

*London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association*



# *MetroNews*

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Winter 2008

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# Words from the Editor

As I am sure you know by now, at a meeting in the summer the principle of Pay to Play was approved by the EBU shareholders. In the end, London exercised its three votes by voting one for and one against, with one abstention.

“What a cop-out!” do I hear you cry? Not at all. Your committee conferred, consulted and debated at length before deciding that to vote this way would most accurately reflect the views of London clubs and members. It was not an easy decision, but it was an honest one.



Now we know the direction we are going, it is all hands to the deck to make P2P work. The EBU Board has set up two new bodies to help with this – a project board known as BUMP, the Universal Membership Project Board, to drive forward the implementation of the scheme, and a new standing Club Committee. This will help develop new and better services for members and will be consulted in all those aspects of the EBU's activities which involve clubs – particularly the implementation of Pay to Play but also other issues such as any proposed revisions to regulations regarding announcing and alerting.

The Club Committee has members representing all geographical areas of England and Margaret Eddlestone from Hertfordshire is representing the South East – she is also a member of BUMP. Margaret will be helped, however, by Sefanie Rohan, a member of the LMBA Committee, who will specifically represent London and Middlesex. Please see the letter below from Stefanie which outlines the sorts of issues she will be dealing with on our behalf.

In London, one of the things we have to tackle is deciding how we will bring in the income we need to function effectively. At present, the £22 subscription you pay comprises £17 for the EBU and £5 for the county. The new 29p P2P figure announced by the EBU will only recoup their element of the subscription, so most counties will add a further few pence to recover their subscription fees. The likely figure will be around 8p or 9p in London, though this has not yet been finally decided. But because of the particular London demographics, we are not sure that this will actually be enough to bring in the same income as under the current scheme, so we are looking at ways in which we might also save costs.

Our largest expenditure is on production of the two issues of *MetroNews* and the Competition Brochure each year. We are hoping to be able to combine these in future and also looking to reduce costs by sending the publications out in electronic form for those who would be willing to receive them this way. We will be contacting individuals directly about this soon – please consider helping us by agreeing to this form of circulation if you possibly can.

Finally, is it just coincidence that your editor, and all the people mentioned in this editorial are all women? Maybe not, as the EBU has just elected a new Chairman – the first woman in its history to take on this role. Sally Bugden is a regular club player from Sussex with a seemingly unlimited amount of energy and enthusiasm for the task of bringing change to the EBU. If it doesn't all happen according to plan, it certainly won't be due to any lack of effort on her part!

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Dear London members

I am the London liaison for the new EBU Club Committee. It is my job to find out what the EBU can do for you. I would like to hear from club committees as to whether you are interested in any of the services that the EBU have offered to clubs.



- i.e.
- a Scoring program
  - b Computer deals and hand records
  - c Web site hosting
  - d Access to online club committee forum
  - e Exclusive online club night once a week
  - f Club directors' handbook
  - g Club managers' handbook

The EBU can also offer reduced-price insurance for clubs, and as you probably know, have begun an electronic newsletter for clubs and players.

Another thing that the Club Committee is going to consult with clubs on is certain changes to the EBU regulations. At present a change to the alerting rules is being considered. Apparently there is confusion about the new rules, and the main change being considered is that neither penalty nor takeout doubles shall be alerted. Please try to find out whether or not your members would find this a good thing.

I will be getting in contact with all of the club secretaries, and would appreciate it if members and committees would give these matters some thought in the meantime. And of course, let me know if you have any ideas on how the EBU can be more helpful and supportive of your club.

Stefanie Rohan ([stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk](mailto:stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk))

## Coming Soon!

The first two events of 2009 will be the two Championship events – the Ian Gardiner Trophy qualifier for the London Teams of Four and the London Championship Pairs:

### 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 11<sup>th</sup> January**, starting at **11.30 am**.

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 winning team from the final will play for London in the Pachabo on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2009, in Hinckley.

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.

Please note the early start time. This, 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.

### London Championship Pairs

This is a one-day, two-session pairs event to be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</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 at [gelohnake@waitrose.com](mailto:gelohnake@waitrose.com) or 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 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Last year, David Gold and Susanna Gross only managed second in the London event, but went on to win the Corwen itself, bringing the Trophy to London for the first time for many years – as shown in the picture below.



## Palmer Bayer Trophy

This restricted-system pairs competition will be held on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</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, 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.

## Green Pointed Swiss Weekend

This season's Joint Venture Swiss event will be held over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The venue, as last year, 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 14<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 15<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 £45 per pair in the Swiss Pairs and £90 per team in the Swiss Teams. An entry form is enclosed with this newsletter and any enquiries may be made to Chris Duckworth on 020 7385 3534.

## Fox Shammon Trophy



This popular Seniors Pairs competition will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, as usual at the Queen's Club in Baron's Court, where participants are welcome to take lunch before the 2.00pm start. The entry fee is just £20 per pair and advanced entry is recommended for this competition. Entries should be made to Steve Eginton at [steve@eginton.co.uk](mailto:steve@eginton.co.uk).

Could you be the ones to win the trophy from last year's holders, LMBA President Bernard Teltscher and his partner, Victor Silverstone?

# Treble Top - 2008 Lederer

by Paul Lamford

A month before this year's Lederer Memorial Trophy, some of the Norwegian team who won the Bermuda Bowl and European Championships were scheduled to play in this year's competition with Zia, but sadly Brogeland and Lundqvist had to withdraw. A junior team including a pair that won the silver medal in Beijing stepped in to the breach, and they benefited enormously from the experience, although they found it tough going.

There was plenty of quality remaining, despite the absence of Zia, including Townsend and Gold, the best English pair in Beijing. The event had one of its most exciting last sessions, as the runaway Saturday leaders, the double winners of Allfrey, Robson, Forrester and Bakhshi, were bidding for what we think might be a unique treble of The Lederer, Crockfords and Gold Cup (readers with old copies of bridge magazines are invited to confirm this). They were being challenged by a charging Irish team.



*Ed Jones, a member of the silver-medal-winning England Under-21 team in Beijing*

With Zia not playing, the ubiquitous Simpson and Silverstone had a chance to equal his record of seven wins, but heavy losses by England and the President's team in early rounds put paid to that hope. After four rounds, the Allfrey team had a seemingly insurmountable lead, but they suffered a heavy loss to Ireland on Sunday morning, and the event was wide open again.

## Grand Finale

By the last round, the gap between the leaders and the chasing pair of England and Ireland (who played each other in the last round) had closed, and the early exchanges between the Gold Cup Winners and Holders were roughly level. Come the last board, and the Vugraph audience knew that Forrester and Bakhshi just had to bid a relatively simple small slam to win the event ... but the players did not know that would be enough, and there was another possible twist to the tale.

### **NS game. Dealer East**

♠	AJ83	
♥	854	
♦	QJ4	
♣	J92	
♠	—	♠ 1076
♥	Q105	♥ J732
♦	8653	♦ 107
♣	AQ10643	♣ K875
	♠ KQ9542	
	♥ AK9	
	♦ AK92	
	♣ —	

West	North	East	South
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♣	Dble	Rdble
5♣	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

The key to the hand was Bakhshi's 3♦, showing his second suit, which made Forrester's hand much better. He had nothing wasted in clubs, and a fourth trump which he had not promised. When Bakhshi made a grand-slam try with 6♣, he was pleased to co-operate, and chose 6♥ as he did not want to play in diamonds. When Bakhshi indicated, completely in tempo, that he was not worth any more himself, Forrester re-evaluated the ♦QJx and bid the grand. Interestingly, Gunnar could, and probably would, have sacrificed in 7♣ if Forrester had passed, and that would have won the board, and the event for Ireland on a split tie, winning the point-a-board, and winning 12 IMPs instead of losing 12 IMPs, a gigantic swing in VPs.

