

*London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association*



# *MetroNews*

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Winter 2007

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Bridge  
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# Words from the Editor

Surely even the most detached and disinterested EBU member will nevertheless be aware of the new proposals that have been made by the EBU for what has become known as “universal membership”? Your County executive has done its best to disseminate the details, and is still aiming to collect and represent the views of the membership as best we can. But no doubt some people are still rather fuzzy in their understanding of the proposals, so I want to try and shed a little more light on things.



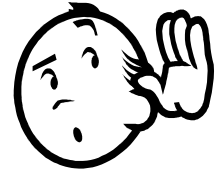
The proposals have been put forward at a time when EBU membership is steadily dropping and the average EBU member is getting steadily older. A smaller national governing body has less influence in the world at large and less power to bring the joys of bridge to those who would surely enjoy and benefit from the game. Having researched bridge in other countries, the concept of “universal membership” was seen to be a good one – i.e. everyone who plays bridge in a bridge club should belong, just as anyone who plays golf in a golf club belongs to the National Golf Union (though they may not even be aware of this fact!) This concept is accepted as desirable not only by the EBU Board; pretty much all of the county representatives – the volunteers who organise bridge across the country – recognise the goal as an attractive one. But the problem, of course, is how to achieve this.

The central core of the new EBU strategy is to get there via “Pay to Play” (P2P). Everyone who plays bridge in an EBU-affiliated club will automatically pay an amount per session to the EBU and will automatically become a member. A simple concept, the crunch being, how much do they pay? This figure has still to be worked out, but is expected to be not more than about 35p in today’s terms. Now in fact everyone who plays in sessions that issue master points already pays 13p per session for these, so the actual increase will be closer to 20p, and there will be no annual membership to be paid. The EBU part of the annual subscription is currently £16.50, so you would need to play around 83 times per year before you would be paying any more as a current member. Anyone who plays just once a week will be paying less. And the actual amount may in fact turn out to be considerably less – more on that later.

I believe the key factors about these new proposals may be summarised as follows:

- ◆ **The EBU is not aiming to change its net income.** The proposals are intended to be ‘revenue-neutral’ – the benefits to the Union will come from having a larger membership, not more money. Some people will pay more, in particular those not currently EBU members, but others will pay less.

◆ **The EBU is listening!** There has been a huge consultation exercise, which is on-going. Already many changes have been made to the original proposals which reflect received views and which mostly have helped to simplify the scheme.



◆ **Administration of the new scheme will be automated.** The aim is to introduce electronic processes wherever possible, so that clubs are not burdened with excessive and difficult administration. Free scoring software and website hosting will be offered to clubs, or they can continue to use their existing software, possibly with some adaptation. I think it is crucial to get the automation right, as the whole scheme could fall apart if it doesn't work smoothly.

◆ **Pay to pay will not be universally applied.** Christmas parties, celebratory events and charity bridge will not be charged. Juniors will not have to pay any P2P, nor will new bridge learners in supervised play sessions. There will also be a cap on how much you pay, for those who play more than 150 times a year.

◆ **Privacy is assured.** All EBU membership information is governed by the Data Protection Act. Individuals who do not wish to receive EBU mailings, magazines, diary etc can opt for anonymity and will not receive anything.

◆ **A new Rating System will be introduced.** This will provide a current evaluation of players' skills, running alongside the life-time achievement Master Point scheme. This will allow the introduction of new competitions based on handicaps or various strata of the rating system.

At the EBU Shareholders meeting in October 2007, it was agreed to proceed with development of the new scheme, but a final decision to go ahead, or not, will not be taken until June 2008. If approved, the intention is to implement the new scheme in April 2010. Meanwhile, the EBU is seeking more information from clubs in order to calculate accurately how much the P2P figure will need to be. Their original estimates were based on an assumption of around 2 million player sessions per annum, but subsequent consultation suggested that this could well be a considerable under-estimate, so long as clubs currently affiliated remain so. If the number of sessions proves actually to be around 4 million, then the P2P figure could be halved to around 17p. A questionnaire has now been sent out to every EBU-affiliated club seeking the information to do the detailed calculations.

So where does London stand? At the October meeting, we voted to go ahead with the next stage of research and detailed definition, but we haven't yet firmed up our position for next June's meeting. That would be premature, as consultations are continuing. Inevitably, as individuals, we have our own individual views which are spread across the full spectrum. One of our shareholders, James Smith, holds his so strongly that he undertook to write about them for this newsletter, and you can read his piece immediately after this editorial. But we will try to represent our membership and our clubs at the final stage.

The final proposals, which will include detailed costs and plans for implementation as well as the intended P2P figure, will be published at the end of April 2008 and will be sent out to clubs as soon as possible thereafter. Then we will hold a meeting with London club representatives to get their final feedback. This will be held on the evening of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. More details of this will be sent out in due course, but clubs are asked to keep that date free to attend. Interested individuals can also note the timetable and feed their views into their local clubs to ensure they are represented that way.

“May you live in interesting times” is reputed to be the English translation of an ancient Chinese curse. Bridge-wise, I think we do just that in England at the moment. Let us hope that the curse turns out to be a blessing in disguise!

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## A Plea from the Heart

*by James Smith*

*James is one of the three London shareholders who represent London and the county membership at EBU shareholders' meetings. He personally has strong feelings about the new EBU strategy proposals.*

**Hysteria:** a psychoneurosis in which repressed complexes become split off or disassociated from the personality, forming independent units partially or completely unrecognised by consciousness, and manifested by various physical symptoms (such as tics, paralysis, blindness, deafness, etc.); general features being an extreme degree of emotional instability..... and (loosely) an outbreak of wild emotionalism.

This, it seems to me, encapsulates exactly the reaction to the EBU's proposals and why, as a shareholder, I feel it is time to stand up and be counted. I have been attending EBU meetings for nearly ten years now, and were the proposals before us being put forward under the Terry Collier regime, I would be as sceptical as anyone else. But if we are not too jaded or cynical and can recognise good governance when we see it, then I believe it is my prime responsibility to report that, so the first time in all my attendances, our Union finally has a team that can be trusted and we should all stop sniping from safe havens and give them our full support.

The decision to ratify or abandon the scheme will not occur before June 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 so why not put all our resources into getting the best possible package, safe in the knowledge that we still have the option of saying no? I believe the consequences

for failing to grasp this nettle now, while we have good executives, will be even more disastrous than all the projected fears of what happens if it goes ahead. Bridge players in, say, 2050 will wonder what all the fuss was about, never having lived under both systems, like all those who argued vehemently against the arrival of decimalisation in 1971.

For some of us the change may be too hard to bear and I'm sorry for that, but I hope it will also usher in a new generation who are happy to be included. I remember the hue and cry that was raised when bidding boxes were introduced and nobody bats an eyelid now. Bridge players, like everyone else, hate change, but not all change is for the sake of it.

I believe that this board should be applauded for realising that doing nothing is no longer an option, and for the courage to take us all to agreement which will ensure that there is still bridge being played in clubs in 2050. Let those who care work together to make this the best possible basis for the future, not a vessel so shot full of holes that it sinks with total loss of life of all on board.



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## Coming Soon!

As usual, the calendar year kicks off with the two major championships in the LMBA programme, the London Teams of Four – now re-titled as the Ian Gardiner Trophy – and the London Pairs. Both are events in which you can earn green points, and from which the leaders qualify to the corresponding national inter-county championships.

### Ian Gardiner Trophy

This competition comprises a one-day two-session multiple teams, from which the top two teams with London allegiance will qualify for a head-to-head final. The multiple teams will be held at the **Young Chelsea BC** on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, starting at **11.30 am**. The early start time, combined with only a short break, means that play will be finished by late afternoon, giving participants the choice of going out for a meal afterwards or getting home nice and early.

The competition is scored using the same method as is used for the Pachabo, the national event for which it is a qualifier – a combination of IMPs and point-a-board. The cost of entry is £56 per team, which equates to just £7 per player per session. Entries should be made to Sati McKenzie, preferably by email to [s.mckenzie@gre.ac.uk](mailto:s.mckenzie@gre.ac.uk) – pre-payment is not necessary, but it is helpful to have an idea of numbers beforehand.

## London Championship Pairs

This is a one-day, two-session pairs event to be held on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** at the **Young Chelsea BC**, starting at **1.00 pm**. 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 event. The entry fee is £28 per pair. Any enquires and entries should be made to Nigel Freake on 020 8801 2884.

