chris Duckworth



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Annual General Meeting

The 2015 AGM of the LMBA was held on Thursday 10th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The draft minutes of the meeting can be found on the LMBA website at www.metronews.co.uk.

The 2016 AGM will be held on Thursday 8th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Further details and an agenda will be published in the next issue of MetroNews.

LMBA results this season

Café Bridge Drive - Clapham

34 pairs competed this time in the Clapham Café Bridge drive, held on Tuesday 15th September 2015, as usual in the bars and restaurants along the Abbeville Road.



The winners were café bridge regulars Mike Skelly and Margaret Hamilton. This was the second victory for Margaret, who won the same event two years ago playing with Kay Colton. She had to leave promptly at the end of this year's competition, so Mike is shown in our picture happily holding both of their prizes!

Previous prize-winners also featured among the other leaders, who finished as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Mike Skelly & Margaret Hamilton | 61.71% |
| 2 | Sati McKenzie & Chris Watkinson | 60.51 |
| 3 | Dominic Flint & Pamela Reiss | 60.42 |
| 4 | Helen Davies & Claire Smith | 58.59 |

Mixed Pairs Championship

This season's Mixed Pairs Championship on 20th September 2015 was the first London event to be held at the new premises of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

36 pairs came along to compete, for many of whom it was their first visit to the new club. All were impressed by the space and facilities and the event provided a great competition, with a close run finish for the top four pairs.

The leading scores were:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Gill Hutchinson & Douglas Dunn | 61.79% | <i>(pictured right)</i> |
| 2 | Lyn Fry & Ian Pagan | 57.98 | |
| 3 | Ben Green & Allison Green | 57.86 | |
| 4 | Anne Catchpole & Peter Rogers | 57.62 | |



Men's Pairs & Women's Pairs

In its second year, and again at a new venue, this double event held on 25th October last year showed a small increase on the previous year's entry. There were 10 competing male pairs and 12 female pairs, all of whom played in an enjoyable and friendly but hard-fought contest.

Despite the event being held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, all the winners were regular Woodberry Club players. The Men's event was won by Nigel Freake and Paul Lamford, and the Women's was won by Stefanie Rohan and Anne Catchpole. Both pairs are pictured below with tournament organiser Michael Hill.



The leading places in each event were as follows:

Men's Pairs:

- 1 Nigel Freake & Paul Lamford 60.56 IMPs
- 2 Ian Pagan & Geoffrey Lederman 54.06
- 3 Gad Chadha & Roger Mapp 33.94

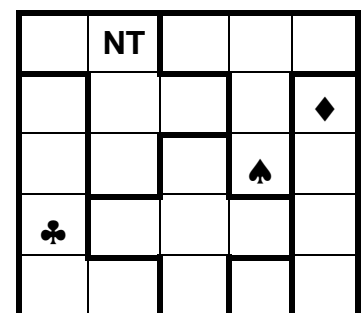
Women's Pairs

- 1 Stefanie Rohan & Anne Catchpole 36.20 IMPs
- 2 Camilla Warren & Terry Hewett 25.60
- 3 Lyn Poole & Elisabeth Cocking 17.60

Puzzle Corner

This issue's puzzle requires you to fill in the grid with the symbols: ♣, ♦, ♥, ♠, NT.

A single cell block should be filled with a ♣, a 2-cell block with a ♣ and a ♦, a 3-cell block with a ♣, ♦ and ♥, a 4-cell block with one of each of the suit symbols, and a 5-cell block with all 5 symbols. No same symbol may be placed in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally adjacent ones.



The solution can be found on page 23.

Lederer Memorial Trophy 2016

The next Lederer Memorial Trophy, the prestigious invitational event for national and international teams, will be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall over the weekend of **Saturday - Sunday 27th - 28th February 2016**.

This great event provides a terrific opportunity for bridge enthusiasts to come along and watch and learn from the masters in play. As a spectator, you can watch at the tables, rubbing shoulders with the top stars from this country and abroad as they compete for trophy, or if you prefer you can watch from the VuGraph room.



The elegant playing area pictured at the 2015 Lederer

Here the full hands will be displayed in real-time, and you can see all the play as it evolves, accompanied by a light-hearted but insightful commentary. This year's expert commentating team includes LMBA Chairman and noted wit Ian Payn (*Ed. He told me to say this*), EBU Chairman Jeremy Dhondy and celebrated BBO commentator Peter Clinch.

Whilst this is a very hard-fought competition it is always played in the best of spirits, so either way you will enjoy the great atmosphere. Ten teams have accepted invitations this year, who are:

- **England Open** – Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester and David Bakhshi – a formidable team who are also the current Lederer Trophy holders.
- **England Seniors** – Paul Hackett, David Mossop, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland and David Price – the current European Senior gold medallists.
- **Ireland** – John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Tom Hanlon, Mark Moran and Rory Boland
- **Zia** – Zia Mahmood, Denis Bilde, Anita Sinclair, Peter Crouch and Simon Cope –including Zia and Anita, current gold medallists in the World Bridge Series Mixed Teams.
- **Gillis** – Simon Gillis, Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist and Espen Erichsen – including Boye Brogeland, current gold medallist in the European Open Teams Championship and IBPA bridge personality of the year 2015.
- **De Botton** – Janet de Botton, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Nick Sandqvist and Tom Townsend

- **The President's Team** – Bernard Teltscher, Victor Silverstone, Phil King, Stelio Di Bello, Willie Coyle and Graham Orsmond.
- **Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners** – Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Graham Osborne and Jon Cooke
- **London** – Andy Bowles, John Howard, Rob Cliffe, Franklin To, Mike Scoltock and Barry Myers
- **Chairman's Team** – Joe Fawcett, Gillian Fawcett, David Burn, Heather Dhondy, Michael Byrne and Keiran Dyke – including Heather Dhondy current bronze medallist in the World Women's Teams Championship.

Come along and watch!

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

All are welcome and this year there will be no charge to spectators. We do ask that you notify us, however, if you intend to come. Please send an email to lederertrophy@gmail.com indicating your name and when you expect to attend.