### The Telltale Two

1NT is the contract for the connoisseur, and Ian Pagan (pictured left) justly won the best-played hand for an unusual but well-thought-out play in his part score:



### Love All. Dealer East

	♠ J9	
	♥ KJ8	
	♦ Q1065	
	♣ A1062	
♠ 1052		♠ AQ6
♥ A92		♥ 765
♦ AJ92		♦ K873
♣ 985		♣ KQJ
	♠ K8743	
	♥ Q1043	
	♦ 4	
	♣ 743	

West	North	East	South
<i>Pagan</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Priday</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

It looked like West would go down in 1NT on a club lead here, as the textbook play in diamonds, finessing the jack on the first round, only makes six tricks. However, Ian Pagan looked more deeply into the position on the normal two of clubs lead, won in dummy. North had led a broken club suit, and a four-card one at that, on an auction that called for a major, or so he surmised. Surely, therefore, North was either 3-3-3-4 or had four diamonds? He backed his judgement by playing a diamond to the ace and running the jack of diamonds. A deserved swing as East opened a strong NT in the other room (all members of the Presidents team are too old to play anything other than a 15-17 NT, but I might have downgraded that East hand) and West bid the no-play game.

### Escape from Alcatraz

The Alcatraz Coup is a term in bridge for a deceptive but illegal play by which declarer exploits a loophole (now blocked) in the revoke law. It is named

after the island in San Francisco Bay which was a prison until 1963 and was known as The Rock. No illegal subterfuge took place on the following hand but Townsend and Gold did break a seemingly unbreakable contract. Deep Finesse or any self-respecting double-dummy program would have made 5♥. How on earth could anyone break 4♥?

♠ 9865  
♥ K963  
♦ 10983  
♣ 7

♠ 104	♠ J32
♥ J5	♥ 107
♦ Q5	♦ A7642
♣ AKJ10842	♣ 953
♠ AKQ7	
♥ AQ842	
♦ KJ	
♣ Q6	

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Dhondy	Gold	Pagan
3♣	Pass	4♣	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Townsend's 3♣ pre-empt looks a bit heavy, but could be quite good, as they play 2♠ to show a bad preempt in any suit. Nonetheless, Gold was desperate for tricks against the heart game and tried the four of diamonds. Declarer got those wrong, putting in the jack, and Townsend won and cashed the king of clubs, asking for reverse count, which Gold showed with the nine, although Tom would have been pretty sure his partner had three clubs from the auction.

Townsend went back to diamonds, and East won with the ace and continued to conceal the deuce by playing back the



*David Gold and Tom Townsend receiving the award for best defended hand from LMBA Chairman Mike Hill*

six of diamonds, consistent with an original four-card holding. Poor Jeremy guessed wrong to ruff with the eight of trumps, playing West for three diamonds (or any heart holding without an honour), rather than the less likely 2-2 lie of the trumps. One down.

At the other table there was more in the way of conventional bidding:

West	North	East	South
Rees	Liggins	Kurbalija	Crouch
1♣*	Pass	1♠*	2♦*
2NT*	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♠ showed diamonds, 2♦ in the Crouch Natural System was takeout of diamonds, and 2NT was a good or bad 3♣ bid. East led a mundane club and very soon Liggins wrapped up 11 tricks, playing the person who bid diamonds, or rather who claimed that he had them, to have the ace.

♣♦♥♠

The final scores are shown at the top of the next page:



LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY 2008											
	vs team:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	RANK
1	<b>GOLD CUP</b>		16	48	41	40	42	42	48	277	1
2	<b>IRELAND</b>	44		36	40	49	18	26	48	261	2
3	<b>ENGLAND</b>	12	24		34	38	46	54	41	249	3
4	<b>HOLDERS</b>	19	20	26		27	39	38	37	206	4
5	<b>SCHAPIRO SPRING 4S</b>	20	11	22	33		31	37	38	192	5
6	<b>YC CHAMPIONS</b>	18	42	14	21	29		18	44	186	6
7	<b>PRESIDENT'S TEAM</b>	18	34	6	22	23	42		25	170	7
8	<b>JUNIOR INT'NALS</b>	12	12	19	23	22	16	35		139	8

The popular 'Play with Stars' parallel event for the Teltscher Cups was held at the Andrew Robson, Roehampton and Wimbledon Bridge Clubs, and also at Sheffield although they were not officially competing. Pairs played the first 24 Lederer boards on the Saturday and then scored up as teams-of-four with the top Lederer pairs in their direction.

The North-South winners, who were unable to be present at the final, were Les and Irene Hough (teamed up with Townsend and Gold) on +29 IMPs.



*The victorious Gold Cup team – David Bakhshi, Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester*



East-West winners were Loulou van Geuns and Kate Manners (*pictured left*) teamed with Robson, Allfrey, Forrester and Bakhshi on +65 IMPs. (*Also in the picture is LMBA President Bernard Teltscher*)

Any club wanting to hold a heat of this fun event next year, or for any details of next year's event, contact Stefanie Rohan at the LMBA: [stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk](mailto:stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk).

# London Trophy Finals 208

by Michael Hill

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Royal Automobile Club once again generously provided a venue for the finals of the London Trophy, the LMBA competition for sports and social clubs. Three matches were 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 Della-Porta Plate, the competition for first round losers in the London Trophy.

The three matches were:

London Trophy final: Old St. Georges Old Boys and Girls vs. Old Actonians

Third place play-off: Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) vs. Dulwich College

Della-Porta Plate final: N.U.T. vs. IBM

The first big swing was not long in coming.

## Board 2

### NS game. Dealer East

♠ K962	
♥ A76	
♦ AQ4	
♣ K96	
♠ 1073	♠ Q84
♥ 10984	♥ 532
♦ J106	♦ 532
♣ A87	♣ Q1032
♠ AJ5	
♥ KQJ	
♦ K987	
♣ J54	

Every South opened 1NT (strong) or 1♦ (if playing a weak NT), intending to rebid 1NT and, at three tables, North signed off in 3NT after a brief exploration for a suit fit. However, in the Trophy final, both Norths felt they were worth a try of 4NT. Old Actonians' South considered his hand was an absolute minimum, so he had no hesitation in passing but Old St Georges' South produced the Blackwood response of 5♦ and North signed off in 6NT. At the sixth table, the N.U.T. South chose to rebid 2NT

instead of 1NT at her first opportunity, and North not unreasonably raised to 6NT. With the spade queen and club ace onside and both diamonds and spades breaking 3-3, the slam can be made by playing a club towards the king early on but, in practice, eleven tricks were made at every table, so Old Actonians and IBM both gained swings of 760 points.

