

London  
Metropolitan  
Bridge  
Association



# MetroNews

*The newsletter of the  
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Winter 2011

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## Words from the Editor

The Young Chelsea Bridge Club has stood at the centre of bridge in London for many years. Not only has it provided the venue for the great majority of LMBA competitions over the past 40 years, it has also been a hub of excellence in bridge in the capital for most of its life. There can be not a single one of the County's top players who has not played there regularly, honing their game by competing in the high-class field that the club can be relied upon to provide.



The YC initially provided a lively game exclusively to younger players who were not so welcome elsewhere – hence its name. Tolerance was always the name of the game at the club, however, so some more senior members were soon allowed to join and over time the age range spread. Always, however, the YC was the place to which new young players, hitting the capital after perhaps learning the basics elsewhere, would gravitate. Under the encouraging eye of club founder, Warwick Pitch, they were nurtured and developed into becoming the stalwarts and stars of the game that many are today.

Circumstances have now changed, but some things remain the same. The number of young people playing bridge at school and university has dropped by a huge factor over the years, due to the impact of tighter schedules with less time for extra-curricular activities, pressures to achieve academic goals, availability of alternative leisure sources and a myriad of other reasons. So the traditional source of new recruits to the Young Chelsea has dried up, although those young people who do play still find the club to be the best place to come and meet other like-minded and similarly-aged players. Though numbers are not as great as in the club's heyday, however, the YC still fulfils the role of providing the main focus of high-class bridge in London, maybe even in the country. And the club retains its developmental role, running classes, a variety of novice duplicate events and some higher-level coaching, such as new post-duplicate discussion sessions with experts which are being introduced in 2011. Quality of service has been seen as a top priority for the Management Committee that now runs the club on behalf of the members, and in fact various new initiatives have succeeded in reversing the downward trend in attendances in the last year or so.

So the YC is flourishing and it continues to be important too to the LMBA – as its main venue provider, as the sponsor to the Association's flagship annual Lederer Memorial Trophy, and as the source of many of the competitors in London events. It is therefore a matter of general concern that the club is now nearing the end of its lease on its current premises and will need to move somewhere new sometime before the summer of 2013. The club's Management Committee is working very hard to find a suitable alternative to Barkston Gardens, but the search is not proving easy. The basic requirements, to retain the essential characteristics of the club, are:

- to be near a zone 1/2 tube station;
- to have a space of around 1500-2000 sq. ft , preferably on one floor;
- to have a bar.

A number of avenues have been explored. The initial idea was to find another club – not necessarily a bridge club, but a sports or social club of some kind – with whom premises might be shared. Some 40-odd clubs have been approached or investigated, but none has been found so far that would work.

The next idea was to purchase a development property, and indeed a very suitable such property was identified in an excellent location close to Hammersmith Broadway. It comprised a pair of houses that could be developed to give a large ground floor club space and a number of flats/maisonettes above this. Planning permission was likely, and the sale of the flats would have more or less covered all the purchase and development costs, leaving the club with virtually free on-going premises. It seemed like an ideal solution, but necessitated a capital outlay of around £2.5 million. Club members were polled to see whether this sum could be raised by investors, but sadly not enough was forthcoming.

So the club is currently pursuing the remaining option – to find suitable leasehold premises. So far, none has been found that meet the basic requirements and can be afforded, but the search continues, and there is time. But if any London member knows of any premises that might be suitable – properties owned by local authorities, railway and educational organisations and other major landlords are the sort of thing most likely to yield dividends – they are encouraged to contact the club to let them know. You can get in touch via me at the address below, or reach the club directly at [youngchelsea@btconnect.com](mailto:youngchelsea@btconnect.com).

Or indeed, if anyone would like to invest a spare £2 million, they would be welcomed with open arms, and could be the saviours not only of the YC but of bridge in London!

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## AGM Notice

Please note that the 2011 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0EN.

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

# LMBA results this season

## Mixed Pairs Championship

There was a good turnout of 32 pairs who competed in this year's Mixed Pairs Championship on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

The winners were Ryan Stephenson & Liz Clery (*pictured right*), who had previously won the London Championship Pairs but for whom this was their first victory in this event. Their winning score of 61.98% was just 0.1% clear of the second placed pair, Richard Johnson & Heather Bakhshi. In third place were Rob Cliffe & Heather Dhondy on 59.48% and fourth were Victor Silverstone & Brigid Battiscombe with 57.4%.



## Champions Cup

Eight winners of various League competitions in and around London competed for the Champions Cup on 3rd October last year. The winning team was from Berks and Bucks, comprising Mike Perkins, Ian Reissman, Chris Cooper & Ben Paske. Their score of +36 IMPs was well clear of the Holders team, Young Chelsea 3, (David Ould, Mike Hill, Rolf Alexander & Bill Hodgkiss) who were runners up on +25 IMPs. In third place was the TGR's Super League winners, Sarah Dunn, Dom Goodwin, David Ewart & Tom Townsend on +21 IMPs.

## Lederer Memorial Trophy

This flagship event for eight invited teams was held on Saturday-Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2010. The winners were the Gold Cup Winners team of Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Peter Crouch and David Bakhshi. See Paul Lamford's article on pages 6 – 12 for the full results and details of all the prize winners.

## Teltscher Cups

A parallel satellite event to the Lederer itself is always held in parallel with the main event. In this players at participating clubs play the same hands as are played in the Lederer on the Saturday afternoon, scoring up as team mates with the results achieved by two of the star pairs in the main event. This year the club EW players teamed up with Zia Mahmood and David Gold from the All Stars team, whilst NS players teamed up



with members of the women's Olympiad Gold Medallists team – Nicola Smith, Sally Brock, Nevena Senior, Heather Dhondy, Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale – who came in a convincing second in the main event.

The winners were NS: Shirin Moazed and Paul White (Hurlingham) and E/W: Pip Railing and Martin Jones (ARBC) The latter were unable to attend but a beaming Shirin Moazed of Hurlingham BC (*pictured*) collected her trophy from Bernard Teltscher the LMBA President on the Sunday afternoon.

## Under-19 Pairs Championship

This year's Under-19s attracted an entry of 6 pairs. Whilst small, it was a very strong field, with several members of the national Under-10s squad competing. Convincing winners were Tommy Brass & Asitha Nanayakkara (*pictured*) on 64%, with James Pickford Phimmai & Kirsty Ip second on 55% and Michael Alishaw & Toby Nonnenmacher third on 53%



## Tollemache

Sadly, once again this year the London team did not make it through the qualifying stage to the finals. They did once again find themselves drawn in a very strong group and they failed to qualify by the smallest of margins. So maybe next year.....!

## Puzzle Corner

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

In this variant of Sudoku, the rules are the same as usual, but in addition, all the shaded squares must all contain either even or odd digits. You have to decide which!

The solution can be found on page 31.



# London Sevens

by Paul Lamford

Last year's London Rugby Sevens at Twickenham attracted 80,000 people and made the Guinness Book of Records for the most spectators dressed as superheroes! The attendance at Young Chelsea for this year's Lederer was not quite as large, but the presence of two players active on the London scene, Zia, who held the record of seven wins and Andrew Robson, who was one of his nearest challengers on six, meant that thousands logged on to watch the action on Bridge Base. Throw in many other top players including the ubiquitous Victor Silverstone, who had also won the event six times, and it was clear that there was going to be some good bridge.



Andrew Robson

The defending champions, Ireland, were sadly missing, because the event clashed with the Irish Camrose trials. However, a strong Welsh team, a composite from the all-Welsh final of the Spring Fours, ensured some representation from another home country, and the Presidents Team had the Scots, Coyle and Matheson.