The leading four pairs from the final with London allegiance will go forward to the Corwen Trophy to be held in Hinckley on 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1st June 2008. Last year's winners, Carl Nelson and Abigail Nicholls, live in Washington DC, but they plan to be in the country

## Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

We weren't able to hold a Joint Venture Swiss event in 2007, but it's back to business as usual in 2008. We will be holding a two-day Swiss programme over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The venue will be the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in Earls Court, along with the neighbouring Barkston Gardens Hotel. The timetable for the weekend will be as follows:

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March Swiss Pairs

Start time: 1.00pm – 4 x 7-board matches  
Interval: approx 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm  
Session 2: 6.30 pm – 3 x 7-board matches  
Finish: Approx 9.30 pm

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March Swiss Teams

Start time: 11.30pm – 3 x 7-board matches  
Interval: approx 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm  
Session 2: 3.30 pm – 4 x 7-board matches  
Finish: Approx 7.30 pm

In order to ease congestion at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, registration prior to the start of play each day will be at the Barkston Gardens Hotel at 34-44 Barkston Gardens, SW5 0EW.

The entry fee is £22 per player per day. An entry form is enclosed with this newsletter and any enquiries may be made to Chris Duckworth on 020 7385 3534.

in order to defend their title – if they can make it, surely you can too!

## Palmer Bayer Trophy

This simple system pairs competition will be held on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February** at the **Young Chelsea BC** starting at **1.00pm**. The aim of this event is to provide a sociable and instructive afternoon of bridge. After play at a relatively leisurely pace, there is an opportunity to discuss the hands with an expert on hand to suggest what you might have done better, with a complimentary glass of wine to help you wind down.

The entry fee is £16 per pair - entries or enquiries to Chris Duckworth at [chris.duckworth@lineone.net](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net) or on 020 7385 3534.





# Lederer 2007

by Simon Cochemé

The 61<sup>st</sup> contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on October 20th-21st 2007. The eight invited teams (seven of them current holders of English, British or European titles) played 12 board matches against each other, with Victory Point scoring (part IMPs and part point-a-board).



*Lilo & Matilda Popilov of Israel, playing for the European Mixed Teams Champions, versus John Atthey & Andrew Kambites of the Tollemache winners, with Michael Clark from the EBU in the background, inputting the bids and play for the Vugraph and BBO transmission*

The position on Saturday night, after four of the seven matches, was that the Schapiro Spring Foursomes Winners were on 161 VPs just ahead of Ireland on 159, and some way ahead of the President's Team on 125 and the Tollemache winners (Gloucestershire) on 119.

The Spring Fours and Irish teams both won their first two matches on Sunday, but the Irish had done just enough to overtake the Spring Fours with one match to go. The two teams went head-to-head on VuGraph, with Ireland starting 3 VPs in front. An exciting set of boards, including three slams, kept the audience on the edge of their seats. The Schapiro Spring Foursomes won the match 40-20 and had regained the lead at the time that mattered most.

The final leading positions were:

**1 Schapiro Spring Foursomes 274**

(Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Andrew McIntosh, Gunnar Hallberg, David Price, Colin Simpson)

**2 Ireland 257**

(Tommy Garvey, David Bakhshi, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon)



*The winners, minus Rosen and Jones who were unable to be present on the final day*



**3 President's Team 234**

(Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, John Matheson, Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon)

**4 European Open Mixed Teams Champions 223**

(Jeremy Dhondy, Heather Dhondy, Lilo Poplilov, Matilda Poplilov)

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

**Best Bid & Best Defence**

**Love All. Dealer North.**

♠ J6	
♥ 86	
♦ AK8642	
♣ AK7	
♠ K874	♠ 53
♥ AK10973	♥ Q54
♦ Q3	♦ 1095
♣ 6	♣ 10532
♠ AQ1092	
♥ J2	
♦ 7	
♣ QJ984	



*Heather & Jeremy Dhondy receiving the prize for Best Bid Hand, with LMBA Chairman Mike Hill and adjudicator Brian Callaghan*

The prize for the Best Bid Hand went to Jeremy and Heather Dhondy for this hand.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Jeremy</i>		<i>Heather</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Dhondys were one of only two pairs who bid to the excellent 4♠ contract, most of the rest of the field playing in diamond part-scores. Jeremy's double on the second round (where some would play a support double) showed extra values. West cashed two top hearts against Heather, and then switched to his singleton club. Heather won in dummy, finessed in spades and ended up with ten tricks.

At the other table where 4♠ was the final contract, the winners of the 2007 Schapiro Spring Foursomes were sitting East-West against the winners of the 2006 Gold Cup. The bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Paterson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Dble	Pass*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Jack Paterson opened an off-centre 14-16 1NT and the Scottish pair reached 4♠. Gunnar Hallberg led the king and ace of hearts and found that his partner had three cards in the suit. Knowing that East had nothing of use for the defence in the way of high cards, Hallberg led another heart at trick three, giving a worthless ruff and discard. Brian Short chose to trump

with dummy's ♠J and then took the spade finesse. Hallberg won and played a fourth heart. Andrew 'Tosh' McIntosh ruffed in with his lowly ♠5 and this was enough to promote a trump trick for West.



*Gunnar Hallberg*

Hallberg had played his partner to have ♠9x, in which case his line of continuing hearts twice would have had an excellent

chance of beating the contract. With the way declarer played it, rising with the ♠J, East's ♠5 was good enough. Declarer could have recovered by playing ♠A and ♠Q at tricks four and five, but this would have given up on East holding ♠K-x and might have cost the point-a-board element of the scoring. This defence won Hallberg and McIntosh the prize for the Best Defended Hand.

♣♦♥♠

The Young Chelsea has hosted the Lederer for the last 26 years. For the last seven years the team that has won the Young Chelsea Knock-out has been invited to play in the Lederer. Norman Selway was a regular competitor in the Lederer in the late 80s, and won the event in 1985. He was drafted into the Young Chelsea team as a late substitute when one of the original members of the team, not expecting to win the Knock-out, foolishly booked a holiday that clashed with the Lederer!

**Game All. Dealer West.**

♠ 5	
♥ KJ75	
♦ A654	
♣ AK108	
♠ AQJ872	♠ 63
♥ 94	♥ 1062
♦ Q107	♦ K932
♣ Q3	♣ J976
♠ K1094	
♥ AQ83	
♦ J8	
♣ 542	

West	North	East	South
<i>Matheson</i>	<i>Vail</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Selway</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A straightforward auction saw Selway become declarer in 4♥. John Matheson, playing for the President's team (Bernard Teltscher is President of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and sponsor of the Lederer), led a trump to the ten and queen. Selway played the ♦J. West covered with the queen (he does no better if he ducks) and was allowed to win the trick. He played back his second heart. Selway won, cashed his ♦A and ruffed his two diamond losers, using a top club to get back to dummy. He crossed back to dummy with the other top club and drew the last trump.

Now he played a spade to the ten. Matheson won and played the ♠A. Selway declined to ruff with dummy's last trump and threw a club instead. He could now make the last two tricks and his contract. This play won Selway the prize for the Best Played Hand.

The bidding and opening lead were the same at the other table in this match,

but declarer did not play on diamonds and ended up two down. Elsewhere the other two declarers in 4♥ went one and two down. Three of the other four pairs bid to 3NT and all failed to make their contracts. The eighth declarer played in 2♥ and made nine tricks.

♣♦♥♠

The “Play with the Stars” for the Teltsher Cups was played on the Saturday afternoon, North South pairs

teaming up with Jason & Justin Hackett, playing for the Crockfords team, whilst East West pairs teamed up with Irish stars Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann. The winners in both directions came from the Wimbledon Bridge Club – North South were Maurice & Janet Cahm and East West were Margaret Owen and Helen Barnes. The pictures show them receiving their prizes with their teammates!



*L to r: LMBA Chairman Mike Hill, President Bernard Teltsher, Jason Hackett, Janet Cahm, Maurice Cahm*



*Tom Hanlon & Helen Barnes*

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

There was one very special guest at this year’s Lederer – Jill Mahler, granddaughter of Tony Lederer, after whom the trophy is named. She is shown here with President Bernard Teltsher.



# London Trophy Finals - 2007

*by Michael Hill*

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the Royal Automobile Club generously provided a venue for the finals of the London Trophy, the LMBA competition for sports and social clubs. This consists of three matches played simultaneously using the same boards - the final for the London Trophy itself, the play-off for third place between the losing semi-finalists and the final of the competition for first round losers for the Della-Porta Plate.

The three matches were: -

London Trophy final: Cameron McKenna vs. Sundridge Park Golf Club 1

Third place play-off: MCC vs. Royal Wimbledon Golf Club 1

Della-Porta Plate final: RAC Pall Mall 1 vs. Old Actonians

It is strange that, whilst slam swings are what matters most in an aggregate scoring event like this, the greatest interest is often in the part scores. The second board was a case in point.