Board 4 provided another big swing to both Old Actonians and IBM

### Game all. Dealer West.

♠ K102	
♥ 9873	
♦ 75	
♣ K765	
♠ AQ9543	♠ 7
♥ 4	♥ KJ102
♦ KQ8	♦ AJ32
♣ J102	♣ A983
♠ J86	
♥ AQ65	
♦ 10964	
♣ Q4	

Generally, East-West found their way to 3NT via a simple 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♠ – 3NT sequence, although one table found their way to 4♠ after East bid

only 2NT at her second turn and one to 5♣ after West chose to raise clubs rather than rebid spades at his second turn. Against 3NT, two Souths looked no further than fourth highest of their longest and strongest suit, hearts and this was declarer's a ninth trick when the club suit behaved. The other two Souths both chose to lead a diamond (one the 10, one the 4) and this gave the defence a chance, albeit taken at only one of the two tables. On the ♦4 lead, Cecil Leighton for Old St Georges won in ♦8 in dummy and immediately ran the ♣J to South's queen. South exited with another diamond and the ♣10 was led from dummy and covered by the king (correctly, in case South's doubleton club was Q8 or Q9). Declarer now took his best chance of making the contract by playing a spade to the queen but North won and led a heart to the jack and queen and South exited with a diamond. This effectively severed declarer's communications. If he won in dummy to cash the ♠A before taking his minor suit winners, he would concede the last two tricks to the ♥A and ♠J; if he overtook the diamond to cash his minor suit winners (as he did), he was cut off from the ♠A and would concede two of the last three tricks in hearts. With the club and spade games having no play, this hand generated a game swing (700 or 800 points) in all three matches. Old Actonians and IBM moved further ahead, whilst DCSF gained their first real advantage.

Board 5 provided another game swing for no particular reason to each of the three leading teams and then came Board 6, showing huge differences in

hand valuation, albeit helped a little by opposition bidding.

**EW game. Dealer East.**

♠ 84	♠ 632
♥ J5	♥ A942
♦ K10754	♦ 9
♣ 10763	♣ Q9854
♠ AQJ975	♠ K10
♥ KQ87	♥ 1063
♦ J2	♦ AQ863
♣ A	♣ KJ2

At five of the tables, South opened 1NT and, at two tables, West simply overcalled 2♠ and that ended the auction. At the other three, West doubled and North rescued to 2♦. Twice this was passed back to West who bid 2♠, once ending the auction and once leading to game when East raised to 3♠. At the third of these tables, East chose to bid 2♥ over North's 2♦ and this led to the heart game. At the sixth table, where a strong no trump was in use, South opened 1♦ and North raised pre-emptively to 3♦ over West's double. East bid 3♥ and, confident of diamond shortage opposite, West bid the slam. Twelve tricks were made at every table, leading to the bizarre results of a flat board in 4♥/♠+2 in the Trophy final, a flat board in 2♠+4 in the Plate final but a massive swing of 1200 points to DCSF in the play off for 6♥, making, against 2♠+4! Not a good hand for the strong no trump.

Old St Georges got 500 points back on Board 7 when the Old Actonians' South mislaid an ace in his hand and

opened a 17-count with a weak 1NT, so missing a straightforward game. Then they got another 550 points back on the next board when Old Actonians over-stretched to a hopeless slam. Meanwhile, IBM also registered significant swings on these two boards to go even further ahead in the Plate.

There was another 450 points back for Old St Georges on Board 11. Their pair bid, perhaps slightly luckily, to the cold 6♦ when West opened a weak 1NT and East forced in diamonds on five to the queen, albeit in a strong hand. At the other five tables, the bidding was simply 1NT – 3NT.

Board 12 was a rather dull part-score so, at half time, Old Actonians led by 950 points in the Trophy final, DCSF. by 2930 points in the play-off and IBM by 3170 points in the Plate. Everything to play for in the Trophy final, but something of a mountain to climb for Dulwich College and NUT in the play-off and the Plate.

The second half started quietly with a solid game bid at every table, but the peace was to be rudely shattered on the next board.

### Board 14

*Love all. Dealer East.*

	♠ K		
	♥ AK1097		
	♦ J952		
	♣ J108		
♠ QJ5		♠ 843	
♥ –		♥ QJ863	
♦ AQ8743		♦ K10	
♣ 9754		♣ AQ6	
	♠ A109762		
	♥ 542		
	♦ 6		
	♣ K32		

Only one East chose to open 1NT in modern style, the rest choosing 1♥. The 1NT opening was by the Dulwich College East, in the play-off, and West chose to remove to 2♦. This perhaps encouraged the DCSF. North to compete with 2♥, which South raised to 3♥. There was no defence to this and, when the DCSF. East-West at the other table made eight tricks in 1NT (after the simple auction 1H – 1NT), they had gained a swing of 260 points. In the Plate, the IBM West also played in 1NT after the same auction, albeit making nine tricks but, at the other table, there was rather more bidding. South found an overcall of 1♠ (why not?) and West decided he was worth 2♦. East perforce rebid her hearts and West now pushed the boat out with 3♣. East showed preference with 3♦ and West gave the boat a further shove with 4♦, which ended the auction. He managed to salvage eight tricks but that still gave DCSF a swing of 240 points. The real excitement occurred in the Trophy final. When Old St Georges sat East-West, the final contract was 2♥ after a simple 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥ auction, and it drifted quietly three-off after South led his singleton diamond. The auction was similar at the other table except that South put in a 1♠ overcall and this allowed (encouraged?) North to double the final 2♥ contract. South led the ♠A, crashing her partner's king, and switched to her singleton diamond. Declarer won in hand and exited with a small heart. After a diamond ruff and a spade ruff, North switched to the ♣J and declarer erred by covering with the queen. South won the ♣K and returned the suit, setting up a second defensive club trick. Declarer won with the ace

and again exited with a heart, and North cashed the ♣J and exited with a diamond. It didn't matter whether declarer ruffed this or ran it to dummy, discarding his spade. He had a trump more, so could not avoid letting North make both his remaining trumps. This was four down, and a score of 800 for a net swing of 650 points. The match was getting close!

The zigzag in the Trophy final continued. Old St Georges missed a straightforward game on Board 15, then compensated by bidding a slam missed by their opponents on the next board. NUT were the only other pair to bid that slam, so pulling back 500 points of IBM's lead. Their fight-back continued on the next board when IBM missed a game bid at every other table, but Nemesis was lurking. This was Board 18.

**NS game. Dealer East.**

♠ K9763	
♥ J63	
♦ 952	
♣ 104	
♠ 852	♠ AQJ10
♥ 10975	♥ 4
♦ J1086	♦ AK
♣ KQ	♣ A98632
♠ 4	
♥ AKQ82	
♦ Q743	
♣ J75	

At every table, East opened 1♣, South overcalled 1♥ and this was passed back to East. Old Actonians' East re-opened with a jump to 2♠, which brought a raise to 3♠ from West. East showed the extra length with 4♣ and West raised to game. Old St Georges East considered the hand worth only a 1♠ rebid, eliciting preference to 2♣

from his partner. He now made a try with 2♥ but, over the 2NT reply, bid 3♣ and played there. There was little to the play, declarer losing just a heart and a spade at both tables – but that was still a swing of 250 points to Old Actonians. In the play-off, the Dulwich College East re-opened with 3♣ and played there. When he collected eleven tricks, he may have envisaged losing on the board but, after the DCSF. East re-opened with 1♠, his team-mate with the South hand tried 2♥. This again was passed back to East whose 3♣ ended the auction. However, in the play, he tried the greedy line of two spade finesses when in dummy with the top trumps, duly sustained a ruff and was held to ten tricks, for a surprising swing of 20 points to Dulwich College. North-South were even more aggressive in the Plate final. After the NUT East re-opened with 1♠, IBM's South tried 2♦ and North gave preference to 2♥, ending the auction. This drifted quietly two off but did nothing to prepare anyone for what happened at the other Plate table. There, East re-opened with 3♣ but South was still there with an adventurous 3♥ (well, her team were losing quite heavily and she needed something good to happen). North raised to 4♥ and, not entirely surprisingly, East found a double. When the smoke cleared, South had collected just six tricks and conceded a net swing of 1000 points to IBM. Nemesis indeed.

