



### Welcome

As the national membership body for bridge, the English Bridge Union works to communicate to our members about the differing sides of our large and historic organisation – especially with all the changes that are currently occurring at HQ.

As such, we would like to introduce the first of a new quarterly newsletter – Tournament Focus, which will be arriving the week after this Club Focus.

Tournament Focus is written especially for the tournament player – whether you play in just one or many. We hope that our newsletter will inform, entertain, and provide views from our tournament players, every quarter. In each edition, we hope to provide you with information on our future events, updates from the Tournament Committee, and articles of interest to our many tournament players. Tournament Focus will be emailed directly to anyone who has played in an EBU Tournament and has supplied us with an email address. If you have not played in any of our tournaments, but

would like to receive a copy of Tournament Focus, please contact [tournamentfocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:tournamentfocus@ebu.co.uk).

The new Tournament Focus will sit comfortably alongside the other communications from the EBU: English Bridge, Club Focus, Ruffian and Accolade. English Bridge is well known to our members, but perhaps Ruffian and Accolade are less so.

Ruffian and Accolade are edited by John Pain, EBU Education Manager. Ruffian is the newsletter for the many students who are currently learning bridge; and Accolade is the newsletter for our many EBUTA members. If you would like to write for either of these newsletters, or find out more, please email: [John@ebu.co.uk](mailto:John@ebu.co.uk).

Additionally, please do keep sending your articles and thoughts; we appreciate everything we receive at Club Focus: [clubfocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:clubfocus@ebu.co.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you,

**Matt Betts and Krys Kazmierczak**

### Your Club, Your EBU, Your Players

By the time you read this every affiliated club in England will have received the EBU's information pack on club affiliation from April 2010 onwards.

Your club affiliation pack contains the following documents:

- Benefits for Individual Members
- Benefits for Affiliated Clubs
- Club Affiliation Agreement
- Pay to Play Guidance Notes
- Pay to Play Questions and Answers
- A description of the activities the EBU undertakes to provide the infrastructure and to develop the game in England.

There is a great deal of information contained in the pack and we know that all our clubs will share this with their members. We sent the information by mail. However, it is also available electronically and on our website. Further paper copies can be obtained by contacting Karen Durrell at Aylesbury.

Contact details for advice and guidance can be found in the introduction of the Pay to Play Guidance Notes.

Background documentation is also avail-

able on our website – just click on the Pay to Play section in the right hand menu of our home page.

I hope that you now have enough information to be able to make an informed decision on the future that your club wants to make for itself and its members. And that future involves being part of the EBU and its vibrant and developing community of clubs and players.

#### Sally Bugden

#### Stop Press

Clarification to "Pay to Play Questions and Answers"

Page 3:

*How much is the initial licence fee for a single user licence of Scorebridge?*

A: £45

*How much is the current annual support fee for a single user licence of Scorebridge?*

A: £9

### Limerick Competition

Hearty congratulations to Elisabeth Bingham from Wimbledon, the winner of the limerick competition from our March issue. She and her son had just spent a holiday in Derbyshire, where they had been made very welcome by the Matlock Bridge Club, inspiring her to pen the following lines:

*There was an old man from the Peaks,*

*Learnt bridge in under three weeks.*

*When asked how he did it,*

*He said, "I just bid it.*

*Conventions are strictly for geeks!"*

As her prize she receives a copy of *Bridge is Fun* by Ron Klinger. Many thanks to everyone who sent in entries for the competition.

Limericks for our next competition must have a Bridge theme and include the name of a place in the (Bridge) County of Devon - lots of interesting place names to rhyme with there, like Dawlish, Dean, Meeth and Bere Ferrers! Entries should be in to the address on page 6 by 15 June 2009. The winner will receive a copy of *Adventures in Card Play*\* by Geza Otlík and Hugh Kelsey (worth £16.99)

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\*Visit the EBU Shop ([www.ebu.co.uk/shop](http://www.ebu.co.uk/shop)) for many useful bridge books!

## Down Our Club - Bawburgh

With all the sad news over the years of players' attendances at bridge clubs down to 8 or 9 tables, it is nice to hear of a club in Norfolk that is so successful as to have people on the waiting list wanting to join.

I am referring to the Bawburgh Bridge Club (Bawburgh is a village a few miles away from Norwich), which was started some four years ago when some bridge players got together with the idea of filling a gap needed by players for playing in the afternoon, and also having occasional full-day events including lunch, etc. They thought the club should be one of friendliness but run on fairly strict lines as laid down by the EBU.