Indeed, attempts to get Italy or Sweden to play had faltered in the months up to the event, and it would have been nice to see the likes of Fantoni and Nunes; maybe next year. There were plenty of foreign internationals anyway, including the 2007 Bermuda Bowl winner Erik Sælensminde and the 2009 winner Zia Mahmood.

## Ruff and Tumble

There was a tough defensive hand as early as match one:

### Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Salisbury	Sandqvist	Tedd	Charlsen
1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Rdbl	3♥	3♠
4♥	Dbf	All Pass	

Two rooms reached the pushy Four Hearts by West; Salisbury was doubled. Indeed, North seemed to do a lot of bidding on an 11-count!

Against Salisbury, Sandqvist led the king of diamonds. Declarer won and exited with the queen of clubs, won by South, who naturally enough led the jack of diamonds. Salisbury covered, and North had to discard to beat the contract. When he ruffed and exited with a club, Salisbury could ruff, run the queen of hearts, and had just

enough entries to establish the long club and enjoy it for +590.

Zia was also in Four Hearts against Cliffe and Burn. Burn did better by exiting with the five of spades instead of the jack of diamonds and Zia put in the eight. North won with the nine, and now exited with a spade, fatally, and Zia had ten tricks. A club would have been fatal as well – North gets endplayed, forced to lead a spade or allow the long club to be developed. However, North can exit with a heart, playing his partner for the nine, and declarer has no way home.

### Unlucky Slam

Zia was very unlucky in the second round when he and David Gold bid an excellent slam against the Olympiad Gold Medallists.

#### **EW Vul. Dealer West**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale Gold</i>		<i>Brown</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	6♣

David Gold modestly told me that the methods here were Zia's idea. I think South's rebid showed 20-22 – South

would have gone through a Kokish 2♥ with 23-24 and North would relay with Two Spades to find out whether South had hearts or was balanced. David Gold's 3♠ was a slam-try in a minor, and Zia's 4♣ was optional Keycard Blackwood.

If North liked his hand he would show the number of keycards he had, otherwise he would bid 4♦. So, North's 4♠ said he liked his hand and had one key card, and



*Zia, watched by a fan*

Zia's 6♣ was a logical choice. The operation was a success but the patient died. West led a spade, and Zia won, tested the clubs and tried the diamond finesse, conceding one down when neither behaved. A 90% slam had failed.

Bakhshi and Forrester had an invitational auction with less science. North raised a similar 2NT to 4NT, and South declined, perhaps having already upgraded his hand to 23-24. West, Barry Myers for London, found the lead of the eight of diamonds; declarer played low and East won with the king. Now Frank To had a tough choice of major suit switch, but guessed wrong to lead the queen of spades. The longer major would have worked better here, but partner could have a card in either, and the queen of hearts will not be enough. Forrester had no problems giving up a club, making eleven tricks.

## Guess Who?

**NS Vul. Dealer South.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malin'ski</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>deB'tton</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>

			1♥
Dbl	3♥	Dbl	4♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

After the normal start of 1♥ – (Dble) – 3♥ (a couple of Norths bid 4♥ which tempted South to press on to 5♥ – which Shields and Denning for the Spring Fours took for 800) Janet de Botton made a responsive double on the East hand and South bid a normal Four Hearts. When this came round to Janet de Botton, she tried again with 4NT. Myers, for London, after a similar start to the auction bid Four Spades, but declarer was forced to go one off on the club lead, either sustaining a ruff or losing control.

In 5♣, Tony Priday led the king of hearts and switched to a spade, which cleared up any doubts in that suit. West won the king with the ace, then played the king of clubs and finessed the jack for +400. Why did he do this? For two reasons. If South had a doubleton club, he would have been less inclined to go on to Four Hearts,

and, also, North might have led or switched to a club with a doubleton. With Qxx he was never leading one. And given that the finesse was around 50% with the drop around 52% at the start, anything to tilt the balance was enough.

Artur Malinowski won the best-played award on the above hand. Indeed the play was simple, but his reasoning was excellent.



*Artur Malinowski*

David Burn was seen mumbling after this award: “Years ago you needed a brilliancy to win the best-played hand in the Lederer. This year it goes to a simple finesse!”

The heading Guess Who? was a two-player party game invented in England in 1979. I am sure Artur would have enjoyed it.

## Grand Opening

We did not have to wait long for the best bid hand, and as Seven is the theme of this article, it is appropriate that the only pair to bid and make 7NT should get the award. Especially as Martin Garvey and I, the judges, would have given it to Zia and David Gold for their earlier auction to an unsuccessful 6C, had it not been for the following hand.

The opening bid was the key to success here:



**EW Vul. Dealer East.**

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Justin	Gold	Jason
		1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

There is a bit of a myth that Zia is a law unto himself in the auction, but he showed that he could bid constructively on this hand. However, it was Gold's judgement that made it all possible. 1NT was 15-17 – both the excellent Richard Pavlicek hand evaluator (at [www.rpbridge.net/xhe1.htm](http://www.rpbridge.net/xhe1.htm)) and the K&R evaluator (at [jeff-goldsmith.org/cgi-bin/knr.cgi](http://jeff-goldsmith.org/cgi-bin/knr.cgi)) rate East's hand as over 15 points, the former rating it 16.

Zia transferred to spades and David Gold re-evaluated again, breaking with 3♠. He did have a super-break of 3♣ available, showing a superb hand for spades, so he was limited by failing to do that. After two cues, West bid RKCB for spades, then asked for specific kings that had not been previously cued. East showed the king of hearts, and Zia thought he could count six spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs, and indeed

was able to claim when spades broke 2-1. It would have been a travesty if he had suffered another 3-0 break in a ten-card fit.



*Zia and David receive their award for the best bid hand*

**Four Queens**

**EW Vul. Dealer East.**

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	Sandqvist	Brock	Charlsen
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Neither Nicola Smith nor Sally Brock look old enough to have won World Championships a quarter of a century apart, but the excellent Lederer programme confirmed their successes

in 1981, 1985 and 2008. They needed all their experience to break this seemingly impregnable slam by Thomas Charlsen.

North's 2♣ was an artificial game force and 2NT showed a three-card spade raise. This was followed by Key Card Blackwood to reach the good slam. Nicola led the six of hearts, consistent with her actual holding, but also consistent with J76, J876 or J8762. Sally defended well by putting in the queen when dummy played low, and Charlsen took his normal line in spades of low to the ace, followed by running the jack, so that he could pick up Q(9)xx with East. Nicola won and continued with the seven of hearts, and Charlsen decided to believe Sally. At this point he had no idea that diamonds could be established with one ruff. When he put in the nine of hearts it was all over, and an unbeatable slam had been taken off.



Nicola and Sally receiving their prize for best-defended hand from Mike Hill

Some commentators on Bridge Base thought Nicola would not lead from the jack of hearts against a slam, but when you look you will see that the defenders have all four queens, so they might be pushed to find a safe lead. They had to lead some suit after all, and Jxx(x) might well have been

the least evil. This defence earned Nicola and Sally the best defended hand. As Tony Priday said at the closing ceremony, "Never trust a woman!"