The next few boards were relatively flat, although DCSF. continued to pick up a few swings and, after 22 boards, there was no way back for NUT or Dulwich College, but the Trophy final was still too close to call. Old

Actonians were in the lead by just 210 points. Board 23 was to settle the matter.

**Game all. Dealer South.**

♠ 1098543	
♥ 104	
♦ 8	
♣ J972	
♠ AK	♠ J76
♥ AJ96	♥ K73
♦ Q10953	♦ AKJ42
♣ K3	♣ Q10
	♠ Q2
	♥ Q852
	♦ 76
	♣ A8654

At both tables, West opened 1♦ and was raised to 3NT. Old Actonians' West, perhaps wary of his weak diamond suit, was content with that but

Old St Georges' West jumped to 6NT. Against the slam, South led the ♣A and continued the suit. Cecil Leighton, as declarer, made no mistake. He won the ♣K, cashed his diamond winners and the AK of spades before crossing to the HK and cashing the ♠J. In the two-card ending, everyone held only hearts, so there was no alternative to the simple (and successful) finesse. That slam swing was enough to put Old St Georges into the lead for the first time in the match and, with the last board a routine game, they had won the Trophy for the second time in three years.

It was perhaps appropriate that Cecil Leighton should again be part of the team winning an event which he has run since its inception thirty years ago.

**Results**

Trophy: Old St Georges Old Boys and Girls beat Old Actonians by 540 points  
 Third place play-off: DCSF beat Dulwich College by 6000 points  
 Plate: IBM beat NUT by 3940 points

*Since pictures of the main winners have been widely published already, here's one of the Play-Off winners – DCSF. The team members are (l to r) Adam Humphreys, Mike McHugh, Rolf Alexander, Vic Morrish*



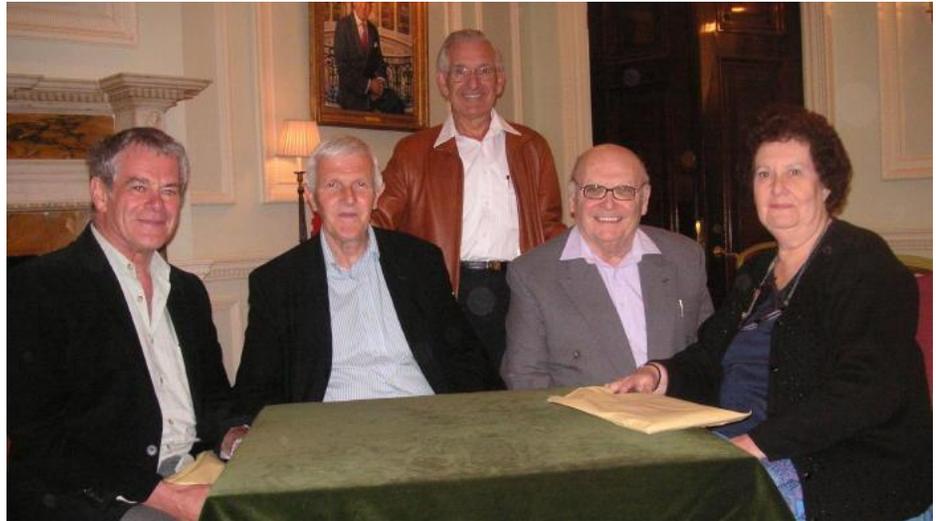
# Latest LMBA results

## London Trophy

The final of the London Trophy was played after the print-date of the last issue of MetroNews, but the results are given in the preceding article.

## London Trophy Pairs Championship

A new competition was introduced last season, open to pairs from all teams who entered the London Trophy and won at least one match in either the Trophy itself or the Della Porta Plate. It attracted a good entry of 20 pairs and the winners were Jeff Gill and Peter Jones from the Home Office with the runners-up being Myrna Woolf and Monty Krimgoltz representing Oxford & St Georges Old Boys & Girls Club.



The picture shows the two leading pairs with organiser Cecil Leighton.

## London League

This year seven teams competed in the London League Division 1, which was won by the Young Chelsea 1 team captained by Brian Callaghan, who were 8 points clear of Ian Swanson's New Direction Finance team in second place. The YC1 team won the League in 2003 and 2004 but had been through a few lean years since then, so were pleased to be back on top.

In Division 2, six teams battled it out, and the final winners were YC2, captained by Simon Cearns, a big 12 points ahead of YC4, led by Chris Goodchild. (The YC3 and YC5 teams, by the way, played in Division 1 – just the way it has worked out over the years!)

Division 3 comprised five teams and the runaway winners were the Monday Club B team, captained by James Smith, whose score was almost double that of the runners up, Susie Berhmann's Monday Club A.

Finally, a further six teams competed in the Newcomer's League. Convincing winners were August Blue, led by Mark Davies, ahead of Concentric, captained by Mike Taylor.

## Mixed Pairs Championship

There was a big increase in the entry to the Mixed Pairs this year, with a total of 38 pairs competing. The event was won by Ursula Harper and Martin Hoffman, with Helen and Espen Erichsen in second place, Carol Regulski and Justin Wickens third and Susanna Gross and David Gold fourth.

This was Martin and Ursula's second time of taking this trophy – they also won in 2005.

## Champions Cup

Seven teams competed for the Champions Cup in October. The first two positions were in no doubt, with the winners scoring +127 MPs and the runners-up scoring +67 IMPs – the only two teams to end with positive scores.

In first place were the Surrey team who won the Home Counties League - Tony Eastgate, Bob James, Penny Macleod and Richard Currie, whilst second were the London League winners - Rob Cliffe, Nick Boss, Brian Callaghan and Michael Ranis.

## Puzzle Corner

*This issue we return to a logic puzzle to see you through the Christmas break. Can you work out who holds what on this deal, bearing in mind that in this puzzle tens are not considered to be honour cards? When you are stuck, the solution is on page 30.*



No player has a longer than 5-card suit and among the four hands there are two voids and one singleton, which is not a singleton honour.

North has the same number of diamonds as clubs in his hand, East has the same number of spades as clubs, West has equal numbers of hearts and spades and South has equal numbers of diamonds and hearts.

Using the usual 4-3-2-1 scale, West has the highest number of HCP, two more than East, an odd number. One player has both black aces, another has both black queens and a third has two kings, but no-one has both king and queen of any suit. The ace and king of hearts are together in one hand, the ace and king of diamonds are together in another and the ace and king of spades together in a third hand.

East has three diamond honours, South has no black ones, West has no clubs that are not honours. North has three times as many red honour cards as black ones, whilst South's black cards number one more than his red ones. West has twice as many black honours as red ones, but East has an equal number of red and black honours.