The venue is Bawburgh Village Hall, which at a push can hold 22 tables. It is a modern building, generously heated and with an ample car park. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are available free of charge throughout the afternoon, as is a wonderful supply of chocolate biscuits and peanut cookies.

The committee decided to have prepared

boards for all their sessions and these are purchased from the Norfolk CBA. The club also has Bridgemates. Furthermore the club has a Yahoo Email Group facility so that members can exchange views on the hands, the management of the club and social matters. Results are emailed to all players and on some occasions are on my PC before I even get home. Using the Scorebridge program, results of the hands and the contracts as bid by the players are on the printout as is the lead card, which is very helpful when going through the results after the event.

The full day events, which at the moment are held four times a year, are a sell-out as soon as tickets go on sale. They start with coffee and biscuits, followed by bridge, and then a hot lunch with dessert and wine. After the day's bridge has finished, afternoon tea is available with small titbits.

Players are coming from as far away as 45 miles, from Kings Lynn as well as Cromer and Mundesley on the north coast of the county. As the Thursday sessions are now hovering between 17-20 tables, it

has become necessary to have another afternoon on a Wednesday to accommodate visitors and members who cannot get into the Thursday afternoon sessions. This has now built up to 10-12 tables.

The club has a very good and informative website [www.bawburghbc.com](http://www.bawburghbc.com) and issues a regular newsletter to its members. Roger Stenson must be complimented for his dedication, as must the other members of the committee making this active club such a success. Jan Hubbard, the founder committee member who organises the catering, deserves a special mention too.

I do not have anything to do with the running of the club, but like many others I welcome the hard work done by the committee.

**Thomas Beven, Norfolk**

## Letter to Club Focus

Dear Sirs

Following on from your articles on responses to INT, I would like to draw your attention to an extra use of the 2NT response, in addition to making a transfer to a long minor in a weakish hand, to show a hand with two 5-card minor suits.

With a responding hand with opening values (around 12 points), 5♣ and 5♦, it is hard to find the best contract, whether it be 3NT, 5♣ or 5♦, or on a good day a slam in one of the minors. With a hand containing 10 cards in the minors, another suit will have a singleton or void. With such a hand respond 2NT, and over the forced 3♣, bid the short suit. Thus 1NT – 2NT – 3♣ – 3♥ says 'I have a reasonable hand with 5♣, 5♦ and 0 or 1♥'. If opener is interested in a possible slam, this is a good and early starting point to investigate, perhaps beginning with cue bids.

For example, if responder holds  
♠xx ♥x ♦KQxxx ♣AQxxx  
and opener holds

- ♠AQx ♥xxx ♦Axxx ♣Kxx the bidding might go 1NT – 2NT – 3♣ – 3♥ – 3♣(cue bid) – 4NT(Blackwood) – 5♥(2 aces) – 6♣ – 6♦, ending in an entirely reasonable 24-point slam.
- ♠AQxx ♥QJxx ♦Jxx ♣Kx the bidding might go 1NT – 2NT – 3♣ – 3♥ – 3NT. Opener's Heart holding opposite a sin-

gleton is not good for a higher level contract, so he chooses 3NT.

- ♠KQxx ♥xxx ♦AJx ♣Kxx the bidding might go 1NT – 2NT – 3♣ – 3♥ – 4♦ (agreeing diamonds) – 4NT(Blackwood) – 5♦(1 ace). Missing two aces the auction subsides in the good minor suit game.

**Tom Vickers, Middlesex**

### Focal Point

Does your club have a website? Why not put a link in to Club Focus? Our permanent web-address is:  
[www.ebu.co.uk/cf/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/cf/)



## Bridge Tales

Playing in a fairly high-level Pairs event, we came up against a pair playing the so-called "Polish Club" system, where an opening bid of 1C is forcing with several possible meanings. We looked at their card and decided we were never going to get to grips with it in the time available. However, I was dealer and had an opening hand with a good diamond suit, so I pulled out the 1D card, remarking that this seemed the best way to stop them from opening 1C.

"Not so," said the player on my left. "The best way to do that is to open 1C yourself." To which the player on my right immediately replied, totally deadpan: "Yes – but of course 1D is much more pre-emptive!"

**Sandra Nicholson, Oxon**

### Focal Point

Does your club run any duplicate events, charity drives or lectures open to non-members? If so, please drop us a line, and we can advertise them in Club Focus and on the EBU Website under "Club Events".

