

London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Winter 2009




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Words from the Editor

Over recent years, the trend with LMBA competitions has been to reduce the number that we run. This has been due to a number of factors, perhaps the biggest of which has been the growth in accessible alternative events run by the national body. These have included the popular green-pointed Swiss events organised in conjunction with counties and competitions such as the NICKO – the Inter-Club Knock-Out competition that offers competitive but generally friendly bridge without the need for too much travel. There has also been a rise in the number of events for seniors that suit our ageing membership. All of these have conspired to reduce interest in some of our London events, to the extent that we no longer run, for example, a Men's or Women's Pairs, nor the Melville Smith (which was a Mixed Pivot Teams), nor a County Congress.



Whilst it is not necessarily a bad thing to concentrate on our core competitions, it is always fun to try something new and different. So it is with considerable pleasure that I can announce that the LMBA is about to introduce a new competition into the calendar that we hope will be very attractive to our current membership. Next year we will be running what we believe will be the very first “Café Bridge” tournament to be held in England.

Café bridge has been popular in countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands for some time, and has been tried in Wales. The idea is that you play a regular duplicate event, but each round is played in a different café (or bar). The boards stay put and all the players move each round, walking from venue to venue. So naturally all the participating cafés need to be in a fairly small geographical area to make this practical. There needs to be a “HQ” where players can register their entry and gather for the results, but can players enjoy seeing and sampling the wares of a number of different establishments in the course of the event.

The LMBA Café Bridge tournament will be held in the Spring, on Tuesday 20th April, in “the Tonsleys” – an attractive area just south of the river and close to Wandsworth Town station. It will be held in association with the charity Age Concern, which has a branch in the area, with proceeds from the event going to the charity. It will be a daytime event, starting at 11.00 in the morning and going through into the afternoon, with the entry fee including lunch at one of the venues – whichever one you find yourself at when the lunch break arrives!

More details will be sent to members next year, but put the date in your diaries right now. It should be fun.

Chris Duckworth

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

Lederer Memorial Trophy 2009

by Paul Lamford

This year's six nations championship at Rugby (a game with an oval ball for those not familiar with it) was won by Ireland for the first time in 24 years; indeed they performed the grand slam, beating all the other home nations. It was therefore appropriate that their bridge team should win this year's Lederer invitational team tournament. Their success was particularly meritorious as they were without Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon, who played in their wins in 2004 and 2005.



It was good to have Zia playing again, for the first time as World Champion, and I don't know whether he was tired from his exertions in Sao Paulo,

but his partnership with David Bakhshi did not do as well as expected. He had played a lot of bridge in recent months – he was in the European Championship in San Remo after the US trials. In the first two rounds Robson and Allfrey had poor sets, and Andrew had offered a glass of champagne to anyone at his club, playing in the parallel Play with the Stars event, who performed better than him over the first 24 boards. “How many bottles?” he was heard asking his director, Nick Boss, who ran the event at the ARBC.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

The *Luck of the Irish* is a rather indifferent 2001 film, which features a lucky gold coin. The Irish needed this luck as early as the first match, where Priday and Teltscher faced a nasty

defensive problem for the President's Team.

Love All. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon Priday</i>		<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West's 1♣ was strong, 1♥ was natural and game-forcing, and 1NT showed 17-19, 2♥ showed six and 3♥ set the suit. Now some cue bids led to the very poor slam – but who needs Blackwood when you have your lucky coin?

North led a normal spade, and a couple of very strong players on Bridgebase Forum, where I posed it as a problem, would have failed immediately as they would have put in

the ten as South. Indeed the whole event was broadcast on Bridgebase where there were almost 15,000 players online in a busy international weekend. Bernard avoided that trap by winning with the ace, but now had to decide whether North had the king of spades or the ace of diamonds. He had heard the rumour that the Irish sometimes bid slams off two aces (and even occasionally an additional trump loser) but thought it was an old wives' tale, and returned partner's suit. I think he was right; West is much more likely to have something like QJx in spades when his partner has cued 3♠, as he might find the king or ace, rather than a singleton, opposite. Anyway the swing was enormous, as West now claimed immediately, and the President's team did well to almost draw the match despite that setback.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

It is rare that a contract that is only reached at one table is exactly 100%, but such was the case in the best-bid hand for the weekend, awarded to Keith Bennett and Neil Rosen. Indeed the two 6NT contracts bid in the event were almost 100% apart in their probability of success, but not quite (the Irish one above only needs diamonds 0-8 with the diamond void on lead, and that player holding the ace of spades, not to mention clubs playing for four tricks).

The key to this hand (see top of next column) was to avoid playing in diamonds, which Keith Bennett (pictured) did



comfortably by never supporting the suit.

Love all. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Rosen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

After the normal 1♠ – 2♥ start, he upgraded his hand with the two red tens, and rebid a 15-19 2NT. After two natural slam tries by Rosen, he saw no benefit in playing in diamonds, and bid a natural 4NT. Rosen bid what he thought he could make, and Bennett claimed fairly quickly once he had done a bit of unblocking. Ireland bid the reasonable diamond slam, but their luck was out for once, and they lost 10 IMPs to Norway, who were smarting after a heavy first-round defeat.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

The previous hand won the best-bid hand award, but Brian Callaghan and I had to wait until round 7 for the best-defended hand. The figure 100 again played a part, as the defenders, Willie Coyle and John Matheson, are

stated in different sources to have at least 100 international caps between them. I am sure the defence was duck soup to them, but it had to be found. And it was only fair that this time Keith Bennett was the victim as he had won the best-bid hand prize.

E-W Vul. Dealer South

♠ K 6 5
♥ Q 8
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ Q 10 3 2

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

♠ 9 8 7
♥ A 5 2
♦ K 9 8
♣ J 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Matheson</i>	<i>Rosen</i>	<i>Coyle</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

A simple auction brought the Young Chelsea pair, who were in contention for second place, but not realistically the trophy, to the normal game. North avoided giving the tenth trick immediately with a pointed suit lead (even Zia's typical choice of the eight of hearts, playing his partner for Jx, might have worked) and led a small club. West won and advanced the king of hearts, as only a singleton queen was of any use to him. Both opponents ducked, and North won the next trump to play a second club. East won with the king and ran the queen of spades and both opponents ducked smoothly. Now, technically, declarer should switch to diamonds, but he repeated the spade finesse, and North now won.

There was no further entry to dummy, and declarer was one down.

Apart from the holders, the other team to disappoint was Norway, who included three World Champions and a strong sponsor who is the current holder of the European Mixed Teams title. They only really looked the part when beating the winners convincingly, and when Young Chelsea's heavy loss to them ended the latter's interest in the event.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Love All. Dealer West.

♠ 10 6 4
♥ K 9 5
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ Q 9 3

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

♠ K J 3
♥ A J 3 2
♦ A K 5
♣ A K 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Small</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>Matheson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A dreadful joke I was once told was "Why did the England defender open on a nine-count?" As you might have guessed, it was "Because he was Ferdinand". It was a bit of a surprise to see two Easts open third in hand on the balanced five-count however.

Professional poker player Jon Cooke tried to "steal the blinds" with 1♠, but the "Learned Doctor" in the South seat knew a good hand when he saw one, and brushed aside the psyche by

bidding 3NT on the next round. West led a normal spade, and Matheson won the nine with the jack crossed to the king of hearts and finessed the jack successfully. He then cashed the ace and king of diamonds, noting the fall of East's jack, and now cashed the queen of diamonds, as if West had four diamonds, he could be thrown in to lead away from his ace of spades after cashing three clubs, as West's shape would be 4-2-4-3. He now cashed the last diamond on which East threw a club, as did West, fatally, and now three rounds of clubs, ending in North, squeezed East in the majors. He bared the queen of spades, but South led a spade to the queen, king and ace, scoring an improbable +690 and winning the point a board.