## **NS Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ 9654	
♥ KQ	
♦ A7	
♣ J9874	
♠ A7	♠ KQJ102
♥ 8543	♥ 62
♦ J932	♦ Q8
♣ A63	♣ KQ102
♠ 83	
♥ AJ1097	
♦ K10654	
♣ 5	

East opened 1♠ and, at most the tables, North-South were silent and the auction continued 1NT-2♣-2♠, where it ended. The normal ♣5 lead picked up that suit for declarer so, after drawing trumps, there were nine top tricks and no prospect of more. At one table in the third-place play-off, West decided he was worth a response of 2♦ instead of 1NT and this led to a contract of 3♠ - but somewhere, declarer lost her

way, in spite of the club lead, and came to only eight tricks. However, the interest focused on one table in the Plate where South found an immediate overcall of 2♥ over 1♠, which silenced West. North raised to 3♥ on his KQ doubleton and that ended the auction. An immediate trump lead would have doomed declarer but, not unreasonably, the defence began with three rounds of spades. Harvey Thomas, for Old Actonians, ruffed the third spade high, cashed the AK of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed another spade high and ruffed another diamond with dummy's last trump. West was down to four small trumps and the ♣A, so the forced club exit endplayed him to lead into declarer's trump tenace and concede the ninth trick. Had West discarded the ♣A instead of a small club, East could have won the club exit - but the defence still has to be careful. East must lead the ♥2 and, when declarer wins and leads the last diamond, West has to ruff small and East has to over-ruff his partner to be able to lead though declarer at trick 12. If he chose to exit with the ♥6 rather than the ♥2 at trick 10, he cannot over-ruff while, if



he exited with a black card, declarer merely discards his diamond and West, who has only trumps left, is forced to ruff his partner's winner. Either of these sets up the same end-play as before for declarer's ninth trick. A lot of hard work for a swing of 280 points.



*Play in progress in the elegant surroundings of the RAC Club*

Board 7 was the first serious slam prospect.

**Game all. Dealer South.**

♠ AKQ42	♠ 105
♥ Q84	♥ 752
♦ 97	♦ 108643
♣ A94	♣ 632
♠ J963	♠ 87
♥ 63	♥ AKJ109
♦ Q52	♦ AKJ
♣ KQJ7	♣ 1085

6♥ is an excellent contract and does not look too hard to reach, but both tables in the Trophy final subsided in 4♥ – and made only eleven tricks. One table in the play-off also stopped in 4♥ and one in the Plate stopped in 3NT, both making twelve tricks. When MCC

duly bid to 6♥, a significant gain was in prospect – but declarer somehow found a way to hold himself to eleven tricks and the gain had suddenly become a loss of 780. At the final table, Old Actonians bid to 6NT – a rather more daunting prospect than 6♥ for declarer. But, having sharpened his declarer skills as reported on board 2, Harvey Thomas was up to it. He ducked the ♣K lead and won the club continuation. Five rounds of hearts then squeezed West in three suits. In practice, he bared the ♦Q, so the ♦J was declarer's twelfth trick. The squeeze would also work on most other distributions of the East-West cards as long as declarer reads the position. Either hand will be squeezed if it holds four spades and guards one of the minors while a hand which guards both minors will be squeezed on the subsequent run of the top spades. The three-suit squeeze operates a trick earlier so, as the cards lie, declarer could have made all thirteen tricks had he not ducked the club at trick one. In hearts, of course, the grand slam is better, making whenever either defender holds both black suits as declarer can ruff his third diamond before running the trumps for the black suit squeeze.

Board 9 was interesting in that both North-South and East-West played it in hearts! South had a 1444 shape and, when he chose to open 1♥, ended up going off in 3♥ or 4♥, despite the 4-4 fit. Once, however, when he chose to open 1♣, West found a not unreasonable 1♥ overcall on AKQ2 and this silenced everyone. Alas, he made only the three top trumps (although why he did not also manage to cash his ♠A is not clear).



Board 10 was a straightforward diamond slam, bid at both tables in the Trophy final but played in 3NT at both tables in the play-off! Thus the only swing was in the Plate where RAC bid the slam but Old Actonians subsided in 5♦.

At half time, Cameron McKenna led by 860 in the Trophy final, MCC by 940 in the play-off and RAC by 380 in the Plate. Still everything to play for in all three.

The second half started with a bang – well two bangs actually.

**Game all. Dealer North.**

♠ KQ	
♥ AQ973	
♦ K4	
♣ K932	
♠ 75	♠ J962
♥ J64	♥ 105
♦ Q76	♦ J9532
♣ J10764	♣ Q8
♠ A10843	
♥ K82	
♦ A108	
♣ A5	

The first question is what should North re-bid after 1♥-1♠? Some tried 3♣, which would find a club fit if there were one but rather stretches the quality of the club suit. Others tried 2NT, which better defines the hand but risks missing a club fit. On the actual hand it shouldn't matter as either should get you to the right slam, but..... Cameron McKenna, Royal Wimbledon and RAC duly got to 6♥ with no difficulty but MCC found their way to 6♠ (albeit still a making slam) after South failed to show support for hearts. Sundridge Park had a disaster, stopping in game after North re-bid 2NT and South simply raised to 3NT. It

was left to Old Actonians (again!) to add the sparkle. Theirs was the only table where South responded 2♠ on the first round and then agreed hearts with his next bid. Now North was the one in a position to use Blackwood and find that South had all the missing aces and kings making the grand slam almost 100%. (At the other tables where South had used Blackwood, there was no way he could identify the key major suit queens in the North hand). Bidding and making 7♥ put Old Actonians back in front in the Plate.

The second bang followed immediately, another slam hand.

**Love all. Dealer East.**

♠ J108762	
♥ Q2	
♦ Q10	
♣ A93	
♠ 9	♠ AKQ
♥ AJ83	♥ K9654
♦ AJ8632	♦ K
♣ KJ	♣ Q854
♠ 543	
♥ 107	
♦ 9754	
♣ 10762	

The East-West auction usually began 1♥-2♦, although one West (for Cameron McKenna) not unreasonably thought that the heart fit justified an immediate 3♦. This worked well as West could now agree hearts with his second bid and East could – and did - use Blackwood and bid the slam once two aces were confirmed. At two tables, North now ventured 2♠ (for the lead?!) and was rewarded when this somehow diverted East-West from bidding their slam. The Sundridge Park East bid 3NT over the intervention, which West rather lamely converted to

4♥ to end the auction. Royal Wimbledon's East bid only 2NT in the same situation, over which his partner bid 4NT. It is fairly clear that West intended this as Blackwood but it ought to be natural in this sequence and that is how East interpreted it. With something in reserve and so a wish to co-operate in a slam try, he bid a natural 5♣ (alternative strain in which to play). However, West took this as denying any aces and signed off in 5♥ where, of course, they played. MCC had a similar problem without any interference from North. East's first re-bid was 3NT and West bid 4NT which again should be natural but wasn't. This time East did give the Blackwood response of 5♦ but, curiously, West still signed off in 5♥. It was left to both Plate finalists to show how it should be done. After 1♥-2♦, both Easts re-bid 3♣. Old Actonians West immediately used Blackwood and, finding one ace opposite, duly bid 6♥. RAC's West agreed hearts at the three-level to leave space to explore then, when East merely raised to game (nothing more to say) simply bid 6♥. So, a flat board in two of the matches but a serious blow to Sundridge Park in the Trophy final.

Board 17 generated a slam swing in each match. Three tables bid the reasonable slam, which had to fail when the trump finesse was wrong. The other three stopped in game and claimed a 500-point swing for their efforts.

In the Trophy and play-off, this all came back two boards later when the teams which had bid the failing slam brought home a thin 3NT (on two poor 12-point hands) when the opposition picked the wrong opening lead, while

those that had stopped in game on the earlier board stopped in the part score (advisedly as their opponents picked the right opening lead). Curiously enough, this board was passed out at one table in the Plate.