## Bidding Tools: Responding to 2NT - Stayman & Red-suit Transfers

In the last few articles we have been examining the bidding tools which are most useful when Partner opens 1NT and Responder needs to find the best spot to play in. Responder is in a similar situation when Partner opens 2NT, although he knows that Partner is much stronger. Most people play an opening bid of 2NT to show a strong balanced or semi-balanced hand. The exact high card point range is by partnership agreement, but in this article we assume a point range of 20-22 HCP, as commonly played in Modern Acol.

Since most partnerships already play Stayman and Red-Suit Transfers opposite an opening 1NT, it makes sense to use a similar system over an opening 2NT. Thus a response to 2NT of

- i) 3♣ (Stayman) asks Opener to bid his 4-card major
- ii) 3♦ (Transfer) asks Opener to bid 3♥
- iii) 3♥ (Transfer) asks Opener to bid 3♠

Some examples will help clarify the use of the above conventions. You, as Responder, hold:

1) ♠AJ108 ♥1094 ♦K963 ♣53

With eight HCP opposite Partner's 20-22, game should be easily on. With a balanced hand, 3NT should be fine, but 4♣ would be better if Partner has four spades. Bid 3♣ (Stayman). If Partner replies 3♠, raise to 4♠. If Partner replies 3♦, denying a 4-card major, just bid 3NT. If Partner re-

plies 3♥, you should still bid 3NT: Partner may have four spades as well as four hearts, but if so, it is up to him to convert 3NT to 4♠. He should know that you must have four spades to bid this way.

2) ♠J862 ♥10954 ♦63 ♣532

Pass! Even 2NT might be a challenge. There might be a better place to play if Partner has a 4-card major, but you can't afford to ask the question! What would you do if Partner replies 3♦ to your Stayman enquiry? You are already too high!

3) ♠94 ♥KQJ1087 ♦963 ♣53

With a combined point count of at least 26 and an excellent 6-card heart suit, ask Partner to bid 3♥ by using the 3♦ transfer bid and then raise to 4♥. Partner should have two hearts for you, and the hand is better played from his side since the opening lead may well play up to a tenace in his hand. Defenders should note that after this sequence a trump lead is quite likely to be best.

4) ♠94 ♥J108764 ♦963 ♣53

With just one point opposite an opening 2NT, game is unlikely, but the six hearts are a source of tricks as a trump suit, so bid 3♦ as a Transfer and pass Opener's forced 3♥ bid.

5) ♠974 ♥KQJ108 ♦963 ♣53

To show your six points and 5-card heart suit, transfer to hearts and then bid 3NT.

With a three-card heart fit, Opener will usually convert to 4♥. If his hand is more suitable for NT, he will pass.

6) ♠Q9874 ♥KQJ108 ♦9 ♣53

Unless Partner has opened 2NT with two doubletons, you know that you must have an 8-card major fit, and of course enough points for game. Start by bidding 3♥, to tell Partner that you have five spades. After the forced 3♠ reply, bid 4♥ to show your second suit. Partner can now choose.

7) ♠K74 ♥K1084 ♦A63 ♣Q53

Bid 4NT, a quantitative raise asking Partner to pass if minimum or bid 6NT if maximum.

Note that the above scheme, subject to appropriate point adjustments, can also be used if the partnership agreement is that a sequence such as 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT shows a strong balanced or semi-balanced hand with a well-defined HCP range.

In the next issue we will be looking at one or two other possible uses of the 3♣ bid opposite an opening 2NT.

## Household Insurance

Following the highly successful launch of the revised Bridge Club Scheme, Osbornes Insurances Oxford Ltd in conjunction with the English Bridge Union are pleased to announce a further enhancement of membership benefits.

A new household insurance policy, exclusively for members of the English Bridge Union, is tailored to individual requirements whether it is a one bedroom apartment or a 20 bedroom mansion. Even if it is a property that is buy-to-let, there is a policy available with competitive premiums and wide covers with an EBU membership discount of 5% to 10%. In some cases even higher discounts can be obtained.

The main scheme is underwritten by the UK's largest insurer, Norwich Union (AVIVA).

For a personalised quotation contact Osbornes Personal Insurance Department on 01844-213161 or email [admin@osbornesins.co.uk](mailto:admin@osbornesins.co.uk). In order to obtain this insurance you will need to provide Osbornes with your EBU number.

Plus, don't forget that the EBU has negotiated excellent, supremely economical insurance rates for our affiliated clubs. Further details can be found on our website.

**Barry Capal**

### Water Rates Petition

The EBU has learnt that bridge clubs will face increased costs due to new water rate rules from next year.

Clubs are literally watching their money go down the drain as water companies start to bring through surface area-based charging. The Water Industry Act 1991 classes only two categories of customer – domestic and non-domestic. From 2010, all non-domestic customers will be charged according to the surface area of the site rather than through the rateable value of the property; this means that many of our clubs and other voluntary organisations will end up paying more than ten times their original rate.