In the Young Chelsea v Holders match, East, Alexander Allfrey, had learnt at the Andrew Robson bridge club to open his longest suit, so started with a natural One Heart! South still drove to 3NT in short order, and West led a heart to the eight and jack. This time declarer did not know East had psyched – he might have had a ten count. He crossed to the king of hearts and led a spade to the jack, but Andrew Robson ducked smoothly in the West seat. The declarer had no reason to get the diamonds right, and played restricted choice by finessing the nine on the third round of diamonds, losing to the jack. East led another spade, and the king lost to the ace, and that was only ten tricks.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

The best-played hand award was given to Cameron Small – the hand was also a candidate for the best-defended hand at some tables, and a missed opportunity at another:

N-S Vul. Dealer East

<p>♠ A J 8 4 3 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 5 ♣ A Q 9 5</p> <p>♠ 10 6 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ A K J 7 6 ♣ J 8 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ K 10 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 7 ♥ 10 7 6 4 3 ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ –</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Furunes</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Cooke</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Double	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Cameron Small, for the TGR Super League Winners, contented himself with a game-try on the North cards which Cooke was quick to decline (indeed he would have folded if that had been an option). East led a diamond and West won and switched to the ten of spades to the jack, queen and king. A heart to the jack and ace and a second trump was won in dummy with the nine. Now Small ruffed a heart and exited with the queen of diamonds to the king. West was endplayed; a heart or diamond is clearly fatal, so he exited with a club. Small covered and pitched a diamond from dummy to endplay East for nine tricks.

When David Bakhshi was North, he just bid game when Zia raised, and East, Andrew McIntosh for the Gold Cup team, raised the stakes by doubling. Again East led his singleton diamond, and West, Nick Sandqvist, won and continued with the king and

jack of diamonds, fatally in theory. Now North ruffed with the jack and went off. The winning line was to ruff with the ace, cross to dummy with the king of

trumps, and discard the king of hearts on a diamond. This line succeeds if the opposing trumps are 2-2 or if West has three.

Brian Callaghan gave a well-received talk about the best play and bidding awards at a closing ceremony, where LMBA President Bernard Teltscher presented the prizes to the winners. The final scores and line-ups:

vs Team:	IRE	ENG	YOU	TGR	GOL	PRE	NOR	HOL	TOT	RANK
IRELAND		46	39	36.5	28	31	18	51	249.5	1
ENGLAND	14		28	49	51	46	37	6	231	2
YOUNG CHELSEA	21	32		41	41	44	7	43	229	3
TGR SUPER LEAGUE	20.5	11	19		45	23	44	42	204.5	4
GOLD CUP	32	9	19	15		42	48	39	204	5
PRESIDENT'S TEAM	29	14	16	37	18		42	47	203	6
NORWAY	42	23	53	16	12	18		19	183	7
HOLDERS	9	54	17	18	21	13	41		173	8

Ireland: Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Adam Mesbur, Nick Fitzgibbon

England: Espen Erichsen, Tom Townsend, David Gold, Nick Irens, Norman Selway, Simon Cope

Young Chelsea: Richard Hillman, Jon Green, Keith Bennett, Neil Rosen

TGR Super League: Frances Hinden, Mike Scoltock, Martin Garvey, Jon Cooke, Graham Osborne, Cameron Small

Gold Cup: Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason & Justin Hackett, Andrew McIntosh

President's Team: Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon, Willie Coyle, John Matheson

Norway: Rune Hauge, Tor Helness, Glenn Grotheim, Ulf Tundal, Jon-Egil Furunes, Per Erik Austberg

HOLDERS: David Bakhshi, Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Zia Mahmood



Pictured are Nick Fitzgibbon and Tommy Garvey with the Lederer Memorial Trophy

Thanks are due to Bernard Teltscher and the Young Chelsea Bridge Club for their generous sponsorship of the event, Barry Rigal for his excellent commentary, ably assisted by David Bird and Ian Payn, Brian Callaghan and Mike Graham for finding interesting hands and Gordon Rainsford for photographs.

Coming Soon!

The New Year features the two London Championship events in January and February, but on slightly different dates from previous years.

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 17th January**, starting at **11.30 am**.

The competition is scored using the same method as is used for the Pachabo Cup, the national event for which it is a qualifier – a combination of IMPs and point-a-board. The winning team from the final will win the right to play for London in the Pachabo, which this year will be held in Hinckley on 12th-13th June 2010.

The cost of entry is £60 per team and entries should be made to Sati McKenzie, preferably by email to 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, which has proved popular with most participants. This, combined with just a short break between sessions, means that play will be finished by late afternoon. So you can get home in good time, or perhaps enjoy a leisurely meal out after play.

Last year's holders of the trophy, the team of Liz Clery, Ken Barnett, Ryan Stephenson, Paul Huggins will no doubt be trying to win again. Can you beat them?

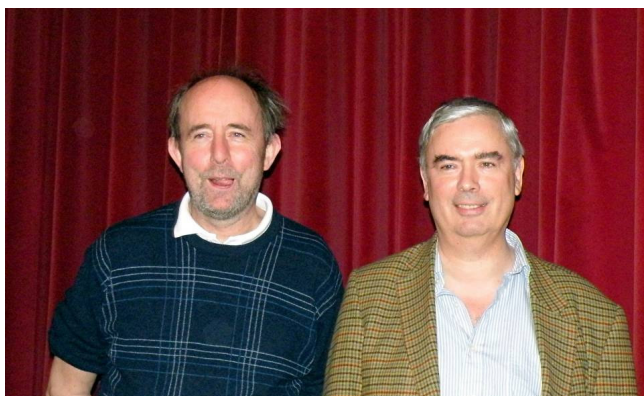
London Championship Pairs

This is a one-day, two-session pairs event to be held on **Sunday 21st 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 £30 per pair and enquires and entries should be made to Nigel Freake at gelohnake@waitrose.com or on 020 8801 2884.

The leading four pairs from the final with London allegiance will be eligible to go forward to the Corwen Trophy to be held in Hinckley on 5th – 6th June 2010.

Paul Martin and Paul Lamford won the title last year. They, along with Roland Gronau & Justin Wickens, Ned Paul & Brian McGuire and Anne Catchpole and David Schiff, played in last year's Corwen Trophy, but sadly none of the pairs managed to do too well in the national event. Maybe you could do better this year?



Palmer Bayer Trophy

This restricted-system pairs competition will be held on **Sunday 31st January** 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.

This event is not restricted to less experienced players – as evidenced by last year's winners, Paul Lamford and Bob Brinig – but is well-suited to those who haven't played for long, or who are less confident about playing in some of the County's stronger events.

The entry fee is £16 per pair. Entries or enquiries may be made to Chris Duckworth at 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 13th – 14th March 2010. Once again, 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 13th 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 14th 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



Please note that 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 18th 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 £24 per pair and advanced entry is strongly recommended for this competition. Entries should be made to Steve Eginton at steve@eginton.co.uk.

London Trophy Finals - 2009

by Michael Hill

On 31st May, 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. The final of the London Trophy itself and the final of the Della-Porta Plate, the competition for first round losers in the London Trophy, were played simultaneously using the same boards, the former between RAC Pall Mall 1 and Piltdown Golf Club, the latter between the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Economicals. Unfortunately there was no play-off for third place between the losing semi-finalists this year.