## Treble Chance

Some thought the awards this year were for relatively low-key performances. The judges were indeed looking for brilliancies, but a few chances went begging. Andrew Robson had an opportunity on this deal:

### Love all. Dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Robson</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Many pairs were in Six Hearts, and on a minor suit lead there are enough entries to establish and enjoy the diamonds. Justin Hackett found the most testing start, a spade, and Andrew won and ducked a diamond. East won and returned a second spade, perforce won in the dummy. Declarer now cashed two rounds of

hearts, fatally, as the hearts were 3-1 and the diamonds 4-2. The correct line, I believe, is to cash the ace of diamonds (you have no chance on a 5-1 break) and ruff a diamond high. Now they are known to be 4-2, and when you cross to the nine of hearts, you know the trumps are 3-1 as well. Now you can fall back on your last chance that spades are 3-3 by ruffing a diamond high, crossing to another heart in dummy, throwing a spade on the long diamond, ruffing out the spade, and finally using your ace of clubs to enjoy the thirteenth spade. So, the third, unlikely, chance would have worked. An almost complete dummy reversal with three ruffs in South! "Very disappointing," was Andrew's comment about missing the line.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

Stefanie Rohan, the tournament organiser, had judged well to put the All Stars against the Gold Cup holders in the last round, as they turned out to be joint leaders, and Forrester-Crouch v Zia-Gold was the table which attracted the big crowd to Bridge Base – 1200+ spectators when I logged on.

The following hand was a fascinating clash between Zia and Forrester, with the latter coming out on top, as he did in the event as a whole. A big win in the last round gave the Gold Cup team a clear victory, allowing Andrew to equal Zia's record of seven wins.



Tony Forrester

## Power of Ten

### Game all. Dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Forrester	Gold	Crouch
		2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass		

2♥ was a standard weak two in the free-wheeling style that Zia prefers, and 2NT was an enquiry. The 3♣ response was another Zia idea, showing either a good weak two or a bad weak two. No doubt Zia could have asked again, but instead chose the final contract. Perhaps he would have been interested in playing in hearts opposite ♥AKQxxx, as the lack of an entry to dummy could prove fatal. With an awkward lead, Tony Forrester chose the king of clubs, and Zia won and fired back a club, which Forrester ducked. In dummy for the first and possibly last time, Zia took the diamond finesse as that was the most likely source of tricks. Forrester

won and faced another awkward problem. Exiting with the jack of spades would have worked, but he cashed the queen of clubs (on which dummy threw a heart) to avoid being thrown in with it, and then exited with the jack of spades.

This should have been fatal. Zia put on the queen, and needed to unblock the ten from hand. Declarer can get home in two ways then, by leading the king of hearts, and when North wins and returns the jack of hearts, declarer ducks and North is endplayed. Or Zia could cross to the ace of spades, cash

the minor suit winners and exit with the three of spades. If that were the ten, North would duck it (!), but as it is declarer must come to his ninth trick in the majors. Zia did not know the diamonds were 5-1 at this time, but that jack of spades exit might have given him a clue to the layout. Another candidate for best-played hand went begging, and we won't name the defender who switched to the queen of diamonds from North early in the play. I think that declarer was the only one to make this difficult 3NT.

### **Final Scores:**

- 1 Gold Cup Winners (Allfrey, Robson, Forrester, Crouch, Bakhshi) 251
- 2 Olympiad Gold Medallists (Smith, Brock, Senior, Dhondy, Brown, Stockdale) 230
- 3= All Stars (Zia, Gold, Saelensminde, Gillis) 223
- 3= Crockfords (de Botton, Malinowki, Hackett, Hackett, Sandqvist, Charlsen) 223
- 5 Shapiro Spring Fours (Tedd, Salisbury, Denning, Shields) 202
- 6 London (Burn, Cliffe, Myers, To) 190
- 7 Young Chelsea (Hillman, Bennett, Rosen, Jones, Bowdery) 185
- 8 Presidents' Team (Teltscher, Priday, Silverstone, Dixon, Coyle, Matheson) 176

Mike Hill, LMBA Chairman, presented the prizes, and the generous sponsor, Bernard Teltscher, gave a short speech. They thanked the hard-working organiser Stefanie Rohan and all her helpers, the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, and the Bridge Base team including Roland Wald for their coverage.



*Winners Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester and Peter Crouch with Mike Hill and the trophy*

# First time ever

*by Richard Fleet*

Some readers of this magazine may be unaware of the boom in daytime duplicate bridge. Whilst many clubs are experiencing reduced attendances in the evenings, there appears to be an almost limitless demand for duplicates during the day.

The Mondri club in Potten End is an example. As might be inferred from the name, the club meets on Monday mornings in the Potten End village hall. For those who do not know this charming Hertfordshire village, to which the famous England and Middlesex cricketer Fred Titmus retired to run the local post office, it is situated between Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted and has a population of less than 1,500. In this context, it is remarkable that the average attendance at the weekly duplicates is in excess of 15 tables, a tribute to the enthusiasm of the organiser, Diana Savill.

When I started playing club bridge, I was the youngest person there. Apart from my wife, Debbie, I was possibly the youngest person present at the Mondri club recently, a sobering thought. It is fair to say that the bridge is not quite of the highest standard, but the people are friendly, parking is easy and members' table money is a very reasonable £2.50 (with tea and coffee included).

One hand struck me as interesting. Sophisticated partnerships with complex methods might be able to establish that there are 13 tricks in no-trumps, but it seems terribly easy to finish up in spades:

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

North is the dealer playing weak no-trump and standard methods. Others might disagree, but I think it self-evident that the North hand is too strong for a 12-14 1NT opening and that 1♦ is the indicated opening.

In times gone by, South would have responded 2♠, and I am prepared to admit that this may be the best approach. However, with such a

“complex hand” (as Erik Kokish would doubtless term it), it seems best to respond 1♠. Now, if North raises to 2♠, which is certainly a possible action with his ruffing value and lack of tenaces, it will be very difficult to stay out of spades.

Yes, it is still possible to reach 7NT, particularly if you look at both hands, but it is not all that easy. Say South bids 3♥: North might now bid 3NT – he does after all have a source of tricks and a club guard - and South proceeds with 4♦. North will doubtless bid 4♥ and, if 4NT is now some form of Blackwood (i.e. as opposed to a general slam try), it solves the problems: North discloses two aces, South bids 5NT and, with the first round controls guaranteed, North can bid 7♦. It is easy for South to convert this to 7NT.

Alternatively, South bids 3♦, and I am sure that North is right to bid 3NT given his guards in both unbid suits. South

may now be in a quandary: 4♦ overstates the diamond support, 4♥ might be misleading and 4NT a natural raise. He might compromise with 4♣, which is at least economical in the use of bidding space, and North??? He has a choice of bids and, following the same principle of economy, might well choose 4♦. All that can be said is that the auction is likely to proceed slowly in a sea of fog until one player makes a bid which the other can pass with a sigh of relief. I'm not being critical, by the way, since I've been in that situation often enough myself.

A final possibility is that South splinters with 4♣: whilst this is good news in one way for North, he will be concerned about the quality of his trump support. The key aspect of the hand, the excellence of North's diamond suit, might prove difficult to disclose.

The other possible rebid for North, and the one which seems more natural to my mind, is 1NT (15-17). It can be assumed that South will have some form of enquiry available and, whatever it is, North can be presumed to bid 2♠, showing his three-card support, and maybe suggesting lower range, depending upon methods. If South now chooses to bid 3♦, North can bid 4♦: the difference between this sequence and the one starting 1♦-1♠-2♠ is that North has limited his spade support and already mentioned the magic phrase "no-trumps". By bidding 3♦ in this sequence, South must have some form of ambition (he could have ended the auction by bidding either 3NT or 4♠ had he wished).