Please note that there is a dress code at the RAC which must be adhered to in order to gain admittance. Men should wear jacket and tie, and no jeans or trainers are allowed for either men or women.

Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. Membership requirements are specified in each competition description. Details of how to enter events are at the end of this section.

Teltscher Cups - Lederer Satellite Pairs

Saturday 27th February 2016

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

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

Entry Fee: £1 per player

Clubs that wish to hold heats should contact organiser **Elaine Kay** at elainefkay@icloud.com or on 07940 081406.

Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 7th April 2016 starting at **7.00 pm**

Holdings: Young Chelsea BC

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA



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 7th May 2016 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 25th June 2016 in Solihull. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish, subject to space restrictions at the venue. (The LMBA reserves the right, if necessary, to restrict the number of teams per club).

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

Entry fee: £56 per team

Advance entry is required and should be made by 31st March 2016 to **Chris Duckworth** at chris.duckworth@lineone.net or on 020 7385 3534.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 10th April 2016 starting at **11.30 am**

Holdings: *Victor Silverstone & Brigid Battiscombe*

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA



This competition is a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs. Please note the earlier start time this year, which will be combined with a shorter break between sessions to allow an early evening finish time.

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

All players must be LMBA members, but only the leading four pairs with London as their county of allegiance (before playing in the event) will be eligible to play in the Corwen Trophy on 4th – 5th June 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport.

Entry fee: £30.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not essential but is strongly recommended. Entries should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, putting "Champ Pairs" in the subject line.

London Trophy Pairs

Sunday 17th April 2016 starting at **2.00 pm**

Holder: *Carrie Eden & Bill Linton*

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



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

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

Entry fee: Free!

Advance entry is required for this event and should be made no later than 10th April 2016 to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**.

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

Café Bridge - Tonsleys

Tuesday 19th April 2016 starting at **10.30 for 11.00 am**

Holder: *Pamela Reiss & Dominic Flint*

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

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

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

All are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.



Entry Fee: £22.50 per player, which includes lunch at whichever venue you find yourself in at lunchtime!

Advance entry is essential and entries should be sent to **Imbaentries@gmail.com** to arrive no later than 14th April 2015, putting “Café Bridge” in the subject line. Please note that Café Bridge events are very popular and numbers are restricted – entries will be accepted strictly on a first-come first-served basis.

Any queries may be directed to **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534.

Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 24th April 2016 starting at **2.00pm**

Holder: *John Stimson & Benjamin Hackenbroch*

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



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

All players must be EBU members and must have been born in or before 1955.

Entry fee: £24.00 per pair

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to arrive no later than 17th April 2015 to Imbaentries@gmail.com putting “Fox Shammon” in the subject line.

Enquiries may be made to **Dave Muller** on 07847 618105.

London Trophy Finals

Sunday 5th June 2016 starting at **2.00 pm**

You can’t now enter the 2015/16 London Trophy, as this knock-out competition for teams of four representing social clubs of all kinds is well under way.

But you can, if you wish, enjoy the drama of the final stages which will be held at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall on 5th June. Spectators are very welcome, particularly if they are willing to help with recording the bidding and early play of the hands.

Entry is free, but please note there is a dress code at the RAC.

Enquiries to **Kath Stynes** on 07747 197940 or to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**.

London Congress

Saturday - Sunday 16th - 17th July 2016

incorporating the twenty-second

Green-Pointed One-Day Swiss Weekend

alongside the NEW

'London Lite' Congress Pairs & Teams

Swiss Pairs Holders: *Glyn Liggins & Allison Green*

Swiss Teams Holders: *Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton & Philip Wood*

Venue: Aldersgate Room, Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH

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



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



The London Congress will continue the tradition of the LMBA Green-Pointed Swiss Weekends. The London Lite Congress is designed to offer alternative gentler competition for those for whom a whole day event is perhaps more than they would enjoy. The Lite Congress Pairs and Teams will run alongside the Swiss events but will be single-session competitions each day, and thus may well appeal to club payers who would like a taste of county-level competitions but with less time commitment. Players may "mix-and-match" if they wish, by playing in the main congress on one day and the Lite Congress on another during the weekend.

The Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams will be single-flighted, with green points awarded in accordance with EBU regulations. There will be prizes for all events.

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

Programme:

Green Pointed Congress:

Saturday 16th July: Swiss Pairs starting at 1.00pm.

Two sessions with a one-hour interval, finishing at approx. 9.00pm

Sunday 17th July: Swiss Teams starting at 11.30 am

Two sessions with a one-hour interval, finishing at approx. 7.30 pm

London Lite Congress:

Saturday 16th July: London Lite Congress Pairs

Sunday 17th July: London Lite Congress Teams

Both events are single-session competitions, starting at 1.30 pm and finishing at approx 5.00 pm.

Entry fee:

Green Pointed Congress: £25 per person per event. A reduced fee of £48 per person is available to anyone playing in both events over the weekend.

London Lite Congress: £10 per person per event.

Half price for Under-25s in all events.

Pairs wishing to play in the Sunday teams events are invited to request entry, stating clearly which event they wish to play in and giving their EBU master point rankings or NGS grades. Every effort will then be made to pair them up with suitable team-mates.

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

More details and an entry form may be found in the enclosed brochure.



Payment of entry fees

Payment on the day is generally acceptable for most competitions, but pre-payment is expected for the Café Bridge and London Congress events (to avoid excessive registration times).

Payments may be by cash, by cheque made payable to LMBA, or by bank transfer. Debit and credit card payments are not possible.

Electronic transfer of funds should be made to the following LMBA account:

Sort Code: 09-06-66 Account No: 41838562

Please use your surname as a reference.

General Competition Information & Regulations

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

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

Competition regulations. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2007) apply to all competitions as do, where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee.

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

London News

London Representative Team Successes

The **Metropolitan Cup** is an inter-County teams-of-twelve competition held for teams in the South East of England which is held in September each year. Each County can enter one A team, one B team and one or more C teams.

Traditionally, London has always done very poorly in this event, for no good reason, but this year, although the B team maintained the tradition, the London A team managed to squeak to victory on the narrowest of margins – they won on a split tie!