The first couple of boards were rather dull but then came this.

Board 3

EW Vul. Dealer South

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

West played in 3NT at every table, usually on a spade lead. At three tables, this came home easily enough, sometimes with overtricks but at the fourth table, declarer ran the ♥10 at trick 2, losing to the singleton queen. He could still have succeeded by using a diamond entry to dummy to take the backward finesse in clubs and later leading up to the ♥K but, with little distributional information to guide him, he took the club finesse the more usual way and duly had five losers.

A different declarer had a similar problem on Board 5, going down in a game made at the other three tables.

Then, after a board in which there were a range of contracts but every declarer went off, came this:

Board 7

Game all. Dealer South

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

Every South opened 1♦ but there the similarities ended. At table 1, the Piltdown West overcalled 1♥ and, when the RAC North decided against a penalty double, this was passed back to South who reopened with 1♠. North's 1NT then closed the auction. East led the ♥6 and, although in due course North took two losing diamond finesses, he still had a comfortable eight tricks. At table 2, the RAC West decided he was worth a 1NT overcall and this silenced everyone. After the lead of the ♦9, he managed to struggle to 5 tricks to hold RAC's loss to 80. At

table 3, the Economicals West found a 2♣ overcall and the DCSF North a bold 2♥. After the obvious 2♠ rebid from South, North tried 2NT and was raised to the optimistic game. The ♣10 was led and, although there appear to be nine tricks, the entry problems are insurmountable and declarer eventually finished three down. Finally, at the fourth table, West did not intervene and North South bid unopposed 1♦ -1♥-1♠-1NT. Again the lead was the ♣10. Declarer won the ♣J and ducked a diamond to West who continued clubs. Declarer won in dummy and now ducked a heart to West who cleared the clubs. In hand for the final time, declarer took the losing diamond finesse and West duly cashed the long clubs, the ♥A and partner's ♠A for one off – but still a swing to Economicals of 250.

We had to wait until board 9 for the first hint of a slam.

Board 9

EW game. Dealer North.

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

East opened an impeccable 2NT at every table and, at three of the tables, the bidding continued 3♥-3NT. One West removed to 4♥ but it mattered little. Both games made with overtricks.

It was when DCSF held the East-West cards that there were fireworks. Perhaps they realised they were several hundred points behind. Anyway, at their table, West responded 3♣ (Stayman), East perforce bid 3NT and West tried 4NT. Whether he intended it as Blackwood will remain one of life's mysteries but the ensuing 5♥ bid clearly showed two aces and West duly bid 6NT. On the ♦4 lead, declarer did not find the psychic play of the ♦9 from dummy, so was forced to win with the ♦K. However, the ensuing five rounds of clubs were too much for South who was squeezed in three suits. In practice, he discarded, in order, two spades, a heart, a diamond and, finally another heart. This established declarer's heart suit and, had he known the position, he'd have discarded a diamond from dummy on the last club and made all thirteen tricks. As it was, he discarded a heart, then cashed his diamonds and threw South in with the last one. The enforced heart return (to the 10, J and K) clarified the position and South duly claimed his twelve tricks and a 780-point swing. One can only speculate what might have happened if South had kept one more heart and one fewer spade and if North had not covered the ♥10 with the ♥J at trick at trick 10. Would declarer have read the position and dropped the bare ♠K, or would he have used his entry to dummy to take the losing finesse?

Marginal slam hands are like London buses – none for ages then two come together. So board 10 was no surprise.



Board 10**Game all. Dealer East.**

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

Did I say slam hand? The Piltdown East-West bid 1♥-2♣-2♥-3♣ – and that's where they played, making eleven tricks! Both teams in the Plate reached game (one 3NT and one 5♣) for an (almost) flat board but this time it was RAC who provided the fireworks. The first three bids were the same at every table but only the RAC West thought his hand good enough for a 2♠ rebid. When he learnt of secondary club support opposite, he checked for aces and duly bid 6♣. On the lead of the ♠J, he was able to draw trumps (finding he had a trump loser) and so find he needed the (successful) heart finesse for a swing of 1220.

Board 11 provided a minor flurry of interest as the defence had five cashing tricks against the likely 3NT but the “wrong” hand was on lead and, although declarer had only eight tricks by force, the “automatic” lead provided the ninth. Curiously, both teams in the Trophy final played in NT part scores, making overtricks, whilst both teams in the Plate bid the game (one failing when East avoided the “automatic” lead).

At half-time, RAC led by 1700 in the Trophy final and Economicals by 710 in the Plate. It was going to be a hard fight-back for Piltdown but the Plate was still wide open.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

The second half started with an unexpected swing in the Trophy. North-South had marginal game values but East got in first with a 1NT opening at three of the four tables. In the Plate, both Souths doubled and duly collected 500 but in the Trophy, South elected to overcall 2♦ on a 4-card suit – and played there, just making. Meanwhile, the fourth East opened 1♣ (playing a strong no trump) and this propelled North-South into 3NT. The opening lead gave away a trick and, knowing that virtually all the missing values were with East, South was not too hard-pressed to set up an end-play for his ninth trick and a swing of 510. Little did he know that his partner was going to give it all back – and more – on the very next board, perhaps the most interesting one of the whole event.

Board 14**Love all. Dealer East.**

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

Imagine your reaction, holding the North hand, to hear your partner open the bidding. At none of the tables was the bidding (or the play!) the same although three of the four Souths opened 1NT. One North bid an immediate and rather pessimistic 6NT; one tried Stayman and, having found the 4-4 spade fit, promptly bid 6NT(!); and one tried 4NT (Blackwood!), found one ace and one king opposite but still stopped in 6NT. Perhaps he was right as he made only 12 tricks although the other two found 13 tricks on top, courtesy of a fourth highest heart lead.

The real interest was reserved for the table where a strong no trump was in use and South therefore opened 1♣. In this convention-limited world, North could do no more than respond 1♥ and South rebid 1♠. Whether North now expected South to have a fifth club as he hadn't rebid 1NT is not known, but, after finding one ace and one king opposite via Blackwood, he bid 7NT. But, unlike the 6NT contracts, this was to be played from the North hand. East led the ♣3 and declarer won and cashed his spades (West discarding one card from each suit) then two more clubs (West discarding another diamond). Alas declarer then momentarily lost track and cashed three top hearts ending in dummy. He then threw a diamond on the last club, crossed to the ♦A and had to concede a heart at trick 13, thereby losing 1070 points when he might have gained 500. Fortunately, despite this rather hefty swing, his team emerged winners!

Even with the benefit of sophisticated conventions, it is not easy to bid a grand slam on this hand with any confidence even though 7NT is a very good contract, requiring only the ♥J to

fall in three rounds or show up for a marked finesse (~60%) or, if it doesn't, the ♦K onside (a further 20%), and 7♠ is even better, making whenever spades are 3-2 (by ruffing a diamond after throwing one away on the fourth round of clubs) as well as whenever 7NT makes if they're 4-1. Double dummy, of course, 7NT is cold on any distribution as you can pick up the ♥J in either hand but, without that knowledge, trying to work out the best line of play on a neutral black suit lead is interesting.