The way now *seems* clear to 7NT: North has shown good diamonds and, once the ace position has been

established, South can bid 7NT with reasonable confidence. There is only one minor fly in the ointment: North-South might have the agreement, a perfectly reasonable one in my opinion, that 4NT is non-forcing in slam-try auctions with a minor suit agreed, so is 4NT ace-asking? Even assuming that it is, what is the agreed trump suit, spades or diamonds (this will be important in a key card context)? Yes, there is plenty of opportunity to go wrong.

If South chooses one of the other possible rebids over 2♠, similar considerations apply. Unless North can find a way of showing both his excellent diamond suit and his outside controls, the auction is liable to stall.

If marking this in a bidding competition, I would award 7NT 10, 7♥ 8 and 7♠ 7. The mark for 7♦ would depend upon whether it was a teams event (in which case 9, since it is better to be in a virtually 100% grand slam than one which is 84%) or a pairs event, in which case I suggest 6.

At the table, the spades were 4-1 offside so anyone reaching 7♠ would have suffered (nobody did). I can't say that our auction was all that special but it was effective: it started 1♦-1♠-1NT-3♥-4♥ and Blackwood did the rest. I have to confess that I was expecting four hearts in dummy but Debbie's view was that her spades were poor and her hearts good. I wasn't complaining.

Nothing bad happened in hearts so this was a very rapid 13 tricks for all the match points. And, to explain the title, I have now fulfilled one of my minor bridge ambitions: I have finally bid and made a grand slam on a 4-3 fit.

## Forthcoming competitions

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

### London Championship Pairs

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011** starting at 1.00pm

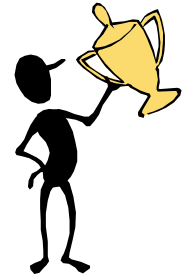
Holders: *John Pemberton & Stephen Popham*

This competition comprises a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs event and will be held at the Young Chelsea BC, 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 0EN (Tel: 020 7373 1665). The top fourteen pairs from the first session will compete in an all-play-all final with carry-forward scores whilst the remainder of the field competes in a consolation final. As the major County pairs championship, this competition is green-pointed and is also the qualifying event for the Corwen Trophy, the national inter-county pairs championship.

All players must be LMBA members, but only the leading four pairs with London as their county of allegiance (before playing in the event) will be eligible to play in the Corwen Trophy on 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Hinckley.

**Entry fee:** £30.00 per pair.

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



### London Trophy Pairs

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** starting at 2.00pm

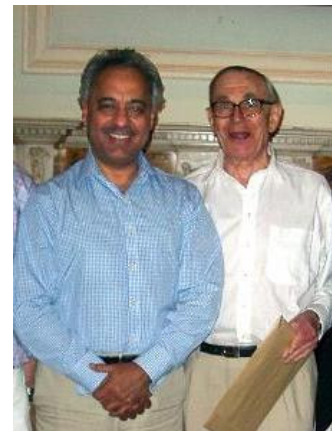
Holders: *Bob Bowman & Arun Suri*

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

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

**Entry Fee:** Free!

Advance entry is required for this event. Entries should be made to **Kit Jackson** no later than 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



# Green-Pointed Swiss Weekend

## Saturday-Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March

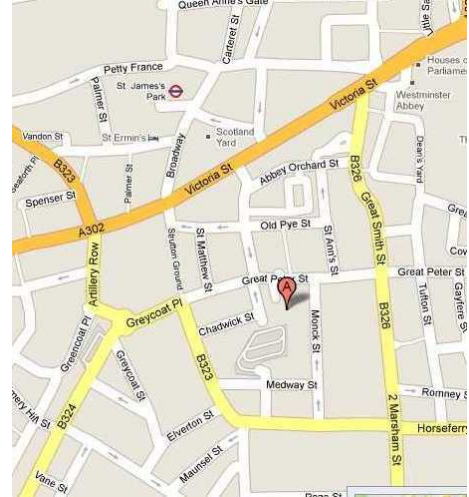
Swiss Pairs on Saturday starting at **1.00pm**

Holders: *Ian Budden & Ted Booth*

Swiss Teams on Sunday starting at **11.30am**

Holders: *Ian Pagan, Martin Pope, Andre Gubbay, Geoff Lederman*

This fully green-pointed two-day Swiss Weekend, comprising Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday, will be held at the Chadwick Street Sports Centre, 1 Chadwick Street, Westminster, SW1P 2EP. The venue, formerly the Civil Service Sports Centre, is just south of Victoria Street (see map) and is easily reached by public transport – main line trains to Victoria, underground trains to Victoria or St James's Park and numerous buses. Limited free parking is also available in the area on both Saturday and Sunday.



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

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

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to **Chris Duckworth**.

*Please note, however, that Chris will be out of the country between 15<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March. Entries sent to her should still be successfully registered, but any enquiries about entries during that period may be directed instead to Ian Payn.*

## Café Bridge Drive

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April** starting at **10.30 for 11.00 am**

Holders: *Rex Goad & Mike Daniels*



This novel event is a duplicate bridge tournament played in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in a limited geographical area, each round of the tournament being played in a different venue. This drive will be held in “The Tonsleys”, a charming area of Wandsworth tucked away south of the river.

This is a charity event, held in aid of Age Concern Wandsworth and all are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.

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

Advance entry is essential. Entries should be sent to **Ned Paul** to arrive no later than 5<sup>th</sup> April.



# Garden Cities Heat

**Thursday 14th April** starting at **7.00pm**

Holders: *Young Chelsea BC*



The Garden Cities is the national teams of eight championship for EBU affiliated clubs. The winner of London's single-session qualifying heat will be eligible to play in the South-East Regional Final that takes place in Richmond on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Solihull. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish subject to space restrictions at the venue. (The LMBA reserves the right, if necessary, to restrict the number of teams per club).

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

**Entry fee:** £56.00 per team.

Advance entry is required and should be sent to **Chris Duckworth** to arrive by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

# Fox Shammon Trophy

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April** starting at **2.00pm**

Holders: *David Sellman & Steve Eginton*

This single extended session match-pointed pairs event for senior players will be held in the President's Room overlooking the main court at the prestigious Queen's Tennis Club in Barons Court. Participants can choose to enjoy lunch at the club prior to the start of play. London, W14. The event is expected to finish at 6.30-7.00pm.



All players must be EBU members and must have been born in or before 1951.

The full address of the venue is:

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

Tel: 020 7385 3421

**Entry fee:** £24.00 per pair

**Entries:** Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to **Steve Eginton** to arrive no later than 10<sup>th</sup> April.

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

## Tournament Organiser contacts

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

**Kit Jackson** for London Trophy Pairs  
Kitjackson@ntlworld.com 020 7326 4418  
57 Fawnbrake Avenue, Herne Hill, SE24 0BE

**Chris Duckworth** for Green-pointed Swiss Weekend, Garden Cities Heat  
chris.duckworth@lineone.net 020 7385 3534 or 07768 693168  
201 Greyhound Road, London, W14 9SD

**Ian Payn** for Green Pointed Swiss Weekend (late enquiries only)  
ian.payn@charterchambers.com 07713 322420.

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

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



## General Competition Information & Regulations

**Entries.** Payment of entry fees on the day is generally acceptable. Payments may be by cash, by EBU voucher, or by cheque made payable to LMBA. Electronic transfer of funds is also possible – please ask the event organiser for the LMBA account details – but debit and credit card payments are not accepted.

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

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

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

# Meet Gunnar Hallberg

*by Chris Duckworth*

Gunnar Hallberg is one of London's most illustrious members – in fact he is currently a reigning double World Champion. He won the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl playing for England in the 39<sup>th</sup> World Teams Championship in Sao Paulo, Brazil in September 2009 and then the Rand Cup, the Seniors Teams in the world Open Bridge Series, in Philadelphia last October, this time in an Anglo-American squad. On both occasions he played in partnership with John Holland of Manchester, one of his favourite partners.