# A Tale of Two Fish

by Paul Lamford

Sometimes a defender finds a play that makes one suspicious that he or she has seen the hand before. Maybe they saw someone else playing if it was an online game, or they overheard something if it was a club game or congress. Such seemed the case in the next two hands, but there was an innocent explanation.



## EW Vul. Dealer East. IMPs

♠ 74	
♥ K52	
♦ AQ83	
♣ Q1032	
♠ Q96	♠ KJ1085
♥ 7	♥ A43
♦ 10762	♦ K94
♣ KJ987	♣ 54
♠ A32	
♥ QJ10986	
♦ J5	
♣ A6	

## Game all.

### Dealer South.

♠ Q8	
♥ Q109	
♦ QJ1094	
♣ AJ10	
♠ A953	♠ J64
♥ K984	♥ 73
♦ K8	♦ 7653
♣ Q93	♣ K542
♠ K1072	
♥ AJ65	
♦ A2	
♣ 876	

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

This contract succeeded throughout the room on the normal spade lead, as declarer takes an immediate diamond finesse, but at one table at Brighton, West made the very odd choice of her singleton trump. This allowed East to put a club through before the declarer had knocked out the king of diamonds, and declarer could not avoid four losers! Suspicious? Not really, once you realize that the seven of hearts is next to West's almost automatic lead of the six of spades, and that was indeed the explanation.

Another lead, on OKBridge, had me suspecting something was amiss. Now and again there have been incidents where players have seen a hand before, and the opening lead was decided fishy ...

The auction was lacking in interest, 1NT(12-14) – 3NT, but what happened next was remarkable, as West fished out the queen of clubs. Not any old club, note, but the queen, which prevents declarer ducking the first club successfully. I struggled as South, but I had to lose two clubs, a spade and two red kings, as East was good enough to duck the second club. So why did West choose this lead, particularly as the auction had suggested a major-suit lead might be called for? I politely asked her, and she confessed that she had gone to make coffee and her seven-year-old son had stood in briefly for her until she returned. "It's your lead, Mum!" he shouted. "I'll be right there, she replied, "lead something for me." And he did, with deadly effect.



# London News

## LMBA Officials

Some changes were made to the LMBA Committee at the AGM in the summer. Mike Hill and Chris Duckworth are still Chairman and Secretary respectively, but Marijke van Beesten joined the committee and took on the office of Treasurer. Marijke is not at all new to London, as she has done stints on the committee before, but in recent years she has done a lot of travelling and has not been playing so much bridge.



The other new member of the committee in the summer was Paul Lamford, who quickly became involved in organisation of the Lederer and the associated “Play with the Stars” event this year – you can read his article about these competitions on pages 7-10 of this issue of *MetroNews*.

Another LMBA change has recently been made. For many years our Tollemache selector has been Brian Callaghan, whose successful reign covered the period when London won this prestigious inter-county event a record four times in a row. Brian has now bowed out and Tom Townsend has taken over from him.

This year’s **Tollemache team** has been selected and are as follows: Ian Payn & Rob Cliffe, Gordon Rainsford & Paul Martin, Nick Boss & Richard Johnson, Michael Ranis & Roger Mapp, and Tom Townsend & Alex Hydes. By the time you read this you will know how they have done in the qualifying event over the last weekend in November.

## EBU Officials

This autumn, London also extended its influence on the various EBU Committees. Mike Hill was re-elected to the EBU Board and as EBU Treasurer and Steve Eginton was re-elected to the Selection Committee along with three other new London members – namely David Burn, Tom Townsend and Simon Cochemé. As mentioned elsewhere, we also have Stefanie Rohan working with the Club Committee as London representative, although in a non-committee role. And Chris Duckworth is a member of the Youth Committee, a sub-committee of the EBU Board.

## TV Career

The eagle-eyed amongst you who enjoy quiz shows may have spotted a familiar face on your television screens recently. Ian Payn, London county player and Chairman of the Young Chelsea BC, was a contestant on *MasterMind* last September and appeared again as a member of the EBU team on *Battle of the Brains*, a new early evening quiz show which was aired in the autumn.

Not content with these two appearances, he decided to follow these up by trying a few more quiz shows. Ian has so far recorded a go on *Eggheads*, on a team which also included David Burn – this is expected to be broadcast probably sometime in the spring. He has successfully auditioned for, though not yet recorded, an

appearance on Countdown; and the EBU Team (*pictured, with Ian on the left*) has been invited to return for a second series of Battle of the Brains.



Ian assures your Editor that all of this is merely a one-year project, and he has no intention of ever appearing on TV after the last of the above is broadcast. He also pointed out that his accumulated spoils to date have been zero!

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## Meet Ned Paul

*by Chris Duckworth*

Many of you will know of Ned if you read *Bridge*, the magazine published by Mr Bridge which is widely distributed to bridge enthusiasts across the country - he is a regular and controversial contributor to its pages. Or you may have met him at your first introduction to the game of bridge, since Ned is a bridge teacher who has introduced many beginners to the game. Or you may simply have come across him when playing, as Ned is now the organiser of two successful bridge clubs in London.



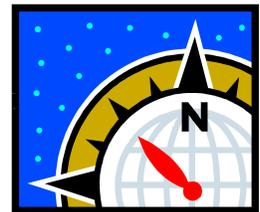
In whatever incarnation you have met him, you probably won't have forgotten him. An imposing tall figure with long greying hair neatly tied back in a pigtail and a penchant for Western-style bolo ties, Ned is not easy to miss. He has a matching strong personality with outspoken views on most matters to do with bridge – Ned has a real passion for what he does and what he believes in. And he believes strongly in bridge as a truly great game which he does all in his power to promote and bring to as many people as possible.

Ned started playing bridge at school – at lunchtimes along with other school fellows. He read a book on the subject – which instantly made him the best player in his circle – and he became enthused. When the Daily Mail held a week-long Boys and Girls Exhibition at Olympia in the late 1960s, the EBU took a stand to

demonstrate bridge to young people. It was manned by such legends of the game as Dimmie Fleming, Rhoda Barrow and Jack Marx, one of the original inventors of the Acol bidding system. When Ned turned up at the stand for the third day running, Jack Marx took him out to lunch and Dimmie Fleming gave him free tickets for the remaining days of the exhibition! Ned joined the local Blackheath Bridge Club, which at that time mainly played rubber bridge. He augmented his pocket money by regularly winning about one shilling and sixpence a week, though his progress was blighted for a time when the club organiser thought it would be a great idea to put him in partnership with a new member, a master from his school. The poor master had no great talent for bridge and it was embarrassing for everyone.

Ned gave up bridge for a while when he went to college, but started again in the mid '70s when he joined the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. He partnered John Probst, another strong personality of the game, but it was perhaps not surprising that this partnership lasted only a couple of years – as Ned put it, their combined results were considerably less than the sum of their individual talents.

Soon after, Ned forsook bridge again for his other great sporting love, that of orienteering which involves running across unfamiliar territory using a map and compass. Top orienteers are great long-distance runners and Ned was actually a better runner than navigator. He only ever ran one road marathon, but that in an impressive 2 hours 33 minutes. He met Hazelle, his wife of nearly 30 years, through orienteering and together they started up a national magazine for orienteers – *CompassSport* – which he ran as a business for nearly 19 years while Hazelle worked as a computer manager. *CompassSport* is still in publication today – see [www.compasssport.co.uk](http://www.compasssport.co.uk).