Probably best is to win the first round of spades in the South hand and lead the ♥10. You intend to overtake but there is always a chance that West will cover and solve your problem. In the unlikely event that West covers or shows out (giving you a marked finesse against East) you have thirteen tricks. If both follow small you cash two rounds of clubs and the rest of your spades, ending in the South hand. You now have to choose between two possible endings depending on what indications you have from the known distribution (West has more red cards than East) and discards. One is to lead the ♦Q (you still might induce a cover!), overtaking anyway to create a Vienna coup position, and returning to hand with the ♥A to cash the remaining clubs, discarding a diamond. This will bring home the contract whenever the hearts break, whenever West has five hearts - shown up when the ♥A is cashed (the unblock of the ♥10 created a usable finesse position) or whenever either opponent has both heart length and the ♦K (the squeeze shows up so there is no guess). It fails only when East was dealt four or five hearts to the jack and West holds the

guarded ♦K - and there is a negative inference against this distribution as it gives West 7 or 8 diamonds to the king, with which he might well have overcalled on the first round – or when West has precisely four hearts but East has the guarded ♦K (and even then you may still guess correctly to finesse the heart in the end-position). The alternative ending is to leave the diamonds untouched and cash the ♥A. If the ♥J has not shown up, cash the ♥K and the remaining clubs. If North's fourth heart is not established, you discard it and take the diamond finesse. Mathematically, these two lines are virtually identical – to the extent that, by the time the decision point is reached, the choice should probably be governed by table presence.



The rest of the second half produced a multitude of swings. RAC moved further

ahead on Board 15 by bringing home a marginal game that failed at the other three tables and then preferring 3NT to 5♣ on Board 19 for a further plus. On Board 16 Economicals failed in a difficult (but possible) 4♥, when everyone else bid and made the easier 3NT and this brought their match almost level. DCSF took the lead on the very next board when they made a 3NT contract (that failed at the other tables) after the defence blocked their cashing suit and gained a further 300 swing on Board 19.

Then, after a rare board on which the same game was bid and made at every table, everyone's judgment was put to the test.

Board 21
NS Vul. Dealer North.

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

Piltdown and DCSF bid unopposed but aggressively to 4♠, which should have no play and DCSF duly went two off. RAC also went two off in 4♠, but after a hotly contested auction to the three level in which East-West bid both red suits. Piltdown had contrived to play 4♠ from the North hand (when North opened 1♠ rather than 1♣) and although the defence led the ♦A, they then somehow lost their way and allowed declarer to establish the club suit without cashing their tricks – a much needed 820 swing to Piltdown. It remained for table four to provide something even more different – and they duly did. The DCSF East-West competed to 3♥ at which point Economicals tried a penalty double, discovering to their cost a few moments later that the contract was unbeatable and conceding another swing, 730 points this time, to DCSF.

Board 22 was a solid slam, Economicals alone failing to bid it and Board 23 was a choice of two marginal but unmakeable games which were actually made by everyone except Piltdown. Would the final board be a damp squib?

Board 24

Love all. Dealer West.

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

At three of the tables, East-West played in 4 or 5♠ after a contested auction and made eleven tricks.

Results

Trophy: RAC Pall Mall 1 beat Piltdown Golf Club by 2310 points

Plate: DCSF beat Economicals by 850 points



Trophy winners (l to r) with LMBA Chairman Mike Hill (far left) and Trophy Organiser Cecil Leighton (far right) are:

Bernard Halpern, Bob Beauman, Arun Suri and Andrew Kisiel.

Della-Porta Plate winners Mike Fawcett, Adam Humphries, Mike McHugh and Vic Morrish, with Freddie Della-Porta's daughter Pat Brotherston, who presented the trophy.



Recent LMBA Results

London League

The final matches of the London League were completed in the summer, but the results did not change the leading positions as reported last time. The final winners of the various Divisions were:

Division 1:

1st - Young Chelsea 3 (David Ould (Capt), Mike Hill, Mike Clack, Rolf Alexander and Bill Hodgkiss)

2nd - Young Chelsea 2 (Simon Cearns (Capt), Julian Bacon, Gareth Birdsall, Tim Ryan, Adam Dunn, Dafydd Jones, Tommy Garvey)

Division 2:

1st - London Duplicate (Graham Clay (Capt), Tony Clark, Steve Burton, Andrew Thompson, P J Williams, David Graham)

2nd – Café Bridge (Brian Wallace (Capt), Jeremy Schryber, J Rahman, Dom Goodwin, Frances Liew)

Division 3:

1st – Mad Axemen (Nick Bryant (Capt), Jeff Lewis, Steve Morley, Ken Kentea, John Fox, Peter Kraushar)

2nd – August Blue (Mark Davies (Capt), Hamilton Greenwood, Lars McBride, Martin Wyatt, Johnny Stobart, Paul Spence, David Kindersley)

Newcomers League:

1st - LSE II (Miu Suan Wong (Capt), Jonathan Lau, Arthur Smith, Pak San Wu, Ivan Teo, Terence Pang, Martin Karlsson, Maciek Wroblenski, Kelly Lim)

2nd – Internationals (Shelley Evans (Capt), Steve Wade, Sarah McMullen, Leszek Lubaszewski, Kath Stynes)

Home Counties League

London was very pleased that one of its own teams, London Red, won the Home Counties League last season. The team, captained by Simon Cochemé, turned up to their final clinching match, under captain's orders, all wearing their lucky colour – red, of course! The picture shows them celebrating their win, though unfortunately it is not in colour.

The team, each of whom has their own team name, were as follows (left to right) John Pemberton (Red Barrel), Paul Martin (Red Admiral), Steve Popham (Red Arrow), Simon Cochemé



(Red Baron), Tim Gauld (The Scarlet Pimpernel), Helen Erichsen (Lady in Red), Fergal Boland (Cockney Red) and Brian McGuire (Red Devil). Also in the team were Fiona Hutchison (Simply Red) and Mark Lehto (Red Herring).

London Trophy

This season a total of 53 teams competed for the London Trophy, The final results were as shown below, but for a full report of the finals see page 11.

Trophy

- 1 RAC (Bernard Halpern, Bob Bowman, Arun Suri, Andrew Kisiel)
- 2 Piltdown Golf Club (Tim O'Meara, David Lock, Patrick Cameron, Patrick Cliff)

Freddie Della-Porta Plate

- 1 Department of Children, Schools & Families (Adam Humphreys, Vic Morrish, Mike McHugh, Mike Fawcett)
- 2 Economicals (Russell Newel, I F Crosswell, Martin Listar, Robert Edmonds)

London Trophy Pairs

For the results and a full report of this event, see page 24.

Mixed Pairs Championship

The Mixed Pairs Championship in mid-September serves as the season opener and is always a popular and hard-fought event attracting a strong field. Your editor has never won this event and had her hopes this year, but it was not to be. We were beaten into second place by the Middlesex-based pair of Simon Cope and Marion Robertson who won comfortably with over 2% to spare.

Full results:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Simon Cope and Marion Robertson | 63.80% |
| 2 Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan | 61.54% |
| 3 David Gold & Sarah Dunn | 60.15% |
| 4 Rob Cliffe & Heather Dhondy | 59.24% |



Play with the Stars

The 'Play with the Stars' event for the Teltscher Cups, held in parallel with the Lederer, was held at the Andrew Robson, Roehampton and Hurlingham Bridge Clubs. 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, which this year were Zia Mahmood and David Bakhshi for the Holders, and Adam Mesbur and Nick Fitzgibbon for Ireland.

The NS winners were: Juliet Scott and Aline Sandberg (Hurlingham BC) on +32 and EW: Patti Gamble and Denis Bennett (Andrew Robson BC) on +43 IMPs.

Champions Cup

The event was competed for by six teams this year. The Cup went to the London League winners team, represented on this occasion by David Ould, Mike Hill, Rolf Alexander and Bill Hodgkiss, with the LBH League winners (Roland Gronau, Chris Watkinson, Bill Linton and Tim Pelling) as runners up.