CCPR (the national alliance of governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation) has launched a petition to urge the Prime Minister to instruct utilities companies to charge community clubs affordable rates for services. Please support this by signing the petition at

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/saveourclubs/>

## Club Committee Update

Your Club Committee has been busy surveying and advising on the future of the EBU magazine, English Bridge. You will begin to see some of the changes implemented by Elena Jeronimidis, the Editor, in issues later this year. We hope you will enjoy the magazine even more as it develops to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's EBU members.

Much of the Committee's third meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> was taken up with updates on the progress towards the introduction of Universal Membership through Pay-to-Play. The Club Affiliation Agreement Packs were sent out to all clubs for consideration at the end of April, and most queries are well-covered in the associated Guidance Notes and Question and Answer pages, but your volunteer Regional Representatives are geared up to answer any additional questions you may have and help with clarification. The contact details of your local Regional Representative can be found in the box on this page, or you can write a letter to "Club Committee" at the usual EBU address.

**Krys Kazmierczak, EBU Club Liaison Officer**



## Tunbridge Wells Centenary

The building occupied by Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club (TWBC) was opened 100 years ago. Originally it was a gentlemen's club where local businessmen could relax. What is now the main bridge room used to contain two full-sized snooker tables. It is not clear when bridge ousted snooker but the first lady was admitted in 1948. However, she was only allowed to enter by the back door. The club has moved with the times so that, not only now do ladies have equal membership rights, but also one of the first lady members became chairman in 1973.

Today, we believe TWBC to be one of the best appointed bridge clubs in the country. With four bridge rooms, we can accommodate 44 tables and are used by the Kent County Bridge Association for many of their events and by the EBU as one of their venues for the Portland Pairs.

### Club Committee Regional Representatives

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[daisy\\_duck@btopenworld.com](mailto:daisy_duck@btopenworld.com)  
London

## Farewell

Members of Lingwood Bridge Club, Danbury, Essex, presented the Founder of the club, Yvonne Dagwell with a farewell gift on her last night at the club.

Yvonne is well known in Essex for her commitment to the game through her extensive teaching programmes over the years.

She was awarded the Dimmie Fleming Award by the EBU in recognition of her services to Bridge in 2002. Yvonne has also established other clubs in the area.

Lingwood BC together with two other clubs, Heather Hills BC and Danbury Bridge Circle, which she had also established, pooled their resources to purchase a joint leaving gift. This was a lap top computer suitably loaded with a suite of software.

All of the members of these three clubs had the opportunity to wish her well and drink to her good health in the future after her move to Winchester.



### Did you know that...

....Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

Now you know!



## Play Bridge and Raise Vital Funds for Charity

Register now for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Annual Bridge Tournament.

Marie Curie Cancer Care is encouraging all Bridge enthusiasts to sign up for the 'Marie Curie Cancer Care Bridge Tournament 2009 - 2010'. You can help raise funds for essential home nursing care for terminally ill patients, simply by playing your favourite game. The Tournament takes place between October 2009 and March 2010 and welcomes entrants from across the UK. Focusing on Chicago and Rubber Bridge, the tournament is open to players of any standard.

Actress and Bridge enthusiast, Susan Hampshire is lending her support to the Tournament, she said: "I am delighted to be supporting the Marie Curie Cancer Care Bridge Tournament and urge bridge players across the country to sign up and take part. Marie Curie Nurses care for terminally ill people in their own homes, where they can be with the people they love the most. My home and family are so very important to me, which is why I am supporting the vital and wonderful work that Marie Curie Nurses do."

The tournament is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and has raised over £250,000 for the charity so far. Last year 2,100 bridge fans registered to take part and raised over £43,000.

Bridge specialist, journalist and teacher Andrew Robson is also inviting all bridge lovers to join in. He said: "Marie Curie

Cancer Care's Bridge Tournament gives you the great opportunity to meet other bridge fans in your area, and develop your playing skills, while raising funds for home nursing care at the same time. Every game played will help Marie Curie Nurses care for terminally ill people in their own homes at the end of their lives."

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing care for people with cancer and other terminal illnesses, giving them the choice to spend their final days in their own homes, in familiar surroundings and supported by their families. Working in communities across the UK – from remote Scottish islands through villages and towns to our biggest cities – Marie Curie Nurses care for around half of all cancer patients who die at home. This year the charity will care for approximately 27,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in their hospices.