Bridge came back into Ned's life in the late 1980's, when he joined the Richmond Bridge Club, which was and is close to where he lives. He played club and some League bridge and at some point he met Andrew Robson. When Andrew took over management of the Acol Bridge Club in pre-Parsons Green days, Ned offered to help host the rubber bridge game there. This in turn led to some directing and some bridge teaching, and Ned's life had taken on a new direction once more. When he sold the Orienteering magazine in 1998 – "it had become too much like work" and needed a new full-time job he became Warwick Pitch's assistant at the Young Chelsea.

When about five years ago his job at YC came to an end due to a re-organisation, he was well-placed to continue his own free-lance bridge activities. He started running a number of informal playing and teaching groups and soon after took over running the Ruff Club in Camden. Three years ago he took on management of the Putney Bridge Club. The rest of his activities are lumped under the generic name of Aces Hi! and this network is thriving in different parts of London.

In addition to running the clubs and a number of supervised play groups, Ned has been very successful with "Learn Bridge in a Weekend" courses. These are particularly suited to busy working professionals who find it difficult to commit to

regular evening slots over a number of weeks, but are actually attended by a wide variety of different people who like this way of learning. He runs regular open courses at the Young Chelsea and also occasional dedicated courses for particular groups – clients have included the Royal Automobile Club, Dolphin Square Bridge Circle and the Hurlingham Club. These courses always culminate in a duplicate session on the Sunday afternoon in which previous students or existing club members are invited to participate – so the current students leave having played a real game of bridge against real bridge players!

Ned's driving aim is to make bridge more accessible to everyone. He loves the idea of bridge in occasional venues, and in his latest venture is about to start a group in a restaurant in Balham, which will be known as "Bridge at Harrisons". This will involve classes/supervised play on Monday mornings but a full duplicate with lunch on Tuesdays. Harrison's found Ned through his website. Check out [bridgeatharrisons.co.uk](http://bridgeatharrisons.co.uk).



Another new venture is running "Developing bridge" sessions in conjunction with the Young Chelsea BC at the club on Sunday afternoons. The aim with these will be just to let people play and develop their game whilst having a good time. This emphasis on enjoyment, rather than "getting things right", is what he believes is paramount. In his playing clubs, this same emphasis is demonstrated by the "house rules" relating to bidding, which are: "You can play any system you like, so long as the opponents know your name!"

Ned does find a little time to actually play the game in his own right – as witnessed by the fact that he is the current holder of the London Pairs Championship which he won early in the year playing with Brian McGuire. Brian and Ned also won the Leatherhead semi-final of the National Pairs and with it an impressive cup as South East England pairs champions. But he is always taking on more bridge organisational commitments – as his long-suffering and non-bridge-playing wife knows to her cost. He finds it very hard to say no, so his time is very full. He has no long-term strategy, and no exit plan, but intends to keep on doing all he can to bring people into our great game. Long may he succeed!

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## Bridge with the Sheriff

*by Mike Graham*

*For the uninitiated, the Sheriff is Mike Graham's brother. He has been known as the Sheriff for so long that the reason for this soubriquet are long forgotten – along with his real name! The brothers play most of their bridge in Essex, although Mike is also a London member and he makes occasional forays into the capital, mainly to play losing knock-out matches with your editor.*

The cricket season is over and a new bridge season is starting. During a recent knock-out match the following hand occurred (see top of next page):

**Love All. Dealer South.**

♠ K	
♥ A10842	
♦ A10984	
♣ Q4	
♠ A976	♠ Q10832
♥ K976	♥ J3
♦ KQ6	♦ J7532
♣ 96	♣ 7
♠ J54	
♥ Q5	
♦ -	
♣ AKJ108532	

The bidding at our table (Sheriff and I were East-West) was:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Dbl	Redbl	1♠	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Sheriff led the ace of spades and switched to a trump. After much thought, declarer won in dummy with the queen, cashed the ace of diamonds (discarding the heart five), ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade in dummy, ruffed a diamond back to hand, and ran the trumps. When the last trump was played this was the position:

♠ -	
♥ A10	
♦ 10	
♣ -	
♠ -	♠ Q
♥ K9	♥ J
♦ K	♦ J
♣ -	♣ -
♠ J	
♥ Q	
♦ -	
♣ 5	



Sheriff (West) discarded the ♦K, dummy the ♦10, and I threw the ♦J. Declarer then led the ♥Q, but Sheriff refused to cover, and declarer had to lose the last trick.

At the other table the contract was also 6♣, but here the lead was the ♦K. Declarer won the ace and tried to set the diamonds up, but ran out of entries and went down as well.

A pity, because, having escaped the killing trump lead, both declarers were in a position to make their contracts, courtesy of a guard squeeze. At the first table, after the trump switch, win with the queen, and ruff a low diamond. Spade ruff, diamond ruff, and run the trumps. With five cards left the position is:

♠ -	
♥ A108	
♦ A10	
♣ -	
♠ -	♠ Q
♥ K97	♥ J3
♦ KQ	♦ J7
♣ -	♣ -
♠ J	
♥ Q5	
♦ -	
♣ 108	

On the ♣10 West throws the ♥7, dummy the ♥8, and East has to throw the ♦7; any other discard is fatal. Now the ♣8 squashes West. Note the power of the two ace-ten combinations in the end-game.

♣♦♥♠

We got ridiculously lucky on this board, where the bidding was a lot better than the final contract:

**EW Game. Dealer South.**

♠ J54	
♥ AQ95	
♦ KJ86	
♣ A4	
♠ 1082	♠ Q976
♥ K108	♥ J742
♦ Q95432	♦ 7
♣ 7	♣ 10532
♠ AK3	
♥ 63	
♦ A10	
♣ KQJ986	

<b>South</b>	<b>North</b>
<i>MDG</i>	<i>Sheriff</i>
1♣	1♥
3♣	4♣
4♦	4♥
4♠	5♦
5♠	7♣

West led the ♥10 with a slightly shifty air, and I surveyed the dummy, wondering how on earth we had managed to reach such a dreadful contract. Still, it was too late to dwell on that. Various lines suggested themselves; finesse the ♥Q, then, if that held, the ♦10, and hope diamonds were 4-3 in order to discard a spade, for example. However, finessing the ♥Q at trick one seemed a big commitment, and despite a nagging feeling the other way I played the ace.

There is nothing much to do on this type of hand but run the long suit, so I drew four rounds of trumps. West threw a spade and two diamonds. Then ace and king of spades, in case the queen dropped; no luck there. Ace of diamonds and then the last two trumps. Before the last trump was played this was the position:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ Q		♥ J7
♦ KJ8		♦ 7
♣ —		♣ —
♠ —		♠ Q
♥ K		♥ J7
♦ Q95		♦ 7
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ 3	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 10	
	♣ 8	

The last trump squeezed West, who could only discard a diamond; the ♥Q was thrown from dummy. Now the ten of diamonds to the jack, and the king-eight of diamonds took the last two tricks. 6NT made at the other table, so this was a useful swing. West was shaking his head at the end, with some justification; “You lucky b\*\*\*\*r” he said. I had to agree.