Junior Teams of Four

This event was changed this year from being an Inter-County event to being open to all teams of four. It was also integrated with the national Under-19 squad training weekend, which meant a good turnout of eight teams, and a high standard of play.

The leading teams were:

- 1 The Underdogs (Shivam Shah, Tommy Brass, Kieran Tilley, Jakub Gembicki) +80
- 2 Tiba (Anurag Aggarwal, Basil Letts, Ankush Khandelwal, Simon Spencer) +53
- 3 The 'A' Team (Chris Derrick, Rhys Horlock, Felix Dibb-Fuller, Josh Saitch) +13

Puzzle Corner

A Wordsearch for you this time. Can you find the following bridge-related words in the grid?



Ace	Acol
Auction	Bid
Blackwood	Clubs
Declarer	Defender
Diamonds	Duplicate
East	Endplay
Finesse	Game
Grand slam	Hearts
Jack	King
Major	Minor
North	Notrumps
Partscore	Point
Queen	South
Spades	Squeeze
Stayman	Suit
System	West

X	W	G	E	M	S	V	P	G	X	E	M	P	D	U
H	W	M	N	C	T	Y	Z	G	N	O	R	T	H	O
J	Q	S	E	D	A	P	S	D	C	I	F	T	T	V
Z	Y	U	S	C	Y	M	P	T	S	L	K	K	N	Z
X	P	I	E	W	M	L	M	B	E	N	F	A	I	W
A	E	T	O	E	A	B	U	G	O	M	I	N	O	R
A	H	F	J	Y	N	L	R	I	W	H	N	S	P	N
D	U	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	Z	E	E	U	Q	S
A	X	K	H	F	N	C	O	S	D	A	S	O	S	V
S	R	V	D	D	U	K	N	T	I	N	S	T	A	W
G	O	T	S	A	E	W	L	R	B	J	E	B	T	S
G	J	L	S	D	N	O	M	A	I	D	A	F	H	W
P	A	R	T	S	C	O	R	E	R	A	L	C	E	D
M	M	M	Z	A	C	D	V	H	T	U	O	S	K	D
E	H	Q	E	B	G	G	P	X	Q	L	H	I	F	P

If you get stuck, the solution is on page 28.

London News

Peter Czerniewski

Peter Czerniewski, one of London's biggest bridge stars, sadly died in August after losing a two-year battle against cancer.

Peter's successes were many. He won the Gold Cup, Crockfords Cup, the Spring Fours (three times), the Tollemache as part of the London team (three times), the Lederer (twice), the Brighton 4 Star Teams (twice) and the Grand Masters' Pairs. He represented Great Britain in the Common Market Championships of 1987, winning a Gold Medal. He played for England in the Camrose in 1988 with his first regular partner Barry Rigal, later in 1996 with David Price and most recently in 2009 with Ian Panto, winning the trophy for England. In



2008 he captained the England Senior team in the European Championships and later that year he became the playing captain of the England Seniors who reached the quarter-final of the World Mind Sports Olympiad in Beijing. He would have been with the victorious England Seniors in Brazil this year had his illness not prevented this. He was also a successful rubber bridge player, often seen in recent times at TGR's Bridge Club near Marble Arch.

Peter was also immensely successful in his working and personal life. He had great personal charm, a sharp intellect, but above all he was a family man through and through. Marc Smith, his most recent London partner, summed him up well when he said: "I am sure I speak for everyone who knew him (both in the bridge world and in other walks of life) when I say that he was a true gentleman. He always had a smile and a kind word, and the lives of those who knew him well were truly enriched for doing so." We will miss him.

LMBA Committee

The AGM in the summer was attended in person by just 15 members of the Association – a mere one and a half percent of our total membership. There were nevertheless some useful discussions on a number of issues. Ned Paul is one who nearly always has something to say, and on this occasion he was persuaded to stand for the Executive Committee in order to continue to influence our future activities. He was duly elected, along with Ian Payn, who had previously been co-opted to the Committee, and the two standing members who were up for re-election – Roger Morton and Stefanie Rohan. (For some of Ned's views, see the following article).

Although the Committee has its full quota at present, we are always seeking new young blood to help us go forward – if anyone is interested in helping to organise

competitions and events for London, or has ideas about what should be done - especially someone who would help to bring down the average age of the committee members – we would be delighted to hear from them.

Tollemache Cup

London will be represented in the Tollemache Cup qualifier this year by the team of Ian Payn and Rob Cliffe, Brian Callaghan and Nick Boss, Michael Ranis and Roger Mapp, and Gordon Rainsford and Paul Martin. By the time you read this they will have played the event and you will no doubt know how successful or otherwise they have been – their aim is to come in the top two counties in their quarter of the field, so as to make it to the finals in 2010. London has had a lean few years in this event, having previously been a force to be reckoned with, so here's hoping they will have turned the tide.

Daily Telegraph Cup

Eagle-eyed readers of the LMBA Competition Brochure will have noticed a small item stating that the Daily Telegraph Cup has been discontinued. The competition for this magnificent trophy, originally donated by the Daily Telegraph newspaper, was first held before the Second World War. It was an event for teams of four representing their County, and in the early days each of the Home Counties held heats to determine who would be eligible to go forward to the finals.

In later years, Counties nominated one or more teams, but the final was still a fairly large event and traditionally hospitality was provided in the form of a buffet meal for all the participants in the break between sessions. But gradually numbers diminished and in 2000 it was decided to change the format, limiting entry to eight invited County teams who would all-play-all over eight board matches, thus earning an entitlement to Green Points. The hospitality was continued, and the event was briefly revived, but in recent years it has proved increasingly difficult to raise a field of 8 teams. In the absence of sponsorship for the competition, it was also a loss-making event, so eventually the sad decision was taken to cease it altogether. Hopefully, the trophy will continue to be awarded for some other tournament – it is far too impressive not to be used!

Ross Harper

I had planned to interview Ross Harper for this issue of MetroNews, as one of London's three new World Champions who is perhaps less well-known than the other two. But whilst away on holiday in Australia, Ross had a bad fall and cracked his skull. He was in a coma for 10 days but I am pleased to say that, at the time of writing, he had come out of this and the doctors were pleased with his progress. We send him every good wish for a full and speedy recovery.



Bridge for developing players

by Ned Paul

The best thing that has happened to bridge teaching in London this year is the advent of Kit Jackson. Kit is a pretty fair player who plays regularly at the Monday Bridge Club in Tooting (on Tuesdays of course!) and occasionally in my game at Putney Bridge Club. Kit's most regular partner is LMBA committee man James Smith, who like Kit is an actor. Kit is married to Trudie Goodwin who also acts and is best known for her 23-year run as Sergeant June in the TV series 'The Bill'. Kit's younger daughter Elly this year came to pop chart prominence as the singer La Roux.

Towards the end of 2008 Kit mentioned to me that he would be interested in bridge teaching. The opportunity arose when soon after Sam Harrison of Harrison's restaurant in Balham got in touch and asked me whether I could run bridge sessions in his restaurant as one of a number of ways of boosting custom. I agreed to launch a beginner cum supervised play session on Monday mornings, usually a quiet day at the restaurant. As Balham is nearer to Kit than it is to me it seemed natural to ask Kit to help.