Representing London were: Nick Sandqvist & Frank To, Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan, Dave Muller & Ian Casselton, Mike Hill & Roger Morton, Paul Lamford & Stefanie Rohan, Mike & Carrie Eden.

This victory entitles London to represent the South East in the National Inter-County league finals to be held in Coventry next July.



The **Tollemache Cup** is the national inter-County teams-of-eight Championships. All counties compete in the qualifying weekend each November, from which eight teams go forward to play in the finals the following February. This year the London team came second in their group in order to qualify. The team members were: Nick Sandqvist, Tom Townsend, Keiran Dyke, Mike Bell, Frank To, Rob Cliffe, Ben Green, Phil King, Brian Callaghan, Heather Dhondy and Ian Payn.

The team will be slightly changed for the finals weekend, with Graham Orsmond & Willie Coyle replacing the unavailable Brian and Heather. We wish them luck (though by the time you read this, the outcome of the finals will probably be known!)

Priday Award for Bernard Teltscher

A new award has been established by the EBU in memory of Tony Priday, which is given for an outstanding contribution to bridge and enhancing the game in all its aspects.

The inaugural award was made last September to London President Bernard Teltscher - a fitting tribute to someone who was Tony Priday's partner in many international events. As recently as 2014 they played in the 'Senior Camrose' event as part of the Great Britain team, finishing second with Tony & Bernard finishing second in the cross-imp scoring.

Bernard has been a long-term supporter of bridge in this country. In 1946 he restarted the Cambridge University BC, which had been dormant during the war and became its first President. As LMBA President he has supported many London events, including sponsorship of the Lederer Memorial Trophy for many years, helping to ensure its place as one of the most important events on the bridge calendar.



Bernard 'established' and funded the Seniors Camrose Trophy, which is played for the Teltscher Trophy. And he has been a supporter of many other bridge activities, including supporting university bridge teams. His generosity is further exemplified by the fact he is the only EBU member to recognise the work of the EBU staff through the giving of a gift to them each Christmas.

The picture shows Bernard being presented with the award by Vivian Priday, Tony's widow.

In Memoriam

London has lost two well-known and much-esteemed players in the last few months. Our condolences to the friends and family of both.

Tom Gunn died in early December after a long battle with cancer. Tom was from North America, originally Canada but later the USA. He lived in London for many years, and after retiring from work in the restaurant industry he acted as a host at the Young Chelsea BC for quite some time. He was a fine player who was a popular partner, not only for his playing skill but because he was always willing to play with anyone, and he always maintained a cheerful and equable demeanour no matter what foibles



his partners displayed. He will also be remembered fondly for his care and kindness to Warwick Pitch, the YCBC founder, in his failing years.



Justin Wickens was also a victim of cancer, who passed away on Christmas Eve after a long term illness at the too-young age of 57. Justin was a very capable player who competed in many London events. Always an enthusiast, he will be best remembered by many for his hard work on behalf of the BTONs (Buttons) Bridge Club (formerly the BT Bridge Club), of which he was secretary for many years.

Signalling III

by Mike Graham

Mike continues his series of articles on signalling in defence.

In the two previous articles in this series, we looked at the different types of signal that can be made:

- Length signal, where we attempt to indicate to partner the number of cards we have in a suit;
- Attitude signal, where we attempt to indicate to partner whether or not we like his lead;
- Suit Preference signal, where we attempt to convey to partner that it might be a good idea to switch to a particular suit at an appropriate time.

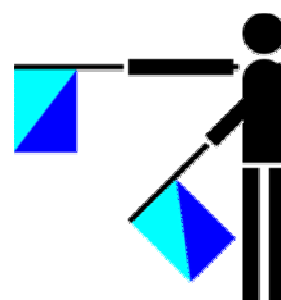
We also looked at the different ways in which these signals might be accomplished:

- “Standard” signals: high-low to indicate an even number, low-high to indicate an odd number; high to encourage; a high card to encourage a switch to a “high” suit.
- “Reverse” signals: low-high to indicate an even number, high-low to indicate an odd number; low to encourage; high to encourage a “low” suit.

Many pairs who use reverse signals do not bother with the third (suit-preference) option, possibly for the reason that such a signal seems counter-intuitive.

Some pairs play a method called odd-even discards. In this method, an odd card shows encouragement in the suit. A low even spot discard is discouraging and acts as a suit-preference signal for the lowest ranking of the other two suits; a high even spot acts as a preference for the higher.

This is all very well, but the method has an inbuilt flaw – a defender may not be dealt the necessary cards to make the signal that he wants to make. For example, it is difficult to make an odd-card signal from a holding of 842. What normally happens in practice is that the defender, realising that he cannot make the signal he wants to make, thinks for a while and then plays his card....which his partner, well used to this particular problem in the method, picks up on. Which is one

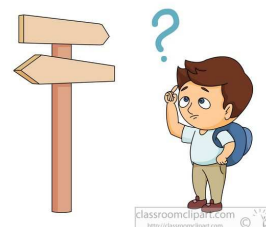


reason why some people, including your humble correspondent, will have nothing to do with them.

All of the above possibly gives the impression that signalling is a straightforward science. It cannot be denied that there is a warm feeling to be got by signalling accurately and defending a hand well. A less warm feeling can be got when a signal is misinterpreted, and therein lies the problem. If you could defend with yourself as a partner, such misunderstandings would never occur, but, unless you are playing with your clone, you are playing with another human being who has to read and interpret your signal, and occasionally will get it wrong.

If that happens, it is important for partnership harmony to either discuss it (briefly) at the table or (preferably) at the end of the session. Without, hopefully, a loss of temper. Often, such a discussion will reveal that signaller had a particular intention, but the signallees (to coin a phrase) simply misread it; a common cause being that they would have given a different signal in the first place.

The hands that follow all feature signals that were intended to signal one thing but were interpreted as signalling something else. This is not to imply that the original signal was in any way incorrect (and this can be interpreted as a possibly feeble and also possibly unsuccessful attempt to forestall legal and/or violent action from teammates). What they do show is that any signal, no matter how clear it may be to the signaller, is capable of being misread.



Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 9832	♠ AQJ75
♥ 3	♥ K972
♦ Q842	♦ K76
♣ A832	♣ 5
♠ K	♠ AQJ75
♥ AQJ8654	♥ K972
♦ 953	♦ K76
♣ Q6	♣ 5
♠ 1064	
♥ 10	
♦ AJ10	
♣ KJ10974	

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	3♣
3♥	5♣	5♥	All Pass

Proceedings here were fairly normal; North-South declined to save at the six-level, and East judged to support partner immediately rather than make

a forcing pass. (Three Hearts was forcing to game).

North led the ace of clubs and South played the seven; West false-carded with the queen. North then switched to a trump, and declarer had the rest; EW +680, a possibly good result.

Table 2:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	3♣
3♥	5♣	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

At the other table there was a significant extra bid in the auction; West carried on to Six Hearts. Again, North led the ace of clubs, and here South played the ten; West, like his counterpart, followed with the queen. Now North had to interpret the play of the ten of clubs. Reasoning that partner had plenty of low clubs to signal with if he wanted a diamond,

North concluded that South must have an unexpected spade void, and duly switched to a spade. Twelve tricks for declarer, for a score of -1430 and a 13-imp loss instead of a 13-imp gain on a diamond switch.

North concluded that South had a club holding of KJ109764 (Three Clubs would normally have seven cards). Thus, the ten was a high card asking for a high suit. From South's point of view, with known higher honours, the ten was a request for a *low* suit – here a diamond. North said afterwards that he would have interpreted a small club as a diamond signal, and took the ten as a high signal.

However, with a spade void, South could have played the king under partner's ace at trick one, on the basis that this makes it quite clear to partner what to do (or does it?).

What this goes to prove is that a high card is in the eye of the beholder – it is well worth discussing with your partner what high cards mean in this kind of scenario.



Love All. Dealer North

♠ AK	
♥ AJ1074	
♦ 97642	
♣ 9	
♠ Q10942	♠ 865
♥ K86	♥ 95
♦ 105	♦ AK3
♣ J82	♣ A7653
	♠ J73
	♥ Q32
	♦ QJ8
	♣ KQ104

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
	4♥	All Pass	

Defensive operations here were straightforward; East led the ace of diamonds, saw West's ten, continued with the king, and gave West a ruff. There was the ace of clubs to come; EW +50.

Table 2:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- 1 Natural, or a 9-11 HCP three-card heart raise
- 2 Artificial game force
- 3 9-11, three hearts.

Here matters were more complicated as North had never bid diamonds naturally. East led the ace of diamonds, and West, playing standard signals, played the ten, North following with the six. East then played the ace of clubs; four, two, nine. Then the king of diamonds; jack, five, seven.

East now had to decide whether West had a doubleton diamond (giving North five) or a singleton club. West had played his cards in normal tempo (some players have the unfortunate habit of playing singletons with almost indecent haste – indeed, in an Essex event last year a player led a singleton (in his partner's suit) almost coincidentally with the final pass of the auction – *out of turn*).

East decided that four diamonds and a singleton club represented the best chance of beating the contract, so he

played a second club. EW -420 and 10 imps out.

There was considerable discussion in the bar afterwards about the significance of the diamond ten at trick one. Obviously, there are several four-card holdings that West can have that include the ten. The question was whether West, holding 10xxx, would play the ten on the first round.

The general conclusion we reached (and our other pair admitted that they had never previously thought about this either) is that there is a permutation of cards that West could play to show a four-card holding that includes the ten, and that therefore this situation can be regarded as an application of the Principle of Restricted Choice – with 10xxx, West would have a choice of which cards to play, but with 10x would have no choice, so that the play of the ten, followed by a low one, should indicate a doubleton. So that's that sorted.

♣♦♥♠

Having signalling agreements is all very well, but sometimes you have to factor in a bit of common sense:

Love All. Dealer North

♠ 9752	♠ KJ43
♥ 932	♥ AQ4
♦ A3	♦ J2
♣ 8652	♣ KJ73
♠ AQ10	
♥ KJ108	
♦ 964	
♣ AQ9	
♠ 86	
♥ 765	
♦ KQ10875	
♣ 104	

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

The 1NT opening was 15-17. South led the king of diamonds. Usually, when you lead from KQ10, you get Jxx in dummy and Ax with declarer, but not this time. North overtook the king of diamonds with the ace and returned the three, and South cashed a further four diamond tricks for down five, NS +250. East commented that at least the diamonds were not four-four, so EW couldn't even make 3NT.

Table 2:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ Dbl	
6NT	All Pass		

Our East accepted the quantitative invitation (you have to wonder why, with a minimum, but it happened at both tables), but responded as if to Blackwood first, just in case two aces were missing. This put them in down five territory as well, but....

The opening lead was the same, but there was a crucial difference. North contributed the three of diamonds at trick one. Placing East with AJ2, South switched, and a surprised declarer could claim twelve tricks for +990.

“Why didn't you continue diamonds?” said North. “We play reverse signals. The three was encouraging.”



Walking the Dog

by Roger Morton

An interesting hand (Board 20) came up in the Surrey Mayfield Cup last October.

Your partner West deals at Game All and you are surprised to hear him open one Diamond (natural, 4 cards).

Your hand:

♠ 874
♥ 10
♦ K875432
♣ A6



Right hand opponent, North, now chips in with a Michaels bid of two diamonds, showing at least 5/5 in the majors, weak or very strong. What do you bid now? Make your choice and read on.

With only four cards in the majors, you are almost sure that the auction will soon get 'lively'. In my judgement, your options are;

a) Pre-empt the auction to the full and raise partner to five diamonds immediately, at a slight risk of missing 3NT if partner is strong balanced or even 6D. I think most experienced players would choose this bid.

b) Cue your singleton with a splinter bid of three hearts. (Remember opponents have already bid this suit via Michaels so the call can't be natural.) The danger here is that opponents now have more room to get together in their best major.

c) Something else, for example - 'Walk the Dog' (WTD) with a fatuous underbid of say, 3 diamonds or even pass. I don't know how this expression entered bridge jargon, but 'Walking the Dog' is an old ruse where you grossly underbid or distort your hand in the early rounds of a competitive auction so as to

encourage a double from opponents when you finally emerge from the bushes.