♣♦♥♠

Another day, another match. Sheriff did well on this board:

**Game All. Dealer South.**

♠ 85	
♥ A6	
♦ AK974	
♣ 10863	
♠ K	♠ J97632
♥ 9853	♥ 42
♦ 105	♦ QJ82
♣ AQJ942	♣ 5
♠ AQ104	
♥ KQJ107	
♦ 63	
♣ K7	

The bidding was:



South	West	North	East
<i>Sheriff</i>		<i>MDG</i>	
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West led a trump. Sheriff followed a cunning line – he drew trumps in four rounds, observing that the 2♣ overcaller had the four trumps. On the third and fourth rounds he discarded clubs from dummy then he led a low diamond to the seven. East won and led his club. After two rounds of clubs the position was, with West on lead:

	♠ 85	
	♥ –	
	♦ AK94	
	♣ –	
♠ K		♠ J97
♥ –		♥ –
♦ 10		♦ QJ2
♣ J942		♣ –
	♠ AQ104	
	♥ 10	
	♦ 6	
	♣ –	

West fell into the trap – he played another club, perhaps thinking to force out South's last trump. A spade was discarded from dummy, and East had to throw a spade. Sheriff ruffed and played the ace-king of diamonds; no luck there, as West discarded. Down to AQ10 of spades, Sheriff led a spade from dummy (nine from East), pondered, chuckled, and went up with the ace, dropping West's king and making the last three tricks.

The defence made two errors in the end-game; in the diagram position shown West should have exited with a diamond. Sheriff could take the ace-

king for a spade discard, but even with a correct spade guess he has to lose the last trick to the jack of spades. Playing the club to force out the last trump looked easy, but effectively suicide-squeezed East.

Also, when the spade was led from dummy at trick eleven, East should have played the jack. The total hand-count was available to everybody, so East should have tried to foster the impression that he had king-jack left (if Sheriff holds the ace-king of spades then there is no hope). Sheriff said later that he would have considered that, but also that West, holding the singleton nine of spades, might have led it.

At the other table the bidding was the same and the lead was also a trump. Declarer won with the ace and led an immediate spade to the queen. When that lost to the king and West switched to a diamond, there was no recovery.

♣♦♥♠

On this hand declarer took his eye off the ball in what appeared to be an easy contract:

**Love All. Dealer West.**

	♠ K4	
	♥ J105	
	♦ AJ6	
	♣ J9852	
♠ J7		♠ 103
♥ A964		♥ K832
♦ 10432		♦ KQ98
♣ K107		♣ 643
	♠ AQ98652	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ 75	
	♣ AQ	

Once again, the bidding was the same at both tables:

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With an awkward hand to lead from, West led the jack of spades. At our table declarer won with the king in dummy and led a heart to the queen. West won with the ace and switched to the ten of diamonds, and now declarer was dead; the entry for the heart winner was about to be knocked out. So he rose with the ace and took the club finesse, but the king was offside, and that meant one down.

At the other table our team-mate was more careful; he won the spade lead in hand with the queen and advanced the queen of hearts. East won and played a club, but South rose with the ace and led another heart. The ace of diamonds and the king of spades remained in dummy to provide an entry for the established heart whatever the defence did next, and that meant ten tricks.

♣♦♥♠

I thought we had done well on this board, only to realise later that we hadn't:

♠ A74	♠ K98
♥ 7	♥ AK
♦ AK64	♦ Q109752
♣ AK854	♣ 63
1♣	1♠
3♥	4NT
5♦	5NT
6♣	7♦

One Spade showed diamonds (honest) and Three Hearts was a splinter. RKCB yielded one or four keys cards (obviously four in view of the strong splinter jump) and 5NT enabled opener to show the club king. That seemed fairly straightforward (even though the pair at the other table missed it, stopping in six), and it was not until three days later that I realised that we had been a bit lucky.

Systemically, there was no reason why opener could not have had a 4-1-4-4 shape (with this partner that would be a 1♣ opener, not 1♦), in which case, unless opener possessed one of the black queens, there would be a late spade loser. A little system change has sorted that out, so if we are still alive when this hand comes up again, we'll be ready.

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

Putney Bridge Club presents



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# Letters Page

Dear Madam Editor,

The EBU lawyers told me that the details of any bridge incident may be published, without fear of legal or physical reprisals, after 30 years have passed. I was not happy with their assurances five years ago, but now, after 35 years, they have agreed to give me a new identity under their Witness Protection Program (and allow me to keep my master point ranking).

I have therefore retrieved the following hand from the bottom of the drawer to which it was taped. I was a member of a squad that played in Division 1 of the London Business Houses League at the time. I was not present when the hand was played in February 1973, and was given the information in the strictest confidence. As a further safeguard, I have decided not to name the players involved. Three of them are now Life Masters and would not hesitate to use extreme measures to protect their reputations.

The hand was:

## EW Vul. Dealer South.

♠ AQ96	♠ –
♥ A94	♥ J652
♦ 95	♦ AKQJ87642
♣ J962	♣ –
♠ J8732	
♥ –	
♦ –	
♣ AKQ108543	
♠ K1054	
♥ KQ10873	
♦ 103	
♣ 7	

Victor Mollo was famous for constructing hands where the team-mates played in game in the same suit in both rooms. Even in his worst nightmares he could not have imagined a hand where the same team

would reach a small slam and a grand slam in the same suit. These were the bidding sequences:

Table 1; my team-mates were North-South.

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

Result: Three down for -500.

Table 2; my team-mates were East-West.

West	North	East	South
			2♥
3♥	4♥	5♦	5♥
6♥	Pass	7♦	Dbl
7♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Result: Eight down for -2300. Minus 21 IMPS on the board.

Few of the bids in either room would meet with approval by today's standards and may shock some of your younger readers, but that is how things were 35 years ago, in the days before Negative Doubles, the Rule of 19, disciplined Weak Twos and common sense.

I would like to say good-bye all my friends; you will know who I am - I'm the one who hasn't been to the club lately.

(Name and address withheld)

## Congratulations ....

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



Very many congratulations to Nick Sandqvist, Tom Townsend, David Gold and NPC Phil King, all of whom won silver for England in the recent World Mind Sports Games. The picture shows the team receiving their silver medals – from left they are Simon Cope (coach), Justin Hackett, David Gold, Nick Sandqvist, Tom Townsend, Jason Hackett and Phil King (NPC).

Well done also to Ross Harper and Peter Czerniewski who reached the last eight of the Seniors series in Beijing. London is very proud of you all.

Ross Harper (*pictured right*) was also a member of the winning England team in the inaugural Seniors Camrose along with Gunnar Hallberg. Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday and Robert Sheehan were all members of the second-placed Patron's team in the same event.



At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress Gordon Rainsford and Paul Martin were second in the Championship Pairs B final, and Sarah Dunn and David Gold were third. In the A flight Swiss Teams, Nick Irens, Nick Boss, Tommy Garvey and David Bakhshi were placed third.



In the various joint-venture one-day Swiss events over the last few months: Sarah Dunn, David Gold, David Ewart and Tom Townsend were second in the Beds Swiss Teams in May; Richard Harris won the Dorset Swiss Teams in June; David Ould was third in the Beds Swiss Teams in June; Doug Dunn was second In the Sussex Swiss teams in July; and Mike and Carrie Eden were second in the Surrey One-Day Swiss Teams in September.

At the Summer Seniors Congress in July, Tony Priday won the Pairs A final and Cecil Leighton was second, while Philip Watson & Chris Wright were second in the Swiss Pairs.