The group is now ongoing and we have had as many as six tables. Many of the players are younger mums with children at the local schools. They love a chat and a coffee as well the chance to improve their bridge. Kit took to running the group like a duck to water and the players like his style. I don't usually go now on Mondays, leaving that session to Kit. However jointly we are trying to get 'Gentle Duplicate' going on Tuesday mornings as a way of getting some of the players up to the next level of their game. Kit wrote some amusing publicity. His email made launching the Gentle Duplicate sound like the first night of a play so I just had to make the advertising flyer look like a theatre playbill (see right). We have yet to get a critical mass for duplicate pairs on Tuesdays but have managed some teams matches. If you would like some gently competitive bridge – with a touch of ambition to improve – then do come along on Tuesdays 10.00am-12.30pm at Harrisons, 15-19 Bedford Hill, Balham SW12 9EX (www.bridgeatharrisons.co.uk).

The next thing that happened is that Barry Lowe, who had been running another of my little supervised play groups that meets on Wednesday evenings in a pub in Primrose Hill, Camden moved out of London to be nearer his grandchildren. I suggested to Kit he might like to take this group on as well. He has done so with great style. The numbers have increased, the ambition level has gone up and a number of players have graduated to playing duplicate at the Ruff Club on Fridays. As with the Harrison's players, Kit has now got everybody playing the house system which includes weak twos and transfers. Other gadgets like splinters, unassuming cuebids, Michaels and RKCB are encouraged and explained. These players are going to

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Chicago Herald Tribune

"I laughed in
all the wrong places"
Methodist Weekly

"I was transfused"
Nathan Times

"Weak Twos? I was
weak at the knees!"
Vera Lynn

What are you waiting for?
**ENTERTAINMENT
DOESN'T GET BETTER
THAN THIS**

be tigers a bit later on. Kit has also encouraged the formation of a Princess of Wales team in the newcomer division of the LMBA London League and has been organising little practice matches. They all seem very fired up for it. Incidentally a team from Putney BC has also entered this league and I hope they do well too.

Every week Kit sends a little email tip to the Harrison's and Princess of Wales players: a bidding tip, a note about standard leads, how a particular convention works, etc. or even just a tip about developing judgement. Here's the sort of deal that might feature:

You sit South and hold at favourable vulnerability:

♠ Q 10 6 5 3
 ♥ 6 5 4 3
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ 5

You pass and start waiting for the next deal but the following auction ensues:

West	North	East	South
			pass
1♥	2♣	2♦	pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	??

What is partner up to? He clearly has a 6-5 type hand in the black suits – he didn't double 2♥ but bid 2♠ himself. So we should come to life and bid 4♠. West goes 5♥ and it comes back to us. What now? If we back our judgement we should bid 5♠ as partner was unable to double 5♥ and we clearly have limited defensive prospects.

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

This was the full deal. 5♠ makes as there are enough trumps to ruff out the clubs. So does 4♥ by West. In fact 5♥ makes unless North-South find the club ruff.

Two-suited hands play very well: one suit for trumps and one for a source of tricks - here is another example. In an unopposed auction partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you hold:

♠ A 10 9 7 5
 ♥ K Q 9 5 2
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ 8

You could pass ("only nine points partner"), make a weak take-out, or transfer. After a transfer you could pass or bid the other major, forcing to game which could be quite hairy if partner is 3-2 in the majors. Why not Stayman with this hand and if partner bids 2♦ settle for a part-score in one of your suits? If partner goes positive though you will have a nine-card fit and a game is very much on the cards. You might even punt it direct.

The full deal is shown overleaf and 4♠ makes easily despite partner having wasted values in clubs. The deal arose in the supervised play group that I myself run each week at the Reebok Club at Canary Wharf [see www.aceshi.co.uk for details]. It was a good one to talk about.

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

What Kit and I - and every other bridge teacher for that matter – are agreed upon is that it is the hardest thing in bridge to go from beginner to club player and so many people get lost at this point. Much of our effort is directed to getting people over this hump. The programme at Young Chelsea is good too with supervised play with Mike Eden on Mondays and a programme of Sunday novice duplicates, got up by Shelley Evans and Chris Duckworth. I am happy to send my players to that, knowing they will be well looked after.

These novice players are not really ready for full-blooded national or county level tournament play and the EBU magazine is largely over their heads. But London needs to encourage them as they are the future of the game. I have been urging LMBA to have some kind of cheap ‘information membership’ for such players so they get on mailing lists, physical as well as electronic, and can be told about everything that is going on. Events fill up because they are advertised and the effect of advertising is cumulative. There are hundreds and hundreds of bridge players in London outside the information network. I want LMBA to be active in keeping in touch with them and not worry too much about whether these people join the EBU yet or not. This might require a bit of a change of mindset for some of the EBU loyalists on the LMBA committee, so will it happen? Time will tell.

London Trophy Pairs - 2009

by Michael Hill

On 21st June, the London Trophy Pairs took place at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall This event, started only in 2008, is open to pairs from teams who won at least one match in the London Trophy, the LMBA competition for teams from sports and social clubs, or in the Della-Porta Plate, the competition for first round losers in the London Trophy. The entry of only seventeen pairs was disappointing given that there was no entry fee and at least eighty pairs were eligible.

A completely flat board is a very rare event in pairs and this event was no exception, Indeed, only two boards out of the twenty seven played had all the scores in one column! Board 3 provided an interesting early opportunity (see top of next page).

Only two pairs managed to play this in hearts, where eleven tricks are readily available, and both bid the game. In fact, bidding it didn't really matter, as everyone else played in spades, where nine tricks are the limit (and to make nine tricks declarer must make the not very obvious play of the ♦J from hand

at the first opportunity and then read the position in the suit).

Board 3

EW Vul. Dealer South.

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

The rest of the first third was fairly dull but then things began to hot up.

Board 12

NS Vul. Dealer West.

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

East-West can always make at least ten tricks in no trumps because they have the pips to block the spade suit for the defence but, strangely, only three pairs played in 3NT. All the rest played in hearts, only two at game level despite a combined 27 points. The bad trump break ensured that nine tricks was the limit, although most declarers made only eight. This board

generated six different scores in the eight times it was played!

Then, after another lull, came this:

Board 20

Game all. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K 8 6 4 ♥ A J 9 5 ♦ A Q 10 9 3 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ A J 10 9 5 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ K 5 ♣ K J 3</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ K 10 2 ♦ 8 7 6 4 2 ♣ 10 8 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 2 ♥ Q 7 6 4 ♦ J ♣ A Q 9 7 6 4</p>
--	--

At several tables, with everyone in the action, the bidding began:

1♠-2♦-3♣-3♦-3♠-4♦-4♠

Twice this ended the auction but on three occasions North decided to double and each time, South removed the double to 5♦, once passed out, twice doubled. We'll gloss over how one North managed to buy the contract in 4♦, how one West stopped in 2♠ and how, after North began with a take-out double of 1♠(!), one West ended up playing in 3♣, although the play in 3♣ was not without interest. South led the ♦7 and North won with the ♦Q and switched to the ♥5, won by South's ♥10. The ♥K was cashed and South got off play with the ♠Q. Declarer ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, cashed the ♣KJ and got off play with the ♠J (not covered by North) ruffed by South. Declarer could ruff the diamond exit but had to concede a trick to the ♥A in due course. This was just

one of numerous ways to eight tricks but there was no way to a ninth.