Gunnar was born in Sweden and learned to play bridge there at the age of 14. Although he had always played card games with his family and friends as a young child, in his early teens his main interest was handball, a sport that was very popular in Sweden. He was a promising player and was aiming for a place in the local team – as it happened the small fishing town where he lived had a rather good handball team – when a friend persuaded him to join him on a bridge course. It took only a couple of lessons for Gunnar to decide that this was the game for him.

He was lucky enough, soon after, to get to play with his teacher, one of the best players in the area, and his game advanced by leaps and bounds. At the age of 15 he was representing the equivalent of his County in matches against Norway and he won his first bridge prize then – a tin vase which he treasures to this day. At the same age, he left school to start to earn a living and support his family, working partly as a handyman – he learnt all the basic carpentry, painting, decorating etc skills at a young age – but supplementing his income by gambling in all sorts of small-stake card games.

In his early 20s he moved to Stockholm but continued to divide his time between working with his hands and playing cards. In 1982 he started teaching a lot of bridge and soon after took on running a bridge school in Stockholm, which he did until 1994, by which time he was pretty much a full-time bridge professional. Another great love was deep-sea fishing, having learned fishing skills as a young boy. He described how during that time he took a group of 40 or so bridge players to Norway every summer on a bridge and fishing holiday. For some, the fishing was just an excuse for a holiday, but Gunnar relished every moment and was able to lead the group well as the only one who actually knew how to gut a fish!

By the 1980s Gunnar was also playing bridge for Sweden. He admitted to winning the Swedish National Teams Championship six times and also the Nordic Championship for Sweden, and he has played several times for England since coming to live in this country, but generally Gunnar is modest about his achievements at the bridge table. Apart from his world championships, his most

significant win, he felt, was his victory in the Vanderbilt Cup, the USA Knock-Out Teams Championship in 2006, which won him respect in the USA and opened the doors to invitations to play from sponsors all over the world. His current international project is playing with his US partner, Chris Compton, in a team which will compete again for the Vanderbilt Cup in the US Spring Nationals in Louisville in March – he is shortly off to California to practice for this.

Gunnar has always enjoyed travelling the world, and it was in Spain that he met the English girl who was to become his wife. Paley and Gunnar married in Gibraltar in 1992 and lived for a few years in Stockholm. In 1995, however, Paley’s mother died and the couple moved to England to look after her father who was not well enough to be on his own. He lived in Brighton and that is where they settled, although Gunnar has always focussed his bridge-playing in this country in London. In particular he had heard about the big rubber bridge game at TGRs Bridge Club and he wanted to try his luck in that! Gunnar and Paley have a daughter Nisha, born in 2000, who is his pride and joy. Although the couple have now separated, they remain the best of friends and share the care of Nisha. She is a frequent visitor to the bridge clubs and schools that her father frequents and is extremely popular with all who meet her.

Gunnar’s bridge skill has been honed over his many years of playing, but he believes his general philosophy towards the game is also an important part of his success. He enjoys his bridge and believes that how you play the game is more important than winning – he would never want to win through tactical behaviour or the like. He has excellent people-skills and is a very supportive team-mate and partner and applauds that in others. He was quick to mention that the current ethos amongst the English junior players is one of good sportsmanship and supportiveness, which he is very pleased to see.

Gunnar believes that if you are in harmony with yourself and with your partner at the table you will play your best. If everything is working well you will find the best plays without necessarily reasoning them out – they just become instinctive. He gave this hand from the TGRs rubber bridge game as an example:

♠ K J x x	
♥ K x	
♦ A J 10	
♣ Q 10 x x	
♠ Q 10 x	♠ x x x x
♥ x x x	♥ x x x
♦ x x x x	♦ x x x
♣ A J 9	♣ x x x
♠ A x	
♥ A Q J x x	
♦ K Q x	
♣ K x x	

NS bid uninterrupted to 6NT via 1♥-1♠-2NT-6NT. Defending as West Gunnar led a diamond and could see that partner had nothing and in whichever black suit declarer chose to look for his extra trick he would be successful. But he didn’t give up, and when declarer won in dummy and played a club to the king he ducked smoothly! Now declarer visualised the possibility of the East West hands being the other way around, when he could end-play East and avoid any finesses. So he cashed all his red suit

winners and ♠A, coming down to what he hoped was this position when he could exit with a club to the ace.

	♠ K J	
	♥ –	
	♦ –	
	♣ Q	
♠ x		♠ Q x
♥ –		♥ –
♦ –		♦ –
♣ J x		♣ A
	♠ x	
	♥ –	
	♦ –	
	♣ x x	

In fact, Gunnar held ♠Q and ♣AJ as his last three cards and could win two clubs. Unfortunately, his partner, holding nothing at all, had idly thrown too many spades away, so declarer changed tack and won the last two spades instead. Even with a Yarborough, sometimes you still need to concentrate - but Gunnar was philosophical about this too!

Much of Gunnar's bridge now is played with sponsors. When asked what his ambitions were for the future he would only say that he would like to please his partners – he really wants them to enjoy and benefit from playing with him. His current London-based partners are Simon Gillis, with whom he has just won the Gold Cup, and David Ewart, with whom he played in the London Tollemache team – they were comfortably London's best ranked pair on the Butler scoring. So he seems to be doing pretty well in succeeding with his ambitions!

A final note on Gunnar's skill at the table. He played for England in the 2000 World Bridge Olympiad when the team were losing semi-finalists (losing

narrowly to the mighty Italians who went on to take the title). In the round of 16 the team played Belgium and Gunnar declared a hand in which, rather than playing it out, he claimed. His stated line of play was a double squeeze – which worked and which all agreed he would have succeeded in playing faultlessly, so the claim was allowed. David Burn wrote the following small ditty to commemorate the occasion.

### **A Ballade of Unwarranted Presumption**

Playing against a Belgian side,  
I reached a dodgy contract, where  
Although to beat me long they tried,  
They hadn't any cards to spare.  
Instead of merely sitting there  
And waiting for all Hell to freeze,  
I rose politely in my chair  
And claimed it on a double squeeze.

Directors came from far and wide,  
Out of some dark infernal lair.  
"He can't do that!" the Belgians cried,  
"It's not allowed! It isn't fair!"  
Bill Schoder fixed me with a glare.  
"What were you doing, if you please?"  
"It's quite all right - don't lose your hair  
I claimed it on a double squeeze."

They called Committees to decide  
If I was mad, or took no care.  
"And are you normal?" I replied,  
"I try to be, when I declare."  
"Are you inferior?" "What! You dare  
To ask me questions such as these?  
The end position wasn't rare -  
I claimed it on a double squeeze."

Envoi

Prince, all the Laws are pure hot air,  
And made for sheep by chimpanzees.  
But that is none of my affair -  
I claimed it on a double squeeze.

# Trump Control II

by Mike Graham

*In this article Mike continues his clear explanations of how to handle the trump suit in a number of situations, whether as declarer or defender.*

Let us look at some more things that can be done with trumps.

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

Bidding somewhat enthusiastically, you reach a contract of Six Hearts, having bid clubs along the way. West leads the jack of diamonds. The distribution in the minor suits is annoying; if dummy had three diamonds and two clubs, for instance, the contract would be excellent. However, if we are allowed to win the first diamond we can get a discard on the third spade honour, so we play low from dummy. East thinks for a while, but eventually he wins with the ace and leads another one to the king in dummy. We have to make the rest of the tricks.