By this stage, the Trophy and Plate finals were as good as over and there was little scope for any major upsets in the last five boards. But the play-off was much closer and there was still one act to come

**NS game. Dealer North.**

♠ 8		
♥ Q10973		
♦ 9432		
♣ K64		
♠ 95432		♠ AQ10
♥ AK2		♥ 5
♦ QJ86		♦ K1075
♣ 7		♣ Q10532
	♠ KJ76	
	♥ J864	
	♦ A	
	♣ AJ98	

If East does not open 1♣, South probably will! Indeed, in the Trophy, Sundridge Park opened 1♣ at both tables. Their East-West pair then crawled to 4♠, which South doubled to collect 300. At the other table, the South's 1♣ was doubled for take out and the Cameron McKenna East-West pair were allowed to play in 1♦ making nine tricks for a swing of 410. Similarly, in the Plate, Old Actonians opened 1♣ at both tables. Their East-West pair also reached 4♠, but more confidently so they weren't doubled and conceded only 100. At the other table, West overcalled 1♠, North raised to 2♣ and East ended the auction with a jump to 3♠. A small swing to RAC? No! North

led the ♣4 and South won with the ♣8 and returned the ♣9. Declarer ruffed and led a trump to the 10 and J. He ruffed South's club continuation and led another trump, discovering the bad news. Winning the ace, he led a diamond from dummy and South won, drew trumps with the king and exited with a heart. Ruffing declarer's next diamond, South again exited with a heart but declarer then, instead of cashing his two diamonds exited with his third heart and the defence took the rest for four-off and 200. Was there scope for more variety in the play-off? You bet there was. The Royal Wimbledon East-West did exactly as

Old Actonians had done and duly conceded 100. However, at the other table, their South found a brave, but not totally unreasonable take-out double of the 1♣ opening and this enabled them to find their heart fit and a competitive auction saw them end in 4♥ doubled, played by North. East led the ♠A against this and declarer was in with a chance. Although the defence now played three rounds of trumps, she could win the third one in dummy and had enough entries to find she could ruff the ♠J good and enjoy it without giving up the fallback of the double club finesse for a huge +790.

## **Results**

**Trophy:** Cameron McKenna (Chris Larlham, Cicily Nichols, Mark Nichols, David Reuben) beat Sundridge Park Golf Club 1 (Ian Draper, Val Smith, John Wright, Ron Hamblyn) by 1610 points

**Third place play-off:** Royal Wimbledon Golf Club 1 (George Willetts, Lorna Byone, Sheila Harvey, Frank Hazewindus) beat MCC (Tim Lawrence, Nigel Clayton, Geoff Lane, Pralab Barua) by 350 points

**Plate:** Old Actonians (M Fitzgerald, Mike Davis, Harvey Thomas, Dominic Wallace) beat RAC Pall Mall 1 (Bernard Heilpern, Arun Suri, Bob Bowman, David Glass) by 1660 points



*London Trophy winners Cameron McKenna with LMBA Chairman Mike Hill and organiser Cecil Leighton*



*Della-Porta Plate Winners Old Actonians, with Pat Brotherston, daughter of the late Freddie Della-Porta*

# Latest LMBA results

## London League

The London League is usually the last competition of the season to finish, and 2006/07 was no exception. But when the results were all in, New Direction Finance (NDF), captained by Ian Swanson, came in winners of Division 1 of the League, ahead of Marilyn Nathan's TGR team, the previous year's winners. These two teams were well clear of third-placed Young Chelsea 1 captained by Brian Callaghan.

In Division 2, the clear winners were Young Chelsea 5 captained by David Muller. Bury-the-Hatchet (D Leigh) were second with Young Chelsea 4 (Chris Goodchild) third. Division 3 was only small this year, but there was one team who dominated – well done to the Mad Axemen III, captained by Nick Bryant.

It was good to have a thriving Newcomers League this time. The winners were August Red, captained by Paul Spence, with Crouch End Bridge Club, captained by Olive Lofthouse, in second place and August Blue (M Davies) third.

## Mixed Pairs Championship

The Mixed Pairs was held in mid-September at the Young Chelsea, attracting a 14-table entry. Last year's winner and Mixed Pairs specialist, Anne Catchpole was trying for a record fifth win in this event with a new partner, Colin Hepworth, but they were pipped at the post, finishing in second place despite achieving a fine 58% score. The winners were Susanna Gross and Simon Cochemé with a big 65%. Third were Sarah Dunn & Dom Goodwin, with Frances Liew and John Vos fourth.

Susanna, incidentally, has won the (open) London Pairs Championship three times, a record only equalled or exceeded by Rob Cliffe, who has won four times, three times in partnership with Nora Smith.



## Champions Cup

Seven League-winning teams competed for the Champions Cup in October. Comfortable winners were the NDF team who won the London League. The leading positions were as follows:

1 London League - Ian Swanson, Ken Ford, Ivor Miller, Catherine Seale 87

2 Middlesex League - Harvey Bengen, Kevin Elstow, Richard Palmer, Richard Davey 74

3 Civil Service League - Alex Allan, Peter Brook, Roy Westwater, John Jacobs 64

## Junior Inter-County Teams

This event was cancelled due to lack of support. It may be re-scheduled later in the season, but junior players will be contacted directly with details if or when this is arranged.

## Under-19 Pairs Championship

This competition attracted a good entry (for a junior event) of 8 pairs. The winners were Robert Sassoon & Pip Railing, with a massive score of over 70%. Runners-up were Andrew North and Matthew Morgan from the Perse School, and third were Abhishake Srivastava & Felix Laurie von Massenbach from Latymer Upper School.

## Tollemache Trophy

The Tollemache qualifier clashed this year with the American Fall Nationals in San Francisco, which took some of London's big names out of the country. We were nevertheless represented in the event by a strong team comprising Nick Sandqvist & Artur Malinowski, Janet de Botton & David Burn, Ian Payn & Rob Cliffe and Gordon Rainsford & Paul Martin. Unfortunately the team was drawn in a very strong group and ended up in fourth place, so failed to qualify for the finals. This was despite gaining a score which would have been enough to qualify in at least one of the other groups.

## Daily Telegraph Cup

Only five teams competed for this prestigious trophy this year, after one last-minute drop-out. London was represented by the runners-up in the London Championship Teams of Four, as the winners were unable to take part on this occasion.

Congratulations to Cup winners, Surrey. Leading positions were:

1 Surrey – Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Graham Osborne & Jon Cooke

2 Sussex – Chris Jepson, Liz Lancaster, Gerry Stanford, Ian Lancaster

3 Kent – Ian Draper, Neil Benn, Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior



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# Chinese whispers

David Bird found this article about a deal, played Tony Friday in the 1979 European Championships in Lausanne, on a Chinese web-site. When asked if he would like it translated by computer, he said yes. The resulting text, abridged by Simon Cochemé but otherwise unaltered, follows. Do take the time to work out what is going on – it is a great hand.

British gentlemanly manners unparalleled in the world. British veteran assures Pulaidi (Tony Friday), is the most representative of the British gentry. Pulaidi system was born in 1922 in London, has more 80 years, who is still physical, and often participate in the bridge competition.

In this competition, the author Pulaidi sit right, and although the situation is extremely inferior, and the wind is always modest, the author left a deep and unforgettable impression.

## Dealer North.

♠ Q6	♠ AK7543
♥ AK54	♥ -
♦ Q109	♦ 865
♣ 9542	♣ Q873
♠ J10	♠ 982
♥ Q9873	♥ J1062
♦ 742	♦ AKJ3
♣ J106	♣ AK

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			<i>Pulaidi</i>
	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♠	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The boss of the two ♥, A high-licensing group spent two weak cry. West home first primer ♠J the dream home covered Q, K boss wins eat. The boss continued reference ♠A, then offensive has made it clear that small plum



blossom. Makers won two Dengkou flower, out ♥J, home to the West ♥Q dream home ♥K. The boss of a shortage of ace, when he swaps small pad spades, Pulaidi eyes of one of the bright, the original Licensing Board has become fascinating double mystery of the dream home.

Pulaidi wit, the completion of the contract is a prerequisite to obtain three Dengkou box, Therefore, he followed up A-J-Q box three times, the dream home from the third circle flower, hands ♥2 Wang eat, the whole mess has become :

♠ -	♠ 754
♥ A54	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ 9	♣ Q
♠ -	♠ 9
♥ 9873	♥ 106
♦ -	♦ K
♣ -	♣ -

Pulaidi hands out ♠9, West home immediately in dire straits, really "Feeding Frenzy : How a depression," whether it be that a license could only obtain a Dengkou ace. When home to the West ♥7 Wang eat, dream home

away ♣9. Now, back home in West primer ♥9, Pulaidi hands ♥10 eating, the association added up, the dream home ♥ A-5 mantis in the post and the capture of the West home ♥8-3.

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## Young Chelsea Bridge Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The Young Chelsea is one of London's foremost clubs and is the venue for many of the LMBA county competitions. In fact, thanks mainly to the dedicated efforts of Warwick Pitch, it is, as it proudly states in its current tag-line, one of the World's Great Bridge Clubs.