Against 4♠, North led the ♦A and switched to the ♥5. South won the ♥K and returned the ♥2 to the ♥A. North switched to a spade and declarer ducked South's ♠Q. This allowed South to give North a club ruff but North then, for some unaccountable reason exited with the ♠8 (did he really believe that declarer's failure to take the ♠Q meant that his partner had the ♠A and West had opened the bidding on an 8-count with just J10953 in spades?). This enabled declarer to draw trumps and cash out for just two-off. Curiously enough, when the contract was only 2♠, North led a trump at trick one and declarer won and continued trumps. North won the third round and switched to the ♥5 to the ♥Q(!) and ♥K. South rather woodenly continued with the ♥10 and a third round, so declarer ruffed, drew the last trump, threw his diamonds on the long clubs and claimed ten tricks. Against 5♦, East led the ♠7 and West won to switch to the ♣K. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a spade and drew trumps with the aid of the finesse. He then threw a heart on the ♠K, cashed ♥K and ♥A and led the ♥J. He was sure of eleven tricks but, when East covered, he could ruff and claim the overtrick as well.

This led immediately to perhaps the most interesting board of the event, which was a good exercise in hand valuation. (see top of next column). Twice, North opened 1NT, South bid an invitational 4NT and North, in spite of his good intermediates downgraded his hand because of the pudding shape and passed.

Board 21
NS Vul. Dealer North.

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

In a sense he was right, because he went on to make eleven tricks, as did the one declarer in 3NT and two of those who bid the slam. Declarer in 4NT won the ♠Q lead, crossed to a top club and ran the ♦Q. West won and exited with a heart. Declarer cashed dummy's other top heart then the rest of his top winners, conceding a spade at the end. All the other tables reached the no-trump slam, some by virtue of North accepting the try, some directly (1NT-6NT), both either with or without a Stayman enquiry en route. Only one table (where a strong no trump was in use) had a more thorough investigation (and they were the eventual winners!). Their auction (with opponents silent throughout) was:

1♣-1♠-1NT-3♦-3♠-4NT-5♦-6NT

Against this 6NT, East led the ♥2, won in dummy. As before declarer crossed to a club to run the ♦Q. West won and exited with a heart and declarer cashed his diamond winners, East discarding spades. When he cashed the ♣Q, felling the J, he was fairly sure that West had the remaining cards and he duly finessed the ♣8 to bring home

his slam. It would probably have been technically better to have cashed the ♥Q whilst in hand with the ♦J and then cashed the top spades before playing the ♣Q. This would have shown the

spade position and made the layout he played for almost a certainty given the opening lead – but you can't argue with successful guesswork.

Winners:	Andrew Kisiel & David Glass (RAC)	60.12%
Joint second:	Bob Bowman & Monty Krimgoltz (RAC and OStG)	59.82
	Alex Allan & Roy Westwater (HM Treasury)	59.82

Meet the Edens

by Chris Duckworth

As mentioned elsewhere, I had planned to interview Ross Harper for this issue of MetroNews. But following his accident that will have to wait, so I thought I would go for something completely different. The Eden's are not star players, but rather regular club players, who both really enjoy their bridge and have big personalities. Mike is well known as a bridge teacher who is much loved and revered by his students, and Carrie is an actress.



Mike learned to play bridge whilst studying mathematics at Nottingham University. One of his tutors was former British international Tony Sowter, who thought that bridge was an eminently suitable subject for his economics tutorials! Carrie learnt from her parents – when they played socially her mother would let her sit in when she went off to make tea, with the injunction “Just follow suit, and don't try to be clever”.

Mike and Carrie have two grown-up sons and recently celebrated their pearl wedding anniversary. With no family at home, they took the unusual step of swapping their house and garden for a London off Russell Square. They wanted to be in the heart of town to enjoy all the facilities of the capital – which they do.

Most of their bridge has been played together over their 30 years, so it is certainly a partnership that has lasted. Both are Life Masters, but Carrie describes their bridge as “County C team level” – she says they always seem to move whenever they get to B team level! They have played county bridge for Essex, Surrey and London over the years, having lived in each county at various times. Their best results have come in One-Day Green-Pointed Swiss events – they have won both the Surrey and London Swiss Teams and are the current holders of the London Swiss Pairs. They play Precision, “because it is fun”.

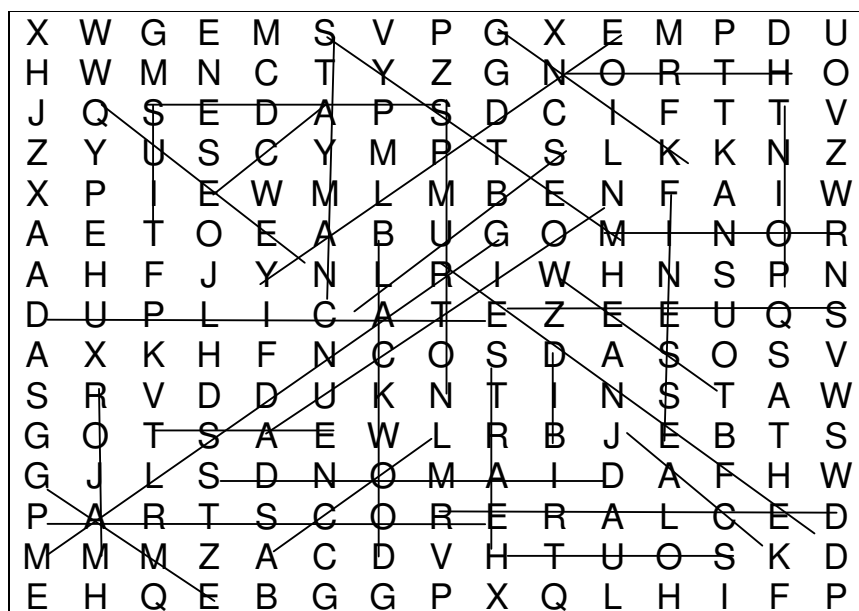
But when it comes to teaching bridge, Mike always teaches Standard English Acol. He is a Professional member of the EBU Teachers Association and a qualified club director for both the EBU and ACBL. A former secondary school head teacher, Mike loves teaching at all levels, but he is passionate about

introducing beginners to bridge, something that gives him enormous satisfaction. He currently teaches courses at the St John's Wood Synagogue, the Covent Garden Age Concern Day Centre and the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, where he also runs the weekly supervised play sessions (see his website at www.bridge.me.uk for more details). He also does some bridge weekends and both he and Carrie teach and direct on cruise ships when they get the opportunity. They are popular bridge hosts and usually do a couple of cruises each year on board one or other of the P&O cruise ships. You can see why Carrie is needed too when Mike told me they had 11 tables of beginners learning bridge on one recent cruise!

Carrie does her acting under her stage name of Carrie Cohen. She has worked on stage, TV, film, radio, voice overs, commercials – you name it really. She specialises in character parts, particularly comedy or horror roles. She especially relishes the horror parts and if you would like to see a sample of some of her work, just go to YouTube and type in “Carrie Cohen”. You will see her showreel, but be warned – some of it is quite scary! Carrie also writes comedy sketches and when she is not acting, writing or playing bridge, she loves cooking.

Mike and Carrie play most of their bridge now at the Young Chelsea, a club which they love. They always play together on Friday evenings, but Carrie can be seen with a wide variety of other partners on other evenings – as she usually comes along to play in the regular duplicates whilst Mike is teaching. Whenever they play, though, or with whomever, they are both unfailingly enthusiastic about their bridge. And it is this quality that makes them successful as a partnership – in life and in bridge – and very successful in bringing new players into the game.

Puzzle Solution



This is the solution to the puzzle on page 19. Did you find all these words?

Congratulations

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



London is very proud of its three members who were crowned World Champions in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in September. **Zia Mahmoud**, now a LMBA member, won the Bermuda Bowl as part of the USA team – the picture shows him playing in the final against Italy – and **Ross Harper** and **Gunnar Hallberg** won the d’Orsi Seniors Bowl as part of



the victorious English team. Ross is in the centre of the picture below, taken on the podium at the medal ceremony, with Gunnar to the right and behind.