Let us look at the trump suit. We have nine cards between our two hands; if the enemy trumps are 2-2 or 3-1 there will be no problem. This is, for all practical purposes, 90%. However, it does not cost to cater for the possibility of a 4-0 break. What happens if we cash the ace first? If East shows out, then West started with J1084, and he must come to one trick. In fact, with that holding, West will come to one trick no matter what we do. What if West shows out? Then East will hold J1084.

That is a different matter. We can pick up J1084 in East. We start by playing low towards the queen. If West shows out, it does not make any difference – we retain the AK9 over J108 in the East hand. We play a trump towards our hand, and cover East's card. Say he plays the ten – we win with the king, cross back over to dummy with a spade and play another heart through his J8 into our A9. Either way, East cannot make a trick.

As it happens, on this deal the trumps are 2-2. Our safety play has not gained us anything, apart from perhaps some grudging respect from the opposition. However, respect doesn't earn tricks, and we still need the rest.

One possibility is that the queen of clubs will drop. If so, the jack will become established. Our other club can be discarded on a spade honour, and we will have twelve tricks. On the ace of clubs East plays the ten. Maybe he has Q10 doubleton...no, on the king of clubs East follows with the six. It looks like West started with four clubs to the queen.

At the table, declarer conceded one down at this point, a claim that was accepted by the defenders. However, the contract could have been made.

Declarer had a bit of a mental block. Imagine that the contract was 6NT rather than 6♥. In no-trumps, if you have a long suit to cash, you simply cash it. Here, the long suit happens to be trumps. For some reason, players can be reluctant to cash out the long

suit *when it is trumps* – there is a kind of psychological need to hang on to the last trump, just in case; also, when there are no trumps out, why continue to draw them?

After the ace and king of clubs, this was the position:

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

If we switch into no-trump mode we simply play three more rounds of hearts. West can spare a club and a diamond on the first two rounds, but has no answer to the third. If he throws the queen of clubs then a small spade is discarded from dummy, which is now high; if he throws a spade then the jack of clubs goes away and dummy makes four spade tricks. Our trumps have acted like a boa constrictor – West has been squeezed.

This raises an interesting ethical question – if the defenders can see that this squeeze would have operated, should they have conceded the slam? Opinions may vary. At the table, partner and I accepted the concession.

In practice, a different opening lead would have given the defenders a chance of defeating the slam. If West leads a spade, declarer wins, draws trumps, and then has to play a diamond. If he plays to the king in

dummy, East can take the ace and play a second spade, which destroys the communications between declarer and dummy; however if South leads the queen of diamonds, East can take the ace and play a spade, but the squeeze still operates as the king of diamonds is still there as an entry to dummy. If East ducks the queen of diamonds, the losing diamond can be discarded on a top spade, and all South loses is a club.

♣♦♥♠

Sometimes, we must protect partner's trumps. Playing pairs, you pick up this hand as South and East opens 1♦ :

♠ J1074 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 3 ♣ AK985

You could bid 2♣ but you have support for all the other suits, so double is perhaps a more flexible call. As such, it would doubtless earn maximum points in any bidding competition. West bids 1♥ and partner 1NT. This almost certainly denies a four-card major. East repeats his diamonds - 2♦.

We don't really have anything to say here – if partner wishes to compete further, he can double. West passes, and partner does double. East passes. This is not a penalty double as we play it, although such an interpretation is possible. In our case our side must have a club fit, so we bid 3♣.

After two passes East competes further with 3♦. We can hardly bid on with our hand. If 4♣ is a good contract, partner is still there. Three Diamonds is passed out. The obvious lead is the ace of clubs (some pairs play ace asking for attitude, and king for count, so you might lead the king). Dummy puts down:

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

The first trick goes ace, three, two, jack. Your methods here are that a high-low signal shows an odd number, and a low-high signal shows an even number. Partner is unlikely to have a four-card major, so it looks like he has four clubs. Although the ♥K might be right, it might also be very wrong. East rebid 2♦, not 1♠; he is unlikely to have four. We switch to the four of spades: three, nine, queen. It looks like East has the ace-king-queen of spades.

East plays the four of hearts, and the ace wins in dummy; ten from partner. East now runs the diamond nine, which holds, and follows with the diamond eight, which also holds. We can safely throw a club on this trick. Declarer now ruffs a club, cashes the ace and king of spades, and exits with a low heart. We win with the jack and.....

Not so fast. Why has East not continued drawing trumps? If he had seven, he would have done so. It looks like East has only six trumps, leaving partner with four. In that case, East's distribution is 3361, leaving partner with 3244.

Let us review the defence. When declarer played to the ace of hearts, partner played the ten. With a doubleton, our methods are to signal the lowest card, not the highest; if partner has two hearts they cannot be ten-small, as he would have played a small card under the ace.

If our reading of the distribution is correct, then partner must have the doubleton queen of hearts. So if we play the jack, partner will be forced to

overtake with the queen. Will this matter? Let us look at the position when declarer plays a low heart (see top of next page):

If we play the jack of hearts, partner overtakes with the queen, and has to play a club. East ruffs, and exits with his last heart. We win with the king, but East has the KJ of diamonds behind partner's AQ, and must make one more trick for his contract.

♠ –  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ A Q  
 ♣ 10 6

♠ –	♠ –
♥ 9 6 5 2	♥ 8 (7 led)
♦ –	♦ K J 10
♣ Q	♣ –

♠ J  
 ♥ K J  
 ♦ –  
 ♣ K 9

If we have read the hand right, we must go up with the king of hearts, swallowing partner's queen. Now we can cash the jack of hearts and play a club. East, down to all trumps, can ruff, but at trick twelve he has to play away from the KJ of diamonds into partner's AQ. The difference is that if we play the ♥J partner has to win, and, having only clubs to play safely, has to allow declarer to reduce his trumps before throwing us in.

The play of the king of hearts, where you open your jaws wide to swallow an inconvenient card from partner, is known, appropriately enough, as a crocodile coup.

Note that East did very well to ruff a club before cashing out the spades. This was the full hand:



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

The defence would have been a lot simpler if partner had taken the ace on the second trump play from dummy. We can then cash our heart tricks and exit passively, and North makes his ♦Q eventually.

♣♦♥♠

Playing in a teams match, as South we pick up a very fine hand indeed:

♠ A8 ♥ AKQJ8764 ♦ K ♣ 32

At Game All, West opens 3NT – a solid seven-card minor with less than an ace outside. Partner passes, and East passes after some consideration.

We have an excellent chance of nine tricks, and it is Game All. If the opposition declare 3NT doubled and partner leads a major we will collect a likely 1400. So we double - you never know; perhaps they will pass it out.

West makes a disciplined pass, and partner passes also, but East removes to Four Clubs. That's a pity; we have to bid Four Hearts and hope that partner produces something useful. We have shown a good hand, so if partner has useful values he can proceed if he wants to. Four Hearts is passed out. West leads the ace of clubs and we face this problem:

♠ QJ62
♥
♦ J1098652
♣ 75
♠ A8
♥ AKQJ8764
♦ K
♣ 32

We thank partner gravely for his contribution to the combined assets. West leads out three rounds of clubs, East discarding a spade on the third round. We ruff and consider our chances.

Despite the paucity of high cards in dummy, the contract is not hopeless. West has AKQ to seven clubs; he should not have the ace of diamonds as well, assuming the 3NT opener is of the "normal" variety. On enquiry, the 3NT opening bid is described as denying an outside ace, although an outside king is possible. So West may hold the king of spades.