The club will have been established for 40 years in May 2008, and the club is celebrating its anniversary with a number of special events throughout the year. Some are exclusively for club members, but there are several that will be open to non-members and will be of interest to players of all levels of ability. Two of these, for which the club would particularly welcome help in reaching those people who might be interested in participating, are:

### University Challenge

This is a teams event for students, staff and alumni from London Universities and Colleges, which will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The format will be multiple teams, playing a single extended session starting at 1.00 pm. More than one team from any one establishment will be permitted, so anyone who studied at some time in London is very welcome to form, or join, a team. It should be a fun and keenly fought competition, with perhaps the opportunity to re-form some bridge partnerships from your student days.

### Inter-National teams event

This is another teams event, this time for foreign players who live in London. It will be held over the weekend of 21-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008. Anyone who holds a foreign passport will be eligible to play, the aim being to have as many teams as possible, each representing a different country, though there will be scope for more than one team from any one country.

Anyone who might be interested in either of these competitions should email [info@ycbc.co.uk](mailto:info@ycbc.co.uk) to register interest and obtain more information.



Other events which may well be of interest to London members include:

**Young Chelsea v Manchester Bridge Club** – A match between these two great clubs will be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, soon after the end of the LMBA Swiss Teams that day. The opportunity here will be for spectating rather than playing – the intention is to screen the match on Bridge Base Online but also to have an “over-the-shoulder” type commentary for spectators at the club, so they can really get the feeling of how the expert thinks at the table.

**Play with an International** – The YCBC has many fine international players amongst its members, and 26 of them have agreed to be raffled as partners for this event on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The raffle will raise money for the Alzheimer’s Society and the draw for partners will take place during an Anniversary Swiss Pairs to be held the previous week on the actual Anniversary date – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

**Young Chelsea Simultaneous Pairs** – This event will be organised along similar lines to the LMBA Diamond Anniversary Sim Pairs held in 2006. Clubs will be able to participate on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008, playing a selection of interesting hands from Young Chelsea’s past.

Anyone seeking more information about any of these events can obtain details from the Young Chelsea website at [www.ycbc.co.uk](http://www.ycbc.co.uk), or by emailing [info@ycbc.co.uk](mailto:info@ycbc.co.uk).

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## Meet Ian Payn

*by Chris Duckworth*

Continuing my policy of introducing you to some of the more interesting but perhaps slightly less well known players in London, the occasion of the YCBC’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary seemed a good time to meet Ian Payn, currently Chairman of the club. As one of those people who always threw away his master point certificates, he is not a Grand Master, but is nevertheless still one of London’s top players and an integral member of the Young Chelsea’s A team.



Ian has quite a long and diverse history of involvement with bridge. He started to play with school friends, but not until after leaving school and university. He lived in Kent and played with partner Peter Clinch and later such luminaries as Derek Patterson, Neil Rosen and the Tredinnick twins. Initially it was social bridge, but they graduated to competitive bridge via participation in the London Trophy and later the London Congress.

Subsequently, Ian has had his fair share of bridge successes. He has won the Tollemache twice, the Eastbourne Bowl and a few other EBU events and has reached the final stages of Crockfords a couple of times. He also won the Best Defended hand award in the Lederer Memorial Trophy. But it is in London events

that he has probably made his biggest mark, having won the London Teams of Four Championship six times and the Daily Telegraph Cup five times in the last seven years.

In his twenties, after undertaking an undistinguished variety of jobs, Ian was offered the post as a bridge host at the St John's Wood Bridge Club, run at that time by Geoffrey Breskal, David Edwin and Adrienne Jaffe. Ian remembers Geoffrey Breskal in particular as an exemplary and affable host, from whom he learnt much about running a bridge club. There was something of a "Mafia" of young bridge hosts at that time – Joe Fawcett hosted at Green Street and Glyn Liggins at the London School of Bridge – and Ian shared a flat with each of these at one time or another. After a couple of years at St John's Wood, Ian moved on to the London School of Bridge, to take over the bridge teaching there. At that time Nico Gardener had retired and the business side of the club was run by John Gallagher, whilst Glyn Liggins ran the club itself.

Ian describes the role of a rubber bridge host as the worst of both worlds – you have to play with whoever wants a game, whether you like them or think they can play or not, but you are playing largely with your own money, and the hours can be very anti-social. So after a few years he drifted away and moved into the world of computing, where he flourished for some 10 years or so. Towards the end of this time he had his own small company as well as his "day job" and his domestic life was good, living happily with his partner Anne and their two cats, a settled, if not taxing situation.

Then in 2003 Ian's life was to change, when he was diagnosed with breast cancer. Many people do not know that men can even contract this form of cancer, but it is possible and about half of those who do are killed by the disease. But Ian caught it early enough to be able to receive treatment and come through successfully. At about the same time, his life changed in other ways – he and Anne bought a new house and a new job as manager of a barristers' chambers – one that he clearly finds very rewarding. And at about the same time he became Chairman of the Young Chelsea.

Asked why he originally joined the Young Chelsea Committee, Ian said it was to win a bet! Joe Fawcett said he would never be accepted onto the committee, so Ian suggested he put his money where his mouth was. He swears that Joe still hasn't paid up the fiver he owes him for this! He took on chairmanship of the Committee prior to the change of ownership and was the natural person to continue under the new regime.

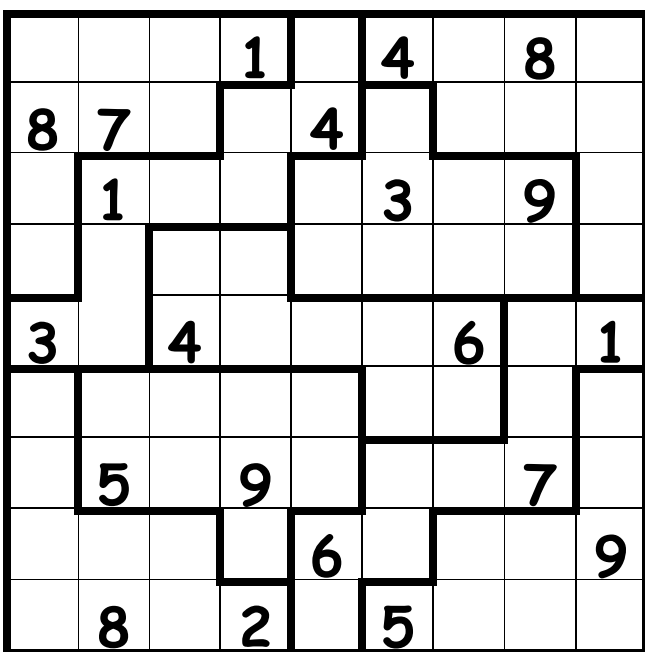
I asked Ian what qualities he brought to the role of YC Chairman. His reply was: "Startling arrogance, and a complete inability to listen to anyone else's point of view"! In truth, his flippant manner and impatience can be off-putting to some people, but he cares deeply about the Young Chelsea and does try hard to be accessible to the members. He is not able to play at the club as often as he would

like due to personal and work commitments. In the last five days, he pointed out to me when we spoke, he had travelled to Hinckley to play in the Tollemache qualifier and to Cornwall to visit his ailing father, he had fitted in a Gold Cup match in London and a YC Management Committee meeting, and also had an operation on his foot – all in addition to his day job! And Anne does get rather cross when she doesn't see him for days!

So how does Ian see the future for the Young Chelsea and bridge in London? The club has been through a difficult time with the expenses of a new lease on the premises and complete refurbishment at a time when the membership and attendances were dropping. The committee as a whole, along with club manager Gordon Rainsford who has been a big asset, has worked hard to get through these problems and to turn the club's fortunes around. Some of the less savoury elements of the club have been removed, attendances have levelled out and Ian is optimistic about the future. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme will, hopes Ian, bring new people into the club and he is sure that many of them will want to come back.

At the same time the EBU as a whole is working hard to make competitive bridge pleasanter and more enjoyable to play. Ian is optimistic that more people will be encouraged away from their computer screens and back into clubs in general. In particular, he would like to prove to people that a great game of bridge is alive and well and living in Earls Court.

## Puzzle Corner



This time I am offering you a Jigsaw Sudoku. In addition to each row and column, each of the outlined shapes needs to be filled with one each of the digits from 1 to 9.

You can check your answer by looking at the solution on page 34.