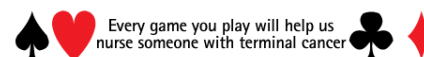
One Marie Curie Nurse told us about the work she does: "Marie Curie nursing isn't just about the hands-on, practical care that we give – it's about the emotional support as well. I get great job satisfaction knowing that I have made a difference to someone's life. They are depending on me at what can be the most bewildering and distressing time of their life. In the early hours of the morning, they can unburden their worries, concerns, fears and sometimes even anger. It's good just to listen and I feel honoured that they trust me."

Research shows around 65 per cent of people would like to die at home if they had a terminal illness, with a sizeable minority opting for hospice care. However, more than 50 per cent of cancer deaths still occur in hospital, the place people say they would least like to be. Marie Curie's Delivering Choice Programme aims to double the number of people with a terminal illness who have the choice to die at home.

There are a variety of prizes for Tournament winners including the opportunity to win lessons at Andrew Robson's Bridge Club in London. You can register in pairs or preferably groups of six pairs and can play in your own home or at a bridge club.

It costs Marie Curie Cancer Care £20 to provide a Marie Curie Nurse for one hour in a patient's home. Registration is just £3 per person with a suggested donation of £17, but all donations however big or small are always welcome. Registration is open until June 1 2009.

For more information on Marie Curie Cancer Care's Bridge Tournament please visit <http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/Bridge> or call Philippa Cannon on 01371 876730.



## Bridge Tails



**Henry and Snickers were a little annoyed when the other two partners failed to turn up.**

**Thanks to Stephen Hurst**

If you have a pet who likes to play cards, please send a photo in to Club Focus at the address on page 7.

### Local Event

Ed Scerri Seminar

Richmond Bridge Club

Saturday 9th May , 11.00AM

"Seeing the Error of your Ways"

£9.00 PAY AT THE DOOR- no advance booking

Contact:

[marietta@wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk](mailto:marietta@wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk)



## Junior Teach In

**28 - 30 August 2009**

Whether you are a complete beginner or a junior expert - all levels of player are welcome to come and give bridge a go!

The Junior 'Teach-In' takes place over a whole weekend at Loughborough University and costs only £115 per student. The price includes all meals, two nights' en suite accommodation and all the bridge tuition and play! Adults are also welcome and many join in the classes and the bridge tournaments - £130 per adult.

So, come and enjoy a packed weekend of bridge tuition, coaching and play for all young people under the age of 21.

**John Pain**

## Minibridge

Our initiative to introduce Minibridge to primary schools is going well. We will be holding another session in Norwich on 3 July, so if you are a primary school teacher in the area, please let us know.

We have a number of other Minibridge events coming up, please visit: [www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge](http://www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge) for more information or contact [matt@ebu.co.uk](mailto:matt@ebu.co.uk).

**Matt Betts**



## Forthcoming EBU Events

**Spring Bank Holiday Congress: 23 - 25 May, Bournemouth**

**English Riviera: 26 - 28 June, Torquay**

**Summer Seniors Congress: 10 - 12 July, Eastbourne**

**Northern Summer Congress: 23 - 26 July, Scarborough**

**Brighton Summer Congress: 14 - 23 August, Brighton**

**For more information, please email [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk) or see the EBU website.**



## Summer Seniors Congress

**10 - 12 July 2009**

**Eastbourne**

A long weekend of bridge in the popular seaside resort of Eastbourne, incorporating the Edith Kaplan Memorial Award. There will be special category prizes for veterans pairs and teams (all members of the pair/team must be at least 70 years of age on the first day of play).

Venue

The Congress will be held at the Winter Gardens, Eastbourne



## Contact us

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of Club Focus. Are you interested in writing for the next newsletter? Have you started learning bridge? Have you got any funny stories about bridge? Does your club have any interesting ideas or solutions to common problems which other clubs might benefit from? Would you like to publicise any special events open to non-members and members? Do you have a special pet who likes to play cards? Please let us know!

If you would like to contact us or send us your articles, feedback or comments, please email: [clubfocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:clubfocus@ebu.co.uk) or post to: **Club Focus, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ.** Deadline for submissions is 15 June 2009.

## Bridge Tales

See you later, Allegator!

At the end of a local bridge club's evening session, a burly member grabbed the mike from the TD about to announce the results and broadcast:

"Someone has been making allegations about my play. I know who it is, and if the allegator would step out into the car park I'll sort him out properly".

**Tim Johnson, Leics**



If this newsletter is printed, please don't forget to recycle it afterwards.

Information contained in this edition is correct at time of going to press. Production schedules mean that entries listed or reviewed may change between going to press and publication.

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