At the table East, one of the strongest players in the field, found a most imaginative psychic bid of three Clubs with his Ace doubleton, an interesting variation of WTD – or that was what it looked like to me afterwards!

The auction now did get lively as expected.

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦*	3♣	3♠
5♣	5♠	6♦	DbI
All Pass			

I was the sucker sitting South who doubled, expecting a couple of club tricks and something in the wash from partner's 'strong' Michaels (he had bid again freely in round 2).

Disaster! Six Diamonds was cold on a combined 21 count. And it needs a heart ruff to defeat five spades. This was the full hand:

Game All. Dealer West

♠ AQJ532	♠ 874
♥ KQ764	♥ 10
♦ –	♦ K875432
♣ 74	♣ A6
♠ –	♠ K1096
♥ AJ85	♥ 932
♦ AQJ96	♦ 10
♣ Q832	♣ KJ1095

I wonder if East plays poker in his spare time?

Youth Bridge

Play with an Expert evening

The Young Chelsea BC organised an event for school kids just before Christmas that proved to be a great success. Youngsters from various schools in and around London were invited to the club in the evening after the last day of their school term for a special “Play with an Expert” pairs competition. Each junior was partnered up with one of the club’s regular “expert” players on a random basis for a duplicate session, which was preceded by refreshments for everyone.

There was a good turnout of 20 youngsters, mostly from St Paul’s Boys School and Westminster Harris Sixth Form College, with a smattering of others from other schools. It was very pleasing to see a fair number of girls as well as boys amongst the players.



The standard of play was very mixed, with some having only just learned the basics whilst others had more experience. But everyone enjoyed themselves, and all the experts were impressed by the composure of the students, for many of whom it was a first taste of duplicate bridge.

The winning pair, who led for most of the event, were Hector Coley playing with Chantal Girardin, pictured (*right*) with their prizes.



Schools Tuesdays

The event was so well-received that the club is planning to introduce regular evening sessions for school children. These will be once a week on Tuesday evenings starting at 6.00pm. Sessions will be two and a half to three hours in length, so as not to finish too late, and will cater for players of all abilities.

The first such session will be on the first Tuesday of February – so it will have happened by the time you read this!

There is no need to book – all school-age players are very welcome – just come along. For more details or with any questions contact the club on 020 7373 1665 or at youngchelsea@btconnect.com.

Meet Nick Sandqvist

by Chris Duckworth

Nick Sandqvist is well known throughout London both as one of our finest players and as the Manager of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Nick transferred his allegiance from Middlesex to London relatively recently, so this is a good time to let London members know more about him and how he came to be in this position.



Nick grew up in Sweden and his early interests were music & sports – he attended an “arts” school in Stockholm for a while. At around the age of 13 or 14 he first encountered bridge, when his mother played amongst friends. He got curious about the game, bid lots of hands with her, and before too long had dropped every other interest (including school!) in favour of bridge.

He played initially at the St Erik BC, then and probably still, the biggest bridge club in Europe. He quickly progressed in the game and he made the Swedish Junior team at age 18 or 19. He travelled around Sweden and Europe, playing junior and open tournaments, having a great time, but always having no money to speak of. In his early 20s he heard about friends who had come to London to play money bridge at TGR’s, and it became his dream to do the same. He saved up a little and made the trip. He did well in the small stake afternoon games but when he played the top sharks in the higher-stake evening game he quickly became a loser. His big dream lasted just one week before he had to go home again, broke!

But Nick is not a quitter. Back in Stockholm he took two jobs and worked hard to get together some money to try again. He returned to London in 1995 at the age of 25, and has been here ever since. By his own reckoning, he spent many years “being part of the furniture” at TGRs – always under financial pressure, sometimes close to giving up, but sticking to his beliefs and managing to get by. Then one day Janet de Botton came into the club. She wanted to learn and improve her bridge and she took to Nick. He liked her a lot and they enjoyed playing together. Finally, Nick had some financial security.

Nick played during this time with a number of different partners and had various tournament successes. In 1998 he won the Gold Cup playing with Frederick Wrang in Howard Cohen's team. He played in a couple of Camrose matches for England – in 2000 with Rob Cliffe and in 2002 with Tony Priday. Nick described played with Priday as a real treat – Tony was not only still a great player but was also a terrific partner in every way. But Nick's more consistent successes came after he helped Janet to form her first professional team. Originally this comprised Janet & Paul Hackett, Nick and Gunnar Hallberg, and the Hackett twins. Soon after, Artur Malinowski joined the team replacing Paul Hackett, and this team won the Gold Cup in 2005. They won again in 2008 with David Burn in the team instead of Gunnar. And they won almost every other event in the British calendar and had considerable success internationally as well.

Around this time Nick was mainly playing with Artur Malinowski and together they qualified to play for England in the World Bridge Games in Beijing in 2008. Playing with the Hackett twins and Tom Townsend and David Gold, the team reached the finals and narrowly lost to the Italian champions (including Fantoni & Nunes). Nick credits this great result to the team spirit – all the team were relatively young and very well motivated, with a great coach in Phil King. Around this time Nick and Artur also came second in the European Open Pairs in Antalya and the team had a number of mixed event successes, including two consecutive bronze Mixed Teams medals.



Currently, Nick is playing with Tom Townsend in Janet's team. The pair work hard on their partnership, practising once a week with their coach, Phil King. They are doing consistently well and Nick freely admits he would like another crack at playing for England. Meanwhile, however, he is kept very busy on his now full-time role of managing the Young Chelsea BC.