Another international medal winner this summer was **Janet de Botton** who took bronze in the European Mixed Championships in Sanremo. She is seen here celebrating her fine result.



Bernard Teltscher and **Tony Priday** won the Seniors Camrose (almost as soon as predicted in the article about Bernard last issue!) as part of the Patron’s team, beating all the teams from the home nations.

In the Crockfords Cup final, the Irens team, including **Tom Townsend**, **Espen Erichsen**, **David Gold** and **Nick Irens**, finished third and **Andy Bowles** was a member of the fourth-placed team.

At the Scarborough Summer Congress, **Anne Catchpole** and **David Schiff** won the Consolation Teams.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress, **Helen** and **Espen Erichsen** were second and **Mary Gordon-Smith** and **Frank Burghout** were third in the Pairs A final, **Ross Harper** won the Pairs B final and **Bob Brinig** was first equal in the Swiss Teams A flight.



Alan and **Olivia Woo** won the Jersey Congress Swiss Pairs and **Richard Harris** was second in the Hants & IoW One-day Swiss Teams.

London pairs took the first four places in the B final of the Summer Seniors Pairs – **Gunnar Hallberg** and **Ross Harper** were first, **Neil** and **Christine Tomkin** second, **Ursula Harper** and **Martin Hoffman** third and **Alan** and **Olivia Woo** fourth.

Alice Kaye won the consolation Swiss Teams at the National Women's Teams.

At the Brighton Summer Congress, the team of **Bernard Teltscher**, **Mark Teltscher**, **David Gold** and **Tom Townsend** won the Brighton Bowl and **Anne Catchpole**, **Graham Orsmond** and **Jackie Fairclough** were third in the same event. In the Four Star Teams B Final **Nick Irens** and **Espen Erichsen** were in the third-placed team while **John Matheson** and **Steve Eginton** were in the fourth-placed team. **Alexander Allfrey** and **Andrew Robson** were fourth in the Swiss Pairs

Mike Fletcher came third in both the Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams at the Guernsey Congress. **Cliff** and **Tom Tomlin** came second nationally in the BGB Autumn Sim Pairs.



At the Autumn Congress, **Paul Lamford** and **Stefanie Rohan** were fourth in the Two Stars Pairs and **Espen Erichsen** won the Satellite Pairs. In the various teams events at the Congress **Alan** and **Olivia Woo** won the Sussex Cup while **Jonathan Lillycrop** and **Dan Cardnell** led the yellow Section in that event; **David Muller** was third in the Burlington Cup; and **Janet de Botton** was second in the Eastbourne Bowl.

Finally, apologies to **Tim Pelling** and **Naomi Cohen** who were inadvertently omitted from both the picture and mention last time of the winners of the B Flight Swiss Teams at the Year End Congress. Here they are with their team mates **Jonathan Jacobs** and **Andrew Clery**.



Ave Atque Vale

by Veronica Thicke

In which Veronica brings a tear to the eye of her devoted editor, for reasons that will become apparent.



As the taxi turned right at the end of Putney Bridge, heading down the Lower Richmond Road, I felt a slight pang of nostalgia. How many years ago was it that Mr. Thicke had proposed to me in my little mansion flat to the left? I'd bribed my two flat-mates to stay out all evening, and as he got down on one knee I felt a frisson of anticipation. Alas, Mr. Thicke felt a frisson of something else, and was unable to get up for quarter of an hour, his knee completely locked. Still, we persevered, and now, after all those years, with a few ups and downs along the way, we're finally going to..but no, I'm getting ahead of myself.

Winchester House Club is a few hundred yards down the Lower Richmond Road on the right, a charming old building over-looking the river. The evening I attended there was a log fire blazing in the oak-panelled bar (in the fireplace, obviously), tended by the accommodating barman, Liam. Liam's collection of postcards from abroad caused my eyebrow to raise slightly, since this was clearly a respectable establishment. Still, perhaps it was felt that he was entitled to a little amusement.

Having armed myself with a banana daiquiri I went upstairs to the playing area, a large room with a window view, so that were there any moments for reflection one could always look to the Thames for inspiration. My partner for the evening was a lady called Sue Bedford, an enthusiastic player of but a few years experience, who took pains to introduce me to our opponents as they passed through. Everybody's terribly polite in Putney. I found out later that this was actually a club rule. Ned Paul, the proprietor, is quite insistent that if you're not polite, he doesn't want you playing there. Something to be said for that, I think.

The room was busy – I counted sixteen tables – and playing with Sue twenty-four boards seemed to fly by. I counted seven boards that were likely to be "tops". Alas, I counted about five that were going to be "bottoms". It was no surprise then, that we ended the evening on a respectable, but not thrilling fifty-five per cent or so. The standard had been variable, but there's nothing wrong with that – how are inexperienced players going to get any better if they don't play with people a bit better, and in an unthreatening atmosphere. On that subject I note that my duplicate club of choice, the Young Chelsea, has over the last couple of years had a cull of the more undesirable elements, and the firm hand of the manager and his assistants now makes an evening there most convivial, albeit retaining that all-important competitive edge.

At this point in proceedings I'd normally insert a hand to demonstrate my partner's skill, but you're just going to have to take my word for it – Sue pulled off a guard squeeze to bring home a vital second overtrick in three No Trumps, and later on unblocked an honour on the first round of a suit to provide me with an extra entry.

Routine in the Bermuda Bowl, impressive for Putney. Unfortunately I'm going to have to leave it at that, because, dear reader, I have some news.

It's goodbye.

Mr. Thicke is to receive a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List. This was, of course, supposed to be under wraps, but the News of the World ran the story the day before my trip to Putney, recycling the old story about the trapeze artist and the wet suit, which we all know to be complete fabrication from start to finish. The honour is, of course, for services to Queen and Country, the full details of which must, alas, forever remain under wraps. It co-incides with the completion of the building works on the house in Surrey, so by the time you read this I shall be installed as chatelaine of a tastefully redecorated Georgian mansion. Quite why Sir Mr. Thicke has elected to employ Titus ap Llewelyn as Estate Manager, a post for which he is intellectually and temperamentally unsuited beats me. I drew the line at Titus being installed in the East Wing, however. He'll be living in a cottage in the grounds. Quite a way off towards the boundaries of the grounds.

I shall, of course, be returning to London from time to time, and will enjoy the occasional game of bridge, but I will no longer have time to write this column. Quite apart from running a large house (and estate, unless I'm very much mistaken) there's the social side to deal with. Already the Lord Lieutenant has been onto me wanting to discuss his balls. Yes, planning for the spring ball starts before Christmas, the autumn one having only taken place a month or so ago!

When it's time for goodbye, it's time for courtesy, as well. So, I'd like to thank the editor of this magazine for allowing me to occupy the back pages for...well, it seems like quite a long time, doesn't it? To those who have made me welcome, at the Young Chelsea, Woodberry, Robson's, and Putney, I offer my gratitude. My bridge horizons have expanded, and I'm a happier person for it. To those who have contributed to my postbag over the years with your fascinating questions, many thanks. Where is a column like mine without you?

But most of all, I'd like to thank you, dear reader. Yes, you. Without the reader, there is no writer. As I wander through the grounds, the beauty of the birdsong and the smell of the rain-sodden grass combining in a sensual delight I shall no doubt cast my mind back to my happy times within these pages, and think, dear reader, of you. Occasionally.

So, on behalf of Sir Mr. Thicke, Titus and myself, I wish you the compliments of the season, and a fond farewell. We'll meet again. Don't know where...

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