However, is there any chance of making the contract if West has the king of spades? We know East has the ace of diamonds; if West has the spade king, he can discard down to the king of spades and a small diamond, and there will be nothing we can do. So we must assume that East has both the ace of diamonds and the king of spades. Is there anything we can do about that?

We have ten cards left: both spades, the king of diamonds, and seven hearts. We cash the heart ace; both opponents follow. We continue to draw trumps; West has a singleton and East has four. West throws three clubs away.

Apart from our trumps, we have three cards in spades and diamonds. This opens up an intriguing possibility. If we play off all our trumps, East will have to come down to three cards as well. We know he has the ace of diamonds, and we are assuming that he has the king of spades. If he keeps the king of spades guarded, there will be no room in his hand for any diamonds other than the ace. At trick eleven, then, we can exit with the king of diamonds; East will be on lead with only spades remaining, and will have to concede two spade tricks.

This is the three-card ending we envisage after we have run all our trumps:

♠ 4	♠ Q J	♠ K 10
♥ -	♥ -	♥ -
♦ Q 7	♦ J	♦ A
♣ -	♣ -	♣ -
	♠ A 8	
	♥ -	
	♦ K	
	♣ -	

Although the pips are not guaranteed, the ending will be something like this. We exit with the king of diamonds and East is endplayed. However, there is a slight flaw in this plan. East will be able to tell what is happening; he might discard in such a fashion that in the three-card ending EW really have this:

♠ 10 4	♠ K
♥ -	♥ -
♦ Q	♦ A 7
♣ -	♣ -

Now exiting with the king of diamonds is fatal. So, which possibility to play for?

It depends on your estimation of the opponents. One clue is that West, who can also see what you are doing, is likely to signal his spade length accurately, to help East with his discards; after all, you might hold the ace of spades singleton and king doubleton in diamonds. If so, discarding down to the singleton ace of diamonds would be fatal. This may help you to judge the situation at the end. Also, East, discarding from ♠ K10 and ♦ A4 on the last trump, may give an indication; but a good player will foresee this problem and will have made up his mind what to do well before the tenth trick, and will discard without apparent pain.

At the table, my partner gave due credit to the opposition and cashed the ace of spades. Unfortunately, the ending was the first of the two possible endings above. This sufficed to gain 3 imps, however; the other NS pair were down one in Five Hearts Doubled when declarer read the ending correctly.

This was the full deal:

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

There is a defence that will defeat Four Hearts legitimately – West switches to a diamond at trick two. East wins the ace and returns a club, and South gets locked in his hand for good. Obviously,

that would be no use if South had the spade ace singleton and king doubleton diamond. Some things are just too difficult.

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## Congratulations ...

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



At Brighton, in the main teams weekend **Andrew Robson & Tony Forrester** won the Four Stars A Final with Peter Crouch and Alexander Allfrey (right);



**Simon Gillis** (below) won the B final with a team of Norwegian visitors;



**Chris Duckworth & Marek Malysa** (above right) won the Swiss Teams with two Dutch visitors, with **John Reardon** second and **Alan Woo, Olivia Woo & Alex Hydes** third.

During the mid-week events at Brighton, **Tom Townsend** won the Tuesday Championship Pairs; **Paul Lamford & Chantal Girardin** were second in the Mixed Pairs Championship; **Pip Railing** won the Thursday Open Teams, **Gordon Rainsford** won the Sunday Open Pairs and **David Gold** won both the Thursday and Friday Open Pairs. In the Really Easy Congress **Ros Nananyakkara & Edd Edmondson** were first in the Monday evening Pairs and **Tim Wilson & Monica Marinescu** were second in the Tuesday afternoon Next Step Pairs and third in the Wednesday evening Next Step Pairs.

At the World Championships in Philadelphia last October, **Gunnar Hallberg** (pictured right with team mates including Paul Hackett) won Gold in the Rand Cup, the World Seniors Teams.



**Also in Philadelphia, Zia Mahmood** won Silver in the Rosenblum Cup, the World Open Teams, and **Andrew Robson, Tom Townsend** and **David Bakhshi** all reached the finals of the World Open Pairs.



At the Autumn Congress **David Bakhshi** (left) won the Two Stars Pairs with Hugh McGann, and **Alex Hydes** was in second place; **Mike** and **Carrie Eden** were third in the Swiss Pairs and **Hannah Cornfield** and **Tom Townsend** won the Satellite Pairs. In the teams, **David Gold** won the Eastbourne Bowl and **Roland Gronau** and **David Wing** won the Burlington Cup.

**Simon Gillis** won the 2010 Gold Cup with his London-based team of **Zia Mahmood, Robert Sheehan, Gunnar Hallberg, Fredrik Bjornlund** and **David Burn** (right).



**Ted Booth** won the Swiss Teams at the Middlesex Congress.

**Mike Hill** and **Mike Clack** won the Hindhead GC bridge & golf event.

**Ken Barnett** and **Chantal Girardin** won the Herts One-Day Swiss Teams and **Lorna Vestey, Martin Baker** and **Dave Strawbridge** were third in the Surrey One-Day Swiss Teams.

**David Gold** and **Olivia Woo** won the Pre-Congress Pairs and were third in the Mixed Pairs at the Crete Congress.

**Susanna Gross** was a member of the Whitelaw Cup winning team in the National Women's Teams.

# The Terminal Cafe

by Ian Payn

By the time you read this I'll have gone. No, not from these pages (dream on), but I'll no longer be the Chairman of the Young Chelsea. That honourable position is now held by David Ewart, who is, I think, just the right person to guide the club through the next stage of development. If someone were to ask me (and they haven't yet) what the main leap forward had been during my seven years in the hot seat, I think I'd ignore what had gone on behind the scenes (time-consuming and crucial though it was) and focus instead on the changes in the club room. Not just the technological advances (Bridgemates, ScoreBridge, the screen in the bar with rolling results) or the refurbishment (brightly coloured walls instead of that bizarre job lot of mud coloured paint). The fact that the club manager is a world class director, as well as a very competent administrator without whom the club would have withered and died doesn't harm, obviously, but I'm not about to try and take credit for his sterling qualities. And no, I'm not going to name him. Gordon Bloody Rainsford gets enough praise heaped on him without – damn.



No, I'm not going to focus on any of those. I think that the one thing that has made most difference to playing a normal game of duplicate any evening at the Young Chelsea is this: we've got rid of the riff raff.

Just before I stepped down Jeremy Dhondy (who has been acting as the club Witchfinder General) sent me a list of people that we'd had to either get rid of or have serious words with over the last few years. This list included (but was not restricted to):

- Two Players who got horrendously drunk (not with each other, that might have made things bearable), one of whom was guilty of partner-abuse, the other of whom took things one stage further and was guilty of whole room-abuse.
- One cretin who as well as all round naff behaviour in person scrawled vile ramblings on the club Facebook page.
- One out-and-out racist.
- At least two players of high-standing who could possibly be accused of being somewhat up themselves...
- One dismal nutter who was obsessed with the club having been taken over by homosexuals, and threw a glass of wine over a lady member. When I wrote to him telling him he was barred for life, and, if there is one, the after-life, he wrote back ranting about homosexuality. Not wishing to cause offence, he apologised if I were a homosexual myself. I was minded to write back telling him that were I gay it certainly wouldn't have been as a result of anything to do with him, but why indulge these pea-brains further?

The list goes on.