At the end of 2012, Gordon Rainsford, then club manager, was promoted to Chief TD for the EBU, and the YC Management Committee was looking around for someone else to take the reins. Nick was a natural choice – he had the time, and boundless energy and enthusiasm for the job. He took over at a difficult time – the club had to move out of Barkston Gardens in mid-2013 and had nowhere to go. Nick has seen the club through the fraught period of the next two years, moving home twice and eventually setting up the new premises in Goldhawk Road. The bulk of the work involved fell on his shoulders and he has coped admirably.

Nick is the first to admit that some aspects of the club management work are not easy for him – he will never be a technical whizz on the computer, nor the tidiest of book-keepers. But his love for the game of bridge, and his stubborn belief in the sort of club the YC should be, and he will help to create, shines through.

He wants everyone who comes to the club to have a good time. Whilst there must be bridge teaching and new players coming in to the game, there must also

always be a high-quality game available for the top players. And it must be played in a good atmosphere – bad or antisocial behaviour cannot be permitted. The joy of bridge is the most important thing. His vision is for more than just a bridge club – rather a social club where you can come for a drink, a bite to eat, congenial company, and maybe a game of bridge as well. That is what he, and the current management committee are working towards, and are well on their way to achieving.

Finally I asked Nick for an interesting hand, and he gave me this from the recent TGRs Auction Pairs in which he played with Tom Townsend. I particularly liked the hand as it shows a typical characteristic of Nick's at the table. He likes to act fast – he will leap to a slam or bid 3NT directly rather than taking a round-the-houses route – and this is often the successful thing to do. On this hand he was defending a 3♦ contract and found a fine defensive coup which depended on quick play:

Love All. Dealer North

	♠ K752		
	♥ K2		
	♦ 10974		
	♣ A52		
♠ J863		♠ AQ104	
♥ AJ83		♥ 104	
♦ AJ5		♦ 63	
♣ 86		♣ Q10943	
	♠ 9		
	♥ Q9765		
	♦ KQ82		
	♣ KJ7		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Nick, West, led a club to the Queen and King and declarer played a heart to the King and a second heart from dummy. Tom, East, was allowed to hold the trick and he played a second club, won by the Jack.

Now declarer played a spade to the King and Ace and Tom played a third club, ruffed by Nick with the five. Nick played a spade, ruffed by South, who played a heart towards dummy.

Quick as a flash, Nick, holding ♥AJ, played the Ace. Declarer naturally thought East must hold the Jack, so he ruffed small. Tom was able to over-ruff with the ♦6 and play a fourth club, which promoted Nick's ♦AJ into two more tricks – and two down for a great result!

Puzzle Solution

(See page 5)

Here is the puzzle solution.



♣	NT	♦	♣	♥
♥	♠	♥	NT	♦
NT	♦	♣	♠	♣
♣	♥	NT	♦	♥
♠	♦	♠	♣	♠

Top of the Tree

by Paul Lamford



Why are most snowmen Arsenal supporters? This was a question posed recently on the web. Tom Townsend, London's selector, unkindly suggested that it was because they look good at Christmas but are nowhere to be seen in the Spring. At the time of writing, they are on top however, and it was pleasing to see London's Simon Gillis also at the top after the final bridge event of 2015.

There were other good results: In the Swiss Pairs, won by David Burn (now Middlesex) and Paul Hackett, David Gold and Kevin Castner were fourth, and Willie Whittaker and Andrew Black were fifth. Glyn Liggins and Pauline Cohen were narrowly pipped in the Mixed Pairs, but London's best result was in the Teams, won after many attempts by Simon Gillis.

Final scores of the Swiss Teams were:

- 1 **Gillis:** Simon Gillis (London), Erik Saelensminde, Jon Cooke, Paul Lamford (London) 105
- 2= **Sandqvist:** Nick Sandqvist (London), Tom Townsend (London), Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski 100
- & **Tredinnick:** Gerald Tredinnick, Anne Rosen, Neil Rosen, Jeremy Willans 100

There were some interesting problems along the route. In an earlier round, Jon Cooke was faced with a tough defence against Trevor Mathews, who was an early partner of your author, but gave up bridge for twelve years, probably because he was an early partner of your author. Try them yourself before reading on:

Endplay Evasion

Love All. Dealer East

♠ KJ1083
♥ Q432
♦ J102
♣ 6

♠ 7
♥ AJ87
♦ KQ3
♣ A10852

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	4♠	All Pass	

You decide to lead a trump against the opponents' game, and the ten holds in dummy, partner playing the five. Declarer leads the two of hearts to partner's five (reverse count) and you capture declarer's king with your ace. What do you do next?

Diamond Dilemma

EW Vul. Dealer West

♠ AQJ5
♥ Q9
♦ AK1098
♣ J8

♠ 73
♥ K862
♦ Q2
♣ Q9642

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lamford, South, was unsure how Cooke treated “same-level correction”, but thought his queen of diamonds could be a good card. West led the five of hearts, fourth best. Plan the play.

Breaking Bad

EW game. Dealer South

♠ A1095
♥ KQ
♦ A84
♣ AJ65

♠ –
♥ A8754
♦ Q962
♣ KQ32

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

Nick Sandqvist led the king of clubs, and partner followed with the four (normal count). Declarer plays a spade to the king and a heart which you win with the ace, partner playing the nine. Plan the defence.

♣♦♥♠

Endplay Evasion

Love All. Dealer East

♠ KJ1083
♥ Q432
♦ J102
♣ 6

♠ 7	♠ 65
♥ AJ87	♥ 10965
♦ KQ3	♦ 76
♣ A10852	♣ KQ743
♠ AQ942	
♥ K	
♦ A9854	
♣ J9	

This was the full hand. West led a trump and won the first heart with the ace, East playing the five. West played his partner for the ace of diamonds, and led the king, fatally. The only winning line is to underlead the ace of clubs for partner to switch to a diamond to break up the strip squeeze. Otherwise declarer eliminates the rounded suits and ducks a diamond to West.

Erik Saelensminde thought that East’s card on the first round of hearts should be suit preference. Fortunately East would play the same card whatever it was! This looks a tough underlead to find, but it feels right to play partner for the king of clubs rather than the ace of diamonds.