## Kaplan Kwotes

*Edgar Kaplan was one of the truly greats of bridge. He was a teacher, author, editor, administrator, champion player, theorist, expert Vu-Graph commentator, coach/captain and authority on the laws of the game. His career spanned six decades and he was the editor and publisher of The Bridge World magazine for more than 30 years.*

*As a bridge commentator he was second to none – he was never lost for the “bon mot”. His wife Betty kept a record of many of his brilliant comments made at the 1980 World Team Olympiad, which were published in the Daily Bulletin in Philadelphia (Spring, 1996), some of which are shown below.*

- "I don't know what North was thinking of doing, but it's just as well he didn't."
- "Now that he's at the six level, he knows no more than he did before but there's less bidding space for making errors."
- "I think he'll keep doubling them until he finally beats one."
- "The difference between a brave bid and a foolhardy bid is largely a matter of result."
- "Have you notice that Chagas has the capacity for winning a large number of tricks? It's a very useful attribute for a bridge player."
- "No double, no trouble."
- "That's unfair. North-South were just having a good time and suddenly East-West turned nasty and doubled."
- "North probably felt his high cards (3 points) made up for his lack of distribution."
- "Four hearts is a very good bid -- but on some other hand."
- "This is a contract that would be justified only by success -- and I have a feeling that it will not be."
- "West passed, hoping his partner would double, but that was too much to hope for in this world. It will happen all the time in the next world."
- "Even on the vulnerability he might risk bidding just two spades. Of course, I wouldn't be saying that if two spades could go down 800."
- "This three notrump is the sort of contract that Lloyd's of London would insure."
- "A contract becomes ambitious only if declarer makes it. We have other words for it if it goes down...This contract went down only one. It was nearly ambitious."

- "If you average South's bidding on this hand (one too many) and on the previous hand (one too few), he comes out just right."
- "When in doubt, put the opponents on lead. Why should you make the mistake?"
- "Mahmood gave himself some very good advice when he said STOP. But he paid no attention."
- "It is always a good idea to make only six when you've missed a grand slam. The opponents don't know how good a result they have."
- "He may bid and he may not. I believe that covers all possibilities."
- "If you're a good enough player, you can get away with making mistakes because nobody will believe it."
- "If declarer throws even one club from dummy, the defenders will be in position to make three notrump."
- "After all, East-West have a clear majority of the point count (21)."
- "The defenders made two notrump so it was an accurate contract -- just played the wrong way."
- "His pass over two diamonds was clearly conservative, but his pass over two hearts was more than conservative -- it was reactionary."
- "In both rooms, just as East-West were about to go down one, North came to the rescue. The idea on a hand like this is to be generous and let your opponents go down."
- "Well, he underled two aces on the last hand with ill effect, so this time he'll lead a club from ten-fourth. Twice burned, once shy."
- "I understand some super-modernists are back to leading queen from queen-jack. They call it 'reverse Rusinow.'"
- "The South hand was too weak to pass in the Closed Room (Polish strong pass) and too strong to pass in the Open Room (10 points)."



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# Two pints of lager and a packet of cards

*by Broadway*

One Easter I am in Blackpool with a character by the name of Stripe Tail, or Stripy for short. He is called this not because he ever makes such a double but because it is the consensus of public opinion from North to South and from East to West that he will do so if the opportunity presents.

After the qualifying pairs we are having a beer and at a table next to us are four parties who are all dressed the same, and who all have the same haircut, and who are all speaking in a Liverpool accent, which means talking loudly of the purrs we just play in. Characters such as this are very familiar to anyone who is in Blackpool much, and they are bound to be playing the Cavern Club, because Liverpool is quite infested with characters who play such a system.

I am paying them no attention, but Stripy is in there on the old ear, and very much interested in their conversation, and finally I listen myself to hear what is attracting his attention, when one of the Liverpool characters speaks as follows:

"Well," he says, "I am willing to bet 10Gs that he can play better bridge after 20 pints than anybody in the country any time."

Now at this Stripy gets right up and steps over and smiles in friendly fashion to one and all and says:

"Gentlemen," he says "Pardon the intrusion, but do I understand you are speaking of a great bridge player with a great thirst who resides in your fair city?"

Now these Liverpool characters all gaze at Stripy in hostile manner, but he keeps on smiling, and finally one of them says.

"Yes," he says, "We are speaking of a character by the name of Previously, who is without doubt the greatest in this regard."

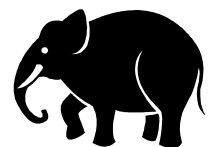
"Interesting," says Stripy, "And unless my ears deceive me I hear one of you state he is willing to wager 10Gs on this Previously against anybody in the country."

"Your ears are pair-fect," another of the Liverpool characters states, "I state it, and although it just a figure of speech I do not wish it said I pig it on a betting proposition."

And with this Stripy out with a bundle of notes and right away one the Liverpool characters, whose names turn out to be John, and James, and George, and Richard, slaps his hand on the money and says "Bet".

Well now, this is prompt action to be sure, and I commence wondering where I can raise a few dibs to take a piece of Stripy's proposition, because of course I know that he has nobody in mind but Geordie Lagarde for his side.

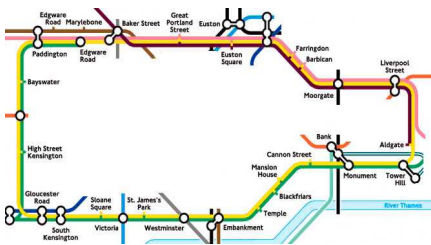
And knowing Geordie Lagarde I am prepared to wager all the money I can raise that he can out-bridge and out-drink anything on two legs, and in fact I will take a chance on Geordie out-drinking anything on four legs, except maybe a thirsty elephant, and at that he may give the elephant a photo finish.



Well, now that the match is agreed upon, naturally Stripy and the Liverpool characters begin discussing where it is to take place, and one of the Liverpool characters suggests neutral ground, but Stripy holds out for London, and it seems Liverpool characters are always ready to visit London, so he does not meet with any great opposition on this point.

Well, as soon as Stripy and I return to London and relate the bet Stripy makes in Blackpool, right away so many citizens wish to take a piece of the proposition that it is oversubscribed by a large sum in no time.

This Previously comes to London several days before the event with a character by the name of The Grey Shark, and requests a meet with Geordie Lagarde to agree on the final details and as soon as he commences to discuss the details of the contest anybody can see he knows what time it is in situations such as this.



Geordie Lagarde suggests Circle Line rules, consisting of 27

rubbers and 27 pints, and after Previously and The Grey Shark whisper together for a while they say this is quite satisfactory, and suggest three partners being allowed for each of the principals, which Geordie finds acceptable, and is nominating Progressive Pete, and Paul The Painter, and Grand Slam Mike for his side, who are all fine players, and fine drinkers, especially Progressive Pete, who only ever drinks triples.

Well it comes on the day on the contest and about fifty characters from Liverpool are present, with the same number of London citizens, and at 12:37 sharp, when there is still much betting among the spectators, The Chairman is stopping chaffing for long enough to say like this:-

"Are you ready, Liverpool? Are you ready, London?"

Previously and Geordie Lagarde both nod their heads, and the first pints are brought, and they are starting at "Gloucester Road".



Previously is fast away and along about "Blackfriars" he plays 4 hearts with the following

- ♠ AK6
- ♥ 96
- ♦ A863
- ♣ Q874

- ♠ 1073
- ♥ 4
- ♦ KQJ1074
- ♣ KJ5
- ♠ 9852
- ♥ QJ53
- ♦ 95
- ♣ A92

- ♠ QJ4
- ♥ AK10872
- ♦ 2
- ♣ 1063

Paul The Painter is starting with the King of Diamonds, and The Talking Head, who is commentating on Vu-Graph, right away notes it is not such a good contract, as there is a probable trump loser to go with 3 clubs. Previously wins in dummy and lead the 9 of hearts. There is no little pause before Geordie Lagarde decides to cover and Previously wins. Next is a winning spade from hand, and a second spade to dummy, and the 6 of

hearts. This time there is no cover and so Previously is able to ruff a diamond. Then comes the last spade back to dummy and another diamond ruff. Now he is exiting with a club and of course makes two more trump tricks for his contract.

In fact the way Previously times the trump reduction on this hand is causing some uneasiness among the London spectators but Geordie Lagarde just plays and drinks without undue excitement.

Now it comes on "Moorgate" and there are a number of thrown-in hands, and small part scores, and games that are bid are failing, and Geordie Lagarde looks greatly disappointed and speaks for the first time as follows:



"Why", he says, "My glass is empty" and his disappointment is so plain to see that the confidence of the Liverpool characters is somewhat shaken.

In fact Previously looks quite startled and gazes at Geordie with great respect and as they go through "Great Portland Street" down to "Notting Hill Gate" Geordie Lagarde is catching up until it is "High Street Kensington" that will decide the match and with both sides vulnerable this hand is dealt. (see top of next column).