We're none of us perfect, and the whole ethos over the years, as fostered by Warwick Pitch, is one of tolerance, but, as with the bridge population at large, the demographic of the YC has changed. What might have been tolerated in feckless youth is not really attractive in the middle-aged. There's nothing wrong with exuberance. Ebullience, either. High spirits are permissible (indeed, perhaps occasionally they should be compulsory). Acting like a complete prat, either over the bridge itself or anything else is not. I'm the last person to insist on Edwardian manners at the bridge table, and I don't personally subscribe to Best Behaviour at Bridge. The two reasons for that are that forcing people to be polite does not actually make them polite, and that I expected higher standards than that at the Young Chelsea anyway, and if we didn't get them, then Gordon, Jeremy or I (or, on a really, really bad day for the malefactor all three of us) would deal with it.

In the unlikely event of my being considered to have a "legacy" at the YC it would be that. If you haven't been for a while and think it's a fearful place filled with bellowing rabble, give it another try. You may well find yourself pleasantly surprised.



Nothing damns an idea as thoroughly as the voicing of it. When the Young Chelsea launched a new initiative, I received the following e-mail:

*Starting this Monday 17th January, committee member Rosie White has organised for a top expert to give a commentary and lead a talk every week when the game ends shortly after 10pm. There will be no extra charge for this, and all players from the duplicate are welcome to stay.*

*We are very lucky to have the first session led by Espen Erichsen, a Norwegian (and English!) international. The following three weeks will be led by Joe Fawcett (English International), Dafydd Jones (Welsh International, holder of the Spring Fours), and Ian Payn (former Chairman, witty raconteur, and he knows a thing or two about bridge too).*

You will notice that by week four things are beginning to tail off a bit. Now, I appreciate that they had to say something, and I admit that I have never represented my country, but what about all my triumphs on the domestic front? I have won the Brighton Plate, the Eastbourne Bowl, the Milton Keynes Swiss Teams, the North Dulwich Men's Pairs and the Falmouth Salver. This proves, if nothing else, that I get about a bit. But do these globe-trotting triumphs get a mention? Do they buffalo. No, it's "former Chairman" – well, can't argue with that – and "witty raconteur". That's the killer, and that's what I was talking about in the opening sentence. Calling me (or anyone, for that matter) a "witty raconteur" is a cast-iron way of ensuring that nothing even remotely amusing ever passes from my lips again. "Go on," they'll cry, "say something witty." Silence will ensue as, tongue-tied, I fail to live up to my advanced publicity. What, by the way, is an unwitty raconteur? The Ancient Mariner? I suppose I have something in common with him – we have a similar attitude to over-tricks. I stoppeth one in three.

Finally there's the equally damning "he knows a thing or two about bridge". Well, indeed, I do, but after I've talked about those what will we have left to talk about

(for the record they're "sort your hand red, black, red, black" and "third hand high, second hand low")? No, it's all too terrible for words. Expectations have been raised and I can barely sleep at night for worrying about the sea of disappointed faces. And people can be so cruel. Bare moments after the circular e-mail quoted above went out I received an e-mail addressed to "Dear Ian (the-witty-raconteur-who-knows a-thing-or-two-about-bridge) Payn", cutting me to the quick. I'm not going to name and shame the miscreant here, but you know who you are, John Pemberton, and you have helped drive a strong man to the brink of despair.

There is some hope, however. Joe Fawcett asked me to partner him when he does his expert bit, and he will be in turn partnering me when I come to do mine. So, whatever else we lack, we'll have a bit of moral support, and if we decide to muscle in on each other's "Expert Commentary" then the punters can hardly complain about getting two for the price of one. It's not as though we're going to cheer each other up, or anything (and it's hard to maintain the whip hand whilst giving an "Expert Commentary" if you've just scored 51%, which is what Fawcett and I normally scrape up between us on our rare evenings out), but at least we'll be proving one of those old saws we learned at our mothers' knee. Misery loves company.



Changing the subject yet still leaving this an entirely bridge-free zone, someone asked me the other day what it is exactly that county selectors do (the reason that they asked me is that I am one, not just on the off-chance). The London Committee has two selectors on it, Tom Townsend and me. I'm actually an elected member of the committee given the role of selector. Tom is a selector co-opted onto the committee to fill that specific role. The small but subtle difference is that he's obviously doing the job because of his selecting skills. I'm doing it because...er...well, many good reasons, I'm sure. There's a third selector, Brian Callaghan, upon whose judgement Tom relies, to a certain extent. Callaghan will deny that he is actually a selector, but in my opinion if you help with the selection, you're a selector. Power without responsibility, that's what that man wants.

<b>Puzzle Solution</b> (See page 5)								
4	9	7	5	6	1	3	8	2
8	5	3	9	7	2	1	6	4
2	1	6	4	8	3	9	5	7
3	4	5	7	1	9	6	2	8
7	8	1	6	2	4	5	3	9
9	6	2	3	5	8	7	4	1
6	7	9	2	4	5	8	1	3
5	2	8	1	3	7	4	9	6
1	3	4	8	9	6	2	7	5

In terms of the number of selection duties that take place, the task is not onerous. London representation in the Reg Corwen Trophy (pairs) and the Pachabo (teams) are fought for at the table. London teams in the Home Counties League tend to be self-propagating. That really only leaves the Metropolitan Cup (Teams of 12) and the Tollemache (Teams of 8) to contend with (although the odd invitational event may turn up from time to time – for instance, I threw together a London team for the 2010 Lederer at the last moment).

The Metropolitan Cup has traditionally been a bit of a non-starter for London – years of neglect by members left us down to one team, hastily assembled the week before the competition. Over the last couple of years, though we increased first to two teams, then to four. This was achieved not, alas, solely by my own sterling efforts, but by my asking other people to help. I don't know enough about the entire rainbow of bridge players in London to cover four teams in (roughly) descending order of ability. But I know people who do. Chinese whispers – pass it on! Everybody I ended up speaking with was keen to play – no-one turned up because they were press-ganged, they turned up because they were pleased to help their county, and, for the most part, delighted to be asked. And, by the way, it was all fairly last-minute, owing to the prevarication of the organising county over the date (they don't have the admin skills that we have in London, obviously). If you're interested in playing this year, whatever your standard, expert to...er...not quite expert, just drop me a line at [ian.payn@charterchambers.com](mailto:ian.payn@charterchambers.com).

The Tollemache is a different story, and largely Tom's pigeon, Brian and I providing suggestions and advice (whether asked or not). Because of the quality of the field in this major national competition, it's not quite as open to all as the Metropolitan Cup. Three things have to be considered, the three As: Ability, Availability and Amenability. The last is important – no point in having a bridge genius who gets on everybody else's nerves, affecting their performance. As far as availability is concerned, a lot of London's top players play in US Nationals, with which the Tollemache qualifier always clashes. Always until this year, that is, but we still lost people with travelling or other commitments. You work with what you've got. Finally, and most controversially, we come to ability. This is always going to be a bit subjective, but we do have some idea of what's going on, who's playing well, who's having a decent run and so forth. That's not to claim omniscience but the job of a selector is to select, and that's what Tom, with help, does, to the best of his abilities which, frankly, are as good as anyone else's.

The results in this year's Tollemache qualifier were a bit of a disappointment, to say the least. We were as optimistic as we had been for years: Three new players, one in a new promising partnership and the range of players went from World Class at the top to Eminently Reliable at the other end. Two partnerships performed excellently and...we just missed the cut. Frustrating, but at least we now have something to build on. We have no magic wand to wave, but as our record-breaking four year winning run recedes into the distance we're looking to bury the horror of the last few years' failure. Next year, we put the boot in.

So, that's that for this time. Sorry there were no entertaining bridge hands (will there ever be?) but there were a couple of things I wanted to get off my chest, and now that I have, next time I can go back to just being sarcastic about people...

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