Diamond Dilemma

EW Vul. Dealer West

♠ AQJ5
♥ Q9
♦ AK1098
♣ J8

♠ K98	♠ 10642
♥ AJ754	♥ 103
♦ 6	♦ J7543
♣ K753	♣ A10
♠ 73	
♥ K862	
♦ Q2	
♣ Q9642	

Lamford, South, won the heart lead in North with the queen and survived the first hurdle by running the ten of diamonds. Now he was at a crossroads. If diamonds were 4-2, he could make by crossing to the queen of diamonds, finessing the spade, cashing the diamonds and exiting with the jack of clubs, making wherever the

ten of clubs is as he has to get his ninth trick somewhere.

The only winning line in theory was to exit with the *eight* of clubs at this point! East wins and plays the ten of hearts, but South covers and the two defensive hands are cut off from each other, and declarer emerges with nine tricks. At the table, Lamford played a diamond to the queen, playing for diamonds to be 4-2, finessed the spade and cashed another diamond. West pitched clubs on both of these, and the defence should have held the ending but went astray and declarer emerged with nine tricks anyway.

Breaking Bad

EW game. Dealer South

♠ A1095	♠ 7643
♥ KQ	♥ 96
♦ A84	♦ KJ753
♣ AJ65	♣ 4
♠ –	♠ KQJ2
♥ A8754	♥ J1032
♦ Q962	♦ 10
♣ KQ32	♣ 10987

It all looks good for London, and there are two major events in the spring at which they hope to shine, the Tollemache final and the Lederer in which their players will feature in many teams. London has already regained the Metropolitan Cup this year with more honours pending – maybe even Arsenal will win something ...

This was a last-round encounter between the long-time leaders de BOTTON, and GILLIS, ridden hard to the line on the day A P McCoy's knighthood was announced. Townsend's double was very risky, as GILLIS needed a 17-3 win to take the trophy and Lamford, North, gave a lot of thought to applying a dark blue card but decided that only Chelsea supporters did that, so he let it go.

Malinowski, South at his table, won the king of clubs lead with the ace, cashed the ace of spades and then played the queen of hearts. He had no chance now as the spades were blocked. Cooke gave it a better shot, playing a spade to the jack and a heart to West's ace and East's nine. West now fatally cashed the queen of clubs and gave his partner a club ruff, but Cooke could win the trump return, ruff a diamond high, draw trumps and enjoy his winning hearts, having kept the ten of clubs as an entry. Any card other than the queen of clubs at trick four leaves declarer with too much work to do.



l to r: Erik Saelensminde, Jon Cooke, Simon Gillis with the trophy, Paul Lamford

Congratulations

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



There were plenty of London successes at the Summer Congress in Brighton.



In the main Swiss Pairs, **Kieran Dyke** (right, playing with **Michael Byrne**) and **Andrew Bannock** (left, playing with **David Arundel**) finished in equal first place, but Kieran took the title on a split tie.



Nick Dean (right, playing with **Olivia Bailey**) also won the Brighton Plate for the best C stratification players in the Swiss Pairs.

On the teams weekend, **John Reardon** was third in the Four Star A final; in the B final, **Gad Chadha** and **Ingar Hansen** were each members of the teams coming equal first (with Gad's team taking the title this time) and **Sam Behrens** and **Michael Alishaw** were third; and in the Brighton Bowl **Tony Nonnenmacher** was second and **David Gold** and **Kevin Castner** were third.



Jeff Clargo (left, playing with **Simon Carter**) was overall Swiss Pairs winner in the second weekend Swiss Pairs events.

Tom Townsend was in the winning team in the Mid-week Knockout Teams (right, with Tom third from right)



In the mid-week teams events, **Anthony Milford** won the Seniors teams, with **Mike Hill** and **Roger Morton** second.



In the mid-week Pairs events, **David Gold** and **Kevin Castner** (*left*) won the Play-with-the-Expert Pairs, with **Mike** and **Carrie Eden** in second place.

In the GCH Fox Championship Pairs, **Ewa Kater** and **Tom Townsend** were second and **Gad Chadha** was third.

Ewa and **Tom** were also second in the Mixed Pivot Teams with **Anne Catchpole** and **Paul Lamford** third.

Gunnar Hallberg was second and **Mike Bell** third in the Wednesday Open Pairs.

Paul Chapman was third in the Seniors Consolation Pairs. **Alan Woo & Paul Lamford** were second in the Thursday Open Pairs.

In the under 25s Pairs Championship, **Toby Nonnenmacher** and **Michael Alishaw** were second and **Nick Dean** was third.



Alex Hydes (*left*) won the Crockfords Cup, while **Andrew Robson**, **David Gold** and **David Bakhshi** were runners up.

Alex Hydes was also in the winning team in the Premier League, with **Andrew Robson**, **David Gold**, **Mike Bell** and **David Bakhshi** in second place. These results earned all these players a place in the 2016 England Camrose team.

Ben Green (*right, on right of picture*) won the 2015 Gold Cup.

At the Scarborough Congress, **Ben Green** was in the second-placed team in the A Teams final and **Anne Catchpole** and **David Schiff** were first in the Consolation teams.



Phil King and **Robert Sheehan** were losing 2015 Hubert Phillips finalists.

At the Northern Midweek Congress, **Roland Gronau** and **Paul Chapman** were third in the Swiss teams.

Kieran Dyke (playing with **Michael Byrne**, right) won the Great Northern Swiss Pairs.



In County one-day events, **Ingar Hansen** (on left in picture below) won the Surrey Swiss Pairs.



Michael Alishaw was third in the Surrey Swiss Pairs.

In the Herts/Essex Swiss Pairs, **Shahzaad Natt** was second and

Graham Pollack and **Paul Chapman** were third.



At the Guernsey Congress, **Angus Simpson** won the Men's Pairs and came third in the Swiss Teams, and **Elle Gauld** was third in the Women's Pairs.

In Rhodes, **Rob Cliffe** (right) won the Men's Pairs. Also in Rhodes, **Anne Catchpole**, **David Schiff** and **David Wing** won the Orange Section of the pivot Teams.