There is plenty of bidding, in spades, and hearts, and diamonds until Geordie Lagarde is ending in 6 diamonds.

Well, after the excitement subsides, and the wagers are settled, we decide to take Geordie for a midnight drink, and there is some discussion as to where we should go, which is getting heated until Stripy says as follows:-

"It is up to Geordie" he says, and there is no dissension.

"Up to me?" asks Geordie Lagarde, and picks up a nearby hand. "One spade ..."

♠ A4  
♥ AK  
♦ J982  
♣ 109854

♠ Q9865  
♥ QJ4  
♦ 5  
♣ QJ63

♠ KJ1072  
♥ 82  
♦ 10643  
♣ K2

♠ 3  
♥ 1097653  
♦ AKQ7  
♣ A7

Previously leads a club for his side, which is taking away the outside entry for the hearts if they can be set up, and Geordie Lagarde is carefully taking his time. He wins and is cashing the 2 top hearts, then 2 top diamonds in hand, following with the 8 and 9 of diamonds in dummy. Now is a heart ruff with the diamond Jack, and after a diamond finesse he is showing his hand, indicating he is only losing a club at the end.

The Talking Head is explaining that without the unblock of the 8 and 9 of diamonds the contract is going off as the 9 of diamonds is not covered and declarer cannot get to hand for the hearts, but he explains only to himself as Stripy is leading three cheers for Geordie Lagarde, while several of the Liverpool citizens are attempting to claim a foul, as Geordie does not state a line of play.





# The Metropolitan Cup

by Roger Morton

Seven Home Counties entered this Inter-County Teams-of-Twelve tournament at the Ardingly show ground last May. I was privileged to be part of the winning Surrey 'A' division team, coming in as a last minute substitution, following the illness of one of the county 'stalwarts'. My partner Elizabeth Phillips from our Mayfield Club had told me that her late husband Dickie started this tournament many years ago when on the Surrey Committee. He would have been very proud to see the result of his endeavours in 2007! It was a fun day, played in good spirit, at an excellent venue.



The computer dealt hands seemed even wilder than usual. Try these bidding problems from our match.

1. Board 2. You are vulnerable against not.

♠ K J 10 7 4 3

♥ K J 7 4

♦ 2

♣ 9 8

Partner opens 1♣, you reply 1♠, partner bids 2♣ and you decide to sign off with 2♠. Partner now surprises you by bidding 3♦! What do you bid now?

2. Board 7. Game all

♠ 5

♥ J 10 9 8 5 3 2

♦ 4

♣ A 8 3 2

1♠ spade on your right. On your methods, jump overcalls are intermediate. Do you bid?

3. Board 18. You are not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents.

♠ A 6 2

♥ 6

♦ K 9 8 4 3

♣ A Q 6 4

As dealer, you open 1♦. It goes 1♥ heart on your left, 1♠ from partner. Right hand opponent now bids 4♥. Do you bid?

4. Board 38. You are vulnerable against not.

You are the dealer. Do you open the bidding? 2♠ spades would be weak, 6-9.

♠ J 10 9 5 4 3

♥ 7

♦ A K 7 6

♣ 5 2

## 1. Board 2

**NS Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ A92	
♥ A9832	
♦ AJ	
♣ J76	
♠ KJ10743	♠ -
♥ KJ74	♥ 106
♦ 2	♦ KQ1074
♣ 98	♣ AK10542
	♠ Q865
	♥ Q5
	♦ 98653
	♣ Q3

On board 2, where the sequence had gone 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♠ - 3♦, I took partner for a game try with something like A x or Q x spades. I accepted and bid 4 spades. Partner put down 6-5 in the minors with a spade void and we drifted 2 off un-doubled. Three no trumps was made on the fortunate diamond layout in the other room and an imperfect defence.

Have you discussed this type of sequence with your favourite partner? London opponent and my Gold Cup partner David Ould politely suggested that 2NT would surely show both minors in this sequence and three diamonds or three hearts a game try. Interesting!

## 2. Board 7

*(See layout at top of next column)*

On board 7, I made a cheeky overcall of 2♥ over the 1♠ opening, knowing that a vulnerable overcall on a five count was full of dangers. With opposition silent, partner Liz only raised me to four, fearing spade losers and a badly placed diamond king. We missed the slam but London opponent passed my hand in the other room and

they never got hearts into the auction at all.

**Game All. Dealer South.**

	♠ 10762	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ 962	
	♣ J1074	
♠ 5		♠ 943
♥ J1098532		♥ AK4
♦ 4		♦ AQJ75
♣ A832		♣ K9
	♠ AKQJ8	
	♥ 7	
	♦ K1083	
	♣ Q65	

After some barrage bidding by Surrey pair Peter Lee & Graham Osborne, London played in a part score. In other matches where my hand overcalled, some Norths supported spades making the slam much easier to bid as East could now be confident of spade shortage opposite.

## 3. Board 18

**NS vul. Dealer East.**

	♠ Q	
	♥ Q10953	
	♦ AQ1053	
	♣ 103	
♠ J109875		♠ A62
♥ A7		♥ 6
♦ J76		♦ K9842
♣ 85		♣ AQ64
	♠ K43	
	♥ KJ842	
	♦ -	
	♣ KJ972	

We got board 18 right. After 1♦ - (1♥) - 1♠ - (4♥), Liz bid a confident 4♠. The defence was not perfect and this contract came in with 5♥ made in the other room

#### 4. Board 38

**EW Vul Dealer East.**

♠ 62	
♥ J1096432	
♦ 10	
♣ 1064	
♠ -	♠ J109543
♥ AKQ	♥ 7
♦ J98432	♦ AK76
♣ AQ97	♣ 52
	♠ AKQ87
	♥ 85
	♦ Q5
	♣ KJ83

Board 38 went badly for us, however, but it could have been a lot worse. Liz in the East seat had opened 2♠, South

passed and I decided to pass, thinking we had a total misfit although 3NT would have been a much better shot. The contract went one off.

Strangely, in the other room, opponents also defended 2♠! Kent sitting East had opened a multi, and Graham Osborne for Surrey overcalled 2♠ as South. My big hand as West doubled for clarification of partner's multi and this was passed out, also for one off. Five IMPS to Kent.

No spade contracts featured in the 'Deep Finesse' analysis. With the club finesse working, seven diamonds was therefore missed in both rooms!

The competition was well organized in the splendid show grounds. There were snacks and drinks available throughout the tournament at reasonable prices, electronic scoring gave us instant updates after each stanza and the direction was efficient. Well done Sussex! And thanks to Dickie Phillips!

#### A Division Results;

##### 1st Surrey 223

Michael Wilkinson, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden & Paula Leslie	87
Peter Lee, Graham Osborne, Roger Morton & Elizabeth Phillips	76
Paul Gibbons, Jon Cooke, Nick Press & Charles Chisnall	60

##### 2nd London 206

Nick Wilson, Elizabeth Wright, Rob Cliffe & Ian Payn	88
Ursula Harper, Martin Hoffman, Nigel Freake & Anne Catchpole	61
Mike Hill, David Ould, Brian McGuire & Fergal Boland	57



#### Postscript

The winners of this tournament were invited to represent the South East in the National County League Final, a new national teams-of-eight event for the champions of regional county leagues, played in three divisions in Derby in July. Surrey was unable to field a team on the date, so London was invited to play in their stead. They competed in the A division against Leicester, Northants, Dorset and Manchester. The team had an enjoyable day, but we will draw a discreet veil over the results (they didn't shine!)

# Congratulations ....

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

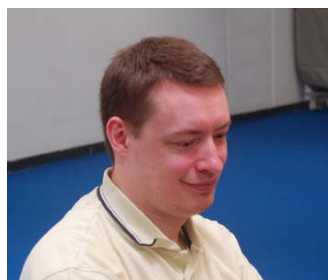


Many congratulations to Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski who came second in the European Open Pairs Championship in Antalya in June – a terrific achievement. They are shown in the picture with their silver medals. Also doing well in this event were David Bakhshi, who was 11<sup>th</sup>, and David Gold and Tom Townsend who were 21<sup>st</sup>.

Nick and Artur also won bronze medals along with Janet de Botton (and Nevena Senior) in the European Mixed Teams Championship also in Antalya. The team is on the left of this picture, with the other bronze medallists. Nick completed a fantastically successful tournament by coming 14<sup>th</sup> in the Mixed Pairs final with Nevena.



Congratulations to Nicola Mcdougall, Laura Mcdougall and Alice Kaye, all members of the England Girls team in the Junior European Championships also held this summer. The team finished in a very respectable 8<sup>th</sup> place.