David Gold and Susanna Gross won the Corwen Trophy.



At the Brighton Summer Congress, David Ewart was third in the first weekend Pairs, playing with Andrew McIntosh. Closely packed behind him were Andrew Robson, playing with Alexander Allfrey in fifth place, David Gold and David Bakhshi in sixth and Stefanie Rohan and Paul Lamford, seventh.

Mid-week, Mike Hill won the Seniors Teams with Ross Harper and Martin Hoffman in third place.

And the second weekend, in the A final of the Teams, Nick Irens and Espen Erichsen were second with Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester and David Bakhshi third and Andy Bowles fifth. In the B final of the teams, Alex Hydes, Gunnar Hallberg, Alan and Olivia Woo came in equal third and in the Swiss Teams Peter Czerniewski was a member of the winning team (*pictured below, with Peter second from left*).



At the Scarborough Congress Richard Johnson & Jonathan Jacobs were second in the Swiss Pairs.

In the Hubert Phillips, Richard Hillman was a losing semi-finalist.

Olivia Woo was second in the Pre-Congress Pairs at the Guernsey Congress



At the Autumn Congress, Dom Goodwin won the Two Stars Pairs with Frances Liew (*pictured*). He was also third in the main teams event, the Eastbourne Bowl, along with Tim Gauld.

At the same weekend, Paul Martin was third in the Two Stars Pairs, and Mary Gordon-Smith, Fiona Hutchison and Guy Hart were third in the Burlington Cup.



## Puzzle solution

(see page 17)

The deal is as follows:



♠ AKxxx	♠ QJxx
♥ QJxxx	♥ –
♦ x	♦ AKJxx
♣ AJ	♣ Qxxx
	♠ xxxx
	♥ xxx
	♦ xxx
	♣ xxx

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## Overheard at the bridge table

♣♦♥♠

- There are three right plays in bridge--what's correct on analysis, what works and what I would do.
- I don't understand how declarer made only five spades. I understand why he wanted to make only five spades: It wouldn't be so obvious then that he had missed a slam.
- Do you ever do anything right?  
If I did everything right, I wouldn't be playing with you.
- Your play was much better tonight, and so were your excuses.

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## A Sunday Salon

by Veronica Thicke

Reader, I am feeling a little out of sorts. Despite the success of our trip to Woodberry, the charming Rex Benison has been as elusive as all get-out as far as our trip to the Putney Bridge Club is concerned. Mondays during the autumn have, apparently, been “impossible” for him. So, disappointingly, we won't be going south of the river until the spring.



[And make sure you do. I'm not having this one drag on for years. Ed]

In the meantime, rather than return to my bulging postbag, I thought I'd cheer you up with a tale of woe from the uppermost heights of English bridge. Many of you will be aware that on the third Sunday of every month I hold a *salon* for the cream of the London bridge circuit. Since invitations are like gold dust I'm afraid that most of you

will have to take my word for the quality of these occasions. I'm sorry, but much as I'd like to invite each and every one of you, well, frankly, where would it all end? Anyway, tales are told, and tittle-tattle swapped well into the evening (we generally stop about the time Heartbeat comes on the box. It's my only weakness). Mr. Thicke is

generally to be seen passing amongst the guests dispensing champagne and canapés. At the last bash, my old...well, “friend” would be stretching a point, so perhaps “acquaintance” Titus ap Llewelyn was in attendance as usual. Neither Mister T nor I can remember ever inviting him but neither of us have the heart to tell him to push off. He’s fairly low-maintenance (cans of cheap lager rather than champagne) and has done something about the halitosis, so it could be worse.

Anyway, to get to the point [*Yeah, right, like that’s going to happen anytime soon* – Ed] I was sharing a roll-mop with Titus as he tried to regale me with a tale of someone else’s woe from the recent Lederer Memorial Trophy, held at the Young Chelsea, possibly the most famous bridge club in the world. He told me what he saw from the Vu-Graph room (God forbid the idle twit might have made the effort to seek out a table of real people to watch). North/South had bid to Four Hearts, West tried Four Spades and South doubled. A club lead from North would have beaten the contract (see diagram), by two if South put his partner in for a second ruff.

**NS Vul. Dealer North.**

♠ QJ3	
♥ Q65	
♦ AQ10	
♣ J973	
♠ AK982	♠ 1076
♥ 7	♥ 98
♦ 52	♦ K874
♣ AK542	♣ Q1086
♠ 54	
♥ AKJ10432	
♦ J963	
♣ –	

In the Closed (Vu-Graph) room, North, playing a strong no trump, opened One Club, South responded Four Hearts. West tried Four Spades, passed round to South, who doubled (“action”, whatever that means). This was passed out. North lead a heart, South played one back. Declarer ruffed, played two rounds of trumps and a top club, and a diamond towards the king produced a tenth trick. Plus 550 to E/W.

What Titus found so amusing was that Four Spades had been reached in the other room, undoubled, and despite getting the same lead and continuation, West still went one down. Now, Titus eating a roll-mop and cackling at the same time is unappealing, but the sight of Titus choking on a roll-mop is much, much worse. I know this, because the next thing that happened was that the diminutive Titus was engulfed by a very large shadow and a voice with a light Swedish accent said “Well, Titus old friend, it wasn’t quite as straightforward as you seem to think.” Yes, the unhappy West had been Gunnar Hallberg, and he was standing directly behind Titus, possibly the only person in the room unaware of Gunnar’s presence.

“Look a little closer, and listen to the auction. Then remember the form of scoring”, said Gunnar, putting down his plate and glass, reaching for his notebook. He wrote down the hand, down to the smallest pip. “The auction was different at our table. North opened One Club, South bid just One Heart. I overcalled One Spade, and North bid Two Hearts. My man bid Two Spades and then – and this is the important bit – South bid Three

Spades, showing specifically a singleton spade. So, I bid Four Spades, and on the heart lead and return I had a big problem. I think South has just one spade, so I play a top spade, but then I have to play on clubs myself in order to only go one down. Remember the point-a-board element! I can't afford to play a second spade and go two off, can I?" Titus nodded slowly.

"Of course, the roof fell in, and I was one off in a lay-down, as I believe people round here used to say." Titus was, for the first time in years, abashed: "I was a bit quick to criticise there, wasn't I, look you? Didn't know the facts, but now you've explained it..."

"I knew you'd see it, old chap. Listen to the bidding. Look at the club spot cards. I was doomed to go one off, wasn't I?"

"You were, you were boyo...I see it all!"

his bonding session was about to get nauseating, so I turned my attention to my other guests. It was only then that I noticed that Rex was in the room. I was slightly surprised. I was even more surprised to note that he appeared to have brought his manservant, Segal with him. And was it me, or was Segal staring gimlet-eyed at the back of Titus' head? No, surely I was being foolish...

Anyway, there's a glimpse of the high-life, bridge-style for you. May I take this opportunity to wish all of my readers the best of the festive season? I can't send you all cards, of course, but as Mister Thicke and I raise our sherry glasses on Christmas morning I'll be thinking of you all, I really will. Chin, chin!

*Most peculiar. Why does Rex have the sycophant Ralph Segal in tow? And what's Segal's problem with Titus? Will all become clear in the next instalment of what may have to become known as The Road to Putney? – Ed.*



**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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