At the Autumn Congress **Keiran Dyke** came equal first in the Eastbourne Bowl (but was pipped for the title on the split tie this time) and also second in the Swiss Pairs.



The team of **Paul Chapman**, **Graham Pollack**, **Tim Chanter** and **Helen Wildsmith** were third in the Eastbourne Bowl.

Alan & Olivia Woo and **Alex Hydes** were third in the Burlington Cup and **Anne Catchpole** and **David Wing** were second in the Sussex Cup.

At the Junior Teach-In, **Oscar Selby** (on left in picture, left) was one of the leading junior pair.



At the Channel Trophy the England Under 20s team were victorious, with two London players, **Sam Behrens** and **Liam Sanderson**, in the team. Sam is third from right and Liam far right in the picture above.



At the Year End Congress, **Toby Nonnenmacher** (playing with **Ankush Khandelwal**, right) won the Open Pairs, with **Mark Teltscher** and **Tom Townsend** third.

The Swiss Teams was won by a team including **Simon Gillis** and **Paul Lamford** (see article on pages 24-26), while **Nick Sandqvist** and **Tom Townsend** were members of the second-placed team.

In the Mixed Pairs, **Glyn Liggins** was second and **Terry Hewett** was third.



Grimm's Tales

by Barry Grimm

Readers.

You know me. Or, if you don't, you're probably getting some idea by now.

"Anything for a quiet life" is my motto. Thus it was with some distress that I received the news from my helpmeet, the lovely Shirley Harlow, that the Brentford Bridge Academy (prop: Yrs. Truly) was in need of a lick of paint. Or, as she put it (less than delicately, in my opinion) a complete facelift. I wouldn't have minded the expression if she hadn't been eyeing me up in a less than pleasant manner as she said it. I couldn't believe my ears. Nothing wrong with the old place! What she

didn't understand was that every carpet burn, every nicotine-stained ceiling, every wonky table leg, was part of my history. My life. My being.

"But, but..." I stammered: I got no further. At the end of Friday evening's duplicate the decorators were coming in, working solidly until they finally left just before the Monday lunchtime supervised practice and all-you-can-eat buffet. Leaving the place smelling of paint. I demanded to know how much all this was going to cost. It didn't matter, I was told. "Speculate to accumulate" she said. And she reminded me that now that the Young Chelsea had opened in the Goldhawk Road in their snazzy new premises, it was merely a 237 bus ride away. We had to keep our standards up, or risk losing people.



I refrained from mentioning that you wouldn't get many of our punters risking life and limb on the 237: some of those drivers think they're in charge of the Wabash Cannonball. I would have been wasting my breath. It was a done deal. So, I did what any English gentleman would do under the circumstances. I went down the pub.

I got myself a pint and found a seat at an outside table. I'd just lit up a fag when the mobile rang. I looked at the name of the caller. My heart filled with dread. It was the Home Captain. Strewth, what did that pest want?

Let me explain. If you're in a league, or a knockout competition, in each match you play one team is nominated the "Home" team, the other "Away". To compensate for the travel and inconvenience of being away, the away team gets to offer dates for the match. What had happened here was, I'm afraid, the usual performance. Two weeks before, both the Home Captain (shall we call him HC? I don't want to give his real name, and I can't expect the lovely Shirley Harlow to type Home Captain every time) and me (The lovely Shirley Harlow refuses to arrange matches, claiming that she has more than enough on her hands to waste time on my skanky mates, as she so charmingly refers to the members of my team) had been notified that we were to be opponents. I considered contacting HC with some dates but being so busy I didn't have time to get in touch with all five of my team. A week ago HC rang and started nagging me. On and on he went, about how I had to offer four dates, at least one at a weekend and one during the week (or something like that) and not more than two during the same seven day period. "Time," he said, "is pressing. The deadline looms." These people! It's always muggins here who gets lumbered.

Anyway, a week later and here he was again. I took the call. Predictably, he asked for his four dates. "Er..." I began "I've been having a bit of difficulty, half of my team are on holiday." He reminded me that I had a team of six, so surely I could at least gather four. "You try it, matey," I said. "Tell you what, since you're so concerned about the deadline, let's just say next Saturday. We'll be at your place at two. And we have a vegan on the team" (not true: see last issue).

HC muttered something about that not really be in keeping with the rules, but he'd see if his team were available, in the interest of getting the match played. Very big of him.

Anyway, who should walk past the pub but Phyllis Doris Madoc. She sat down making cow eyes at me so I went and bought her a gin and cider (yes, that is as disgusting as it sounds) and while she was guzzling it I told her about the match. "But I can't play next Saturday, look you, boyo. I'm having Trevor Bison round for Freeview and Chill." I didn't know what that last bit meant and wasn't about to ask, but no Phyllis Doris meant no me – she was my partner, and there was no way we were playing this match without out star player, me.

Anyway, the phone went again. It was HC. One of his team had to cancel his wedding anniversary party (oh, for God's sake, do these people never stop giving it all that?) but they could do Saturday. No joy, I told him. Saturday was off the menu. How about Sunday? He sighed. Sunday would be okay if we could start early, say noon? Apparently all his team worked and didn't want to play late on Sunday before going to work on Monday morning.

My jaw dropped at the utter selfishness. I was willing to give up my Sunday and he was insisting I get up early just to suit his wretched cronies? Stroll on.

I don't know why I get involved in this. It's such an unpleasant business: this man has done nothing but harass me since day one, making all sorts of demands and unreasonable requests. But I couldn't be bothered to argue any more. I was quite drained. And so was my pint, but there was no sign of Phyllis Doris filling it of her own accord so I gave her a twenty and told her to get them in. And I wanted the change.



We agreed, reluctantly, to play at noon. We turned up only a bit late, and at the break, there was no vegan food. I tried to make a fuss, but as my entire team was already tucking into the corned beef risotto I was on shaky ground.

And we lost. There's no justice, is there? Bridge is a wonderful game. It's the people...

Anyway, by the time you read this, the club will have been refurbished. There'll always be a warmish welcome there for my readers so drop in!

Until the next time, here's two thumbs up, from me, to you.

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