*Tom Townsend (above)  
and David Gold (below)*



Many congratulations to Tom Townsend, David Gold and Gunnar Hallberg for finishing second after the first two weekends of the English trials and to Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski for finishing fourth. The Townsend team went on to beat the Sandqvist team in the semi-final knock out stage to select the English team for the 2008 European Championships and will face John Armstrong's team in the final. The players have also been selected to represent England in the Camrose match versus Northern Ireland in January 2008.

Well done to all those who did well in Brighton at the Summer Congress – Andy Bowles came third in the main Swiss Pairs (with John Howard), with Artur Malinowski and David Herman in fourth place. Midweek, Sarah Dunn and David Ewart won the “Play with the experts” Pairs, Gunnar Hallberg won the Mixed Pairs and Anne Catchpole won the Mixed Pivot Teams.

At the second weekend, in the Four Stars A final Rob Cliffe was second, Michael Gold was fourth, and Gunnar Hallberg, Alex Hydes, Alan & Olivia Woo were 7<sup>th</sup>. In



*David Burn and team winning the Four Stars B final*

the Four Stars B final David Burn won, with David Bakhshi in second place and Nigel Freake, Anne Catchpole, Stefanie Rohan and Paul Lamford in 8<sup>th</sup> place. In the Swiss Teams Espen Erichsen & Nick Irens were 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the team of Mark & Bernard Teltscher, Tom Townsend & David Gold were 5<sup>th</sup>.

Well done from the Guernsey Congress to Jan Svendsen who won the Swiss Teams, Mike Fletcher who won the Pivot Teams and Alan and Olivia Woo who were third in the Multiple Teams. In the Surrey September one-day events, Geoffrey Lederman was second equal in the Swiss Pairs and Sarah Dunn, David Gold and Dom Goodwin were equal third in the A flight Swiss Teams.



*Mike Fletcher (at rear) with teammates in Guernsey*



In the Riviera Congress Dave Muller won the Swiss Pairs – see photo to left

At the summer Seniors Congress in the Swiss Pairs Ursula Harper and Martin Hoffman were second and Neil & Christine Tomkin were equal 4<sup>th</sup>; and in the Championship Pairs A final, Philip Watson & Chris Wright were 4<sup>th</sup>.

At the Autumn Congress, David Gold & Sarah Dunn were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Satellite Pairs final & Helen & Espen Erichsen were equal 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Swiss Pairs. David Gold, Sarah Dunn & David Ewart were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Burlington Cup.



## Puzzle solution

(see page 23)



2	3	6	1	7	4	9	8	5
8	7	9	5	4	6	1	2	3
4	1	8	6	5	3	2	9	7
5	9	2	3	1	7	8	4	6
3	2	4	7	8	9	6	5	1
9	6	7	4	2	1	5	3	8
6	5	1	9	3	8	4	7	2
7	4	5	8	6	2	3	1	9
1	8	3	2	9	5	7	6	4

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## Veronica Thicke explains it all for you

*Veronica Thicke, quondam Muse to the Fitzrovia Set (she was very young), again sets out to ease your path through the maze that is Bridge in the Noughties.*



Dear readers, what can I write to make it better for you? Nothing, I fear. I have let you down most grievously, and although it isn't my fault, it is my responsibility. I got as far as the up escalator in Angel Station this time. All I had to do to get to Woodberry Bridge Club was to come out of the station, cross the road, and there I was. Simple, you'd have thought, but no. Titus ap Llewelyn, my partner for the evening was standing beside me, quite oblivious to the seething commuters whose path he was blocking.

"Well," he said "Thank God we're nearly there. I'm gasping for a pint."

I told him he was going to be unlucky. We'd cut it a bit fine (something to do with Titus having to watch Home and

Away) so we didn't have time to go to the pub.

"We'll just have to see whether there's anything worth drinking in the bar, look you, won't we?"

It is at this point that I must take some of the blame. I should have predicted what the reaction would be, but I was busy fishing in my handbag for my Balmain Oyster Card Holder. Distracted, I told him there was no bar. Which was the last I saw of him. Not waiting until we reached street level, he turned around and barged his way down the up escalator, scattering commuters, pensioners and pregnant women as he did so. Sorry again, Woodberry. One day, I swear. One day I'll make it.

Back to the postbag...

*Dear Mrs. Thicke* (writes the very polite GE of Lewisham), *can you settle an argument for me? What would you open, third in hand non-vulnerable, with ♠Q 10 8 5 2 ♥J 6 3 ♦A J 6 ♣K 5?*

I assume, GE, that your partner and you are divided as to whether to open One Spade or a Weak No Trump (pass in third position is unlikely to prove to be a winning action). This is something I cannot resolve for you – it's a matter of taste, not being "right" or "wrong". Personally I always think that if you have a hand where you can open One No Trump you should do so, for several reasons. Firstly, you limit your hand right away. Secondly, it's important to occupy the One No Trump slot for your side if this is where the hand should be played by either side. I can quite sympathise with One Spade on this hand – the suit is just about re-biddable, but my tip is to widen the range of the One No Trump response by a passed hand to include ropey-looking ten counts. This will narrow the scope for disaster, which is very important, most points being won or lost not by brilliancy but by steadiness.

*Dear Veronica, I am interested in progressing at Bridge. I feel that the Open Game is beyond me, and besides, half the men have BO* (only half? – Ed.). *Is there a way that I can meet people of a similar mindset who wish to make their mark in the more genteel world of Ladies' Bridge?* – FL, Park Royal.

We'll, FL, if you think the world of Ladies' Bridge is genteel then you're barking up the wrong tree. Still, I suppose there's something to be said for passing one's bridge playing days

in the more civilised company of the fairer sex. Quite apart from the BO, halitosis and bad dress sense, even the most mediocre male bridge player can be aggressive and over-bearing. It just so happens that a group dedicated to furthering participation in Ladies' Bridge (they might call it Women's Bridge, now that I come to think of it) has recently been formed with a view to not only improving play, but also honing networking skills. The inaugural meeting was held in October at the Young Chelsea club in Earl's Court, and was most popular. Doubtless the estimable manager of the club will be able to tell you details of any forthcoming meetings (although the event is not arranged by the club, they merely provide facilities and premises). *(Alternatively, contact the organiser, Nicole Cook, at [nicole.cook@sky.com](mailto:nicole.cook@sky.com) – Ed)* I assume, by the way, that you are a lady, FL. In my opinion for a man to turn up to an event or seminar aimed at Ladies would be ill-advised.

Now, here's a poser. TP of Catford wants to know *who are the best bridge players in London?*

This is a very good question, and the answer changes about every five minutes. This enquiry arrived shortly after the last issue of this magazine went to press, so I've had a lot of time to think about it, but it hasn't been easy, and my list may well have been different had I typed this column this week or next week.

Top of the tree is Andrew Robson. He doesn't play for London, but since he has a club here I think we can claim him. One of the two top players in the country, *sans doute*.

The rest come in no particular order.

David Gold and Tom Townsend are mere striplings, but their strength and experience is immeasurable. The sum is greater than the parts, truly.

Slipping in is David Burn, not only for his own considerable skill, but also for his ability to bring the best out of any partner he chooses to play with.

Then there are the imports, Halberg, Sandqvist, Erichsen and Malinowski. How lucky we are to have them resident in the capital.

Then I would include David Bakhshi and Colin Simpson. No David Price, as he's moved to Suffolk, otherwise he'd be in as well.

No Ladies so far? Well, Heather Dhondy pledges her allegiance to Middlesex, but I think we can claim Nicola Smith, can't we? Are our dear editress and Janet de Botton not contenders? Modesty forbids that I mention that my own prowess leaves a lot of those listed on this page gasping with envy.

And there's Brian Callaghan, Phil King, Richard Fleet, Rob Cliffe, Robert Sheehan, Alan Woo, Paul Lamford and Uncle Tom Cobbley and all.

Seems to me, TP, that London leaves all other counties standing when it comes to in depth strength. There are dozens of other players I could mention that could make up a second rank of considerable quality. My point, probably, is that we are the strongest county in the country, by far. Remember this next time you're representing your county, at any level. If anyone asks where you come from, picture those listed above, and say to yourself "I'm with them".

*In the meantime, this magazine should reach you just as the festive season gets under way. May Mr. Thicke, the feckless Titus and I take this opportunity to raise a glass to you and yours and toast your very good health. Not that raising a glass is much of a novelty for Titus, of course...*



**All of the London committee and organisers would like to take this opportunity to wish all London members a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**



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