



# Tournament Focus

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

JULY 2009

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## Welcome

Welcome to the second Tournament Focus, our e-newsletter, written especially for you, the tournament player.

Thank you for everyone's feedback over the last few months since our last edition - it is all much appreciated. Some of the feedback has been included on page 3.

Please do keep sending us ideas and articles, especially as our next edition will be around the corner just as quickly as this one was. The next newsletter will be hitting your inboxes in November.

Until then, happy reading.

**Matt Betts**

## Tournament Committee Update

I thought I would start off this article by highlighting one or two particular events for next season.

### National Women's Teams

This event has been struggling over recent years and we are very grateful to a group of players who have volunteered to help re-invigorate it. We have also shortened the duration to two days, meaning competitors who can't travel daily only have to book one night's accommodation. Brochures and further details will be available shortly. I would really encourage all our lady competitors to consider entering - it looks a very exciting event and is unique in the EBU calendar.

### Crockford's Cup

This year the Plate competition will result in an eight team final running alongside the main final. This should produce a great weekend's bridge and enable all the unlucky first round losers to have something exciting to aim for. The closing date is 3 August 2009, and an entry form can be downloaded from the EBU website, or you can phone Peter or Dawn to enter on 01296 317 203 / 219.

### Personal Appearance

Lastly (and very bravely!), I wanted to talk about the issue of personal appearance at EBU competitions. It is an issue that certainly generates a lot of correspondence, and I thought it appropriate, particularly with Brighton coming up, to discuss the EBU's position on this.

down rules or even guidelines about dress and personal appearance. However, it is not unreasonable in any social gathering, such as a bridge congress, to expect that we should all try to avoid giving offence to other people - either players, officials or other hotel guests. Page 54 of the current Members' Diary and our website (under 'tournament regulations') says that players should be 'dressed properly and appropriately'. Now tailored shorts may indeed be appropriate at a summer congress or festival, particularly during the day, but are not (in our opinion) appropriate at a national championship in a 4-star hotel, particularly during the evening. We do not want to amplify this further with lots of rules and/or guidelines; the current wording should be sufficient. Our Tournament Directors have however been advised to implement the following policy:

Informal or casual dress is acceptable and appropriate at EBU events. While specific standards would be difficult to both formulate and enforce, conformity to generally acceptable standards of decency and cleanliness is expected. If the Tournament Director believes that a competitor's appearance at an event does not meet an acceptable standard, then that competitor will be required to correct this situation if they wish to continue in the event.

One final issue - one of our members has pointed out that, apart from Brighton, the EBU has no mid-week events. We would be very interested in hearing from people who would be interested in attending a 2-day mid-week congress. Please email us on [TournamentFocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:TournamentFocus@ebu.co.uk).

**Andrew Petrie**

I know, from long experience as an HR Director in a very big company, the difficulty there is in laying

## Play Quiz

After the success of Julian Pottage's quiz in English Bridge, we now welcome the first of a new series in Tournament Focus. Julian's Play Quiz is a competition you can all enter.

There are three categories in our competition: up to and including Master; for those up to and including Regional Master; and for those with higher ranking.

Please look at the play question below and give your answer.

♠ Q 9 6 3 2  
♥ A K Q 6  
♦ K 7  
♣ 6 3

N  
W ——— E  
S

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

| W        | N  | E    | S   |
|----------|----|------|-----|
|          | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦  |
| 3♣       | 3♥ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |    |      |     |

West leads the seven of clubs and East plays the jack.

What is the best line for making the contract?

Entries to: Julian Pottage, 17 Beach Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5NH or [ebuquizmaster@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ebuquizmaster@tiscali.co.uk). Entries need to arrive by 30 August 2009. Please state on the top left hand corner of the envelope or in the e-mail header the category you wish to enter. If entering by e-mail, please include your postal address.

Julian Pottage will judge the entries and the first correct answer that he draws in each category will win a book prize.

## Your Thoughts

Many thanks for the very positive feedback we received after the last issue, we will continue to provide the best possible newsletter for our readers. Here is a selection of some of our feedback:

"Just to say I thought the first newsletter was well laid out and the way it was sectioned made it easy to pick out the bits of interest". **Tony Hudson**

"Well done EBU. I have now run this out and well done on content & layout". **Lesley Millet**

A few people commented on the layout advising it wasn't very easy to read if the columns run all the way down the page. We are currently looking into sorting this out in future editions, please watch this space. However, most pages now have articles on half of the page, so that they are easier to read.

Thank you for everyone's comments. Please keep in touch with us, and let us know via the contact details on page 3.

## Bits & Bytes

In the recent past the subject of the EBU's results service has arisen at two different meetings I have attended, so I thought I would try to explain the issues that we have and why we cannot easily be compared to the fabulous service now available at some clubs.

As I have been reliably informed by Max Bavin, the EBU was a very early adopter of the use of technology for scoring its events. This has proven to be a real mixed blessing at times as technology has advanced. This is because many of our requirements are extremely unusual and none of the available "everyday" scoring programs will do what we need. Thus we have had to make do with existing (and ancient) code and then take the results of that and translate them into a format that can ultimately be displayed on a web page.

This has frequently required specialist input from EBU staff that is not always

available at congress events and normally has to wait for a working day to be resolved. Over recent years we have been able to do better than that on occasions as one of our staff, Ian Mitchell, is a whiz with Microsoft products and has produced a scheme that automates some of our requirements.

In the very recent past, over the last year or so, we have been very fortunate to start using specialist software developed by one of our members, Jeff Smith, who has, on a purely voluntary basis, provided software that enables us to automate all but the most obscure of our congress and tournament events AND to utilise Bridgemates where possible as well, which happened for the first time at Brighton last year.

We are now hoping that Jeff can automate the provision of most of our results to our web site, so that we can subsequently automate almost all of our

results actually at the event. When Jeff has done this for us we will, as we run our events all over the country, still find that some venues provide little or no internet service for us to use. We have acquired mobile broadband "dongles" so that we can hopefully link up that way, but even that sometimes does not work!

We will continue to do our best to provide an instantaneous results service, but 100% success cannot be guaranteed in the immediate future.


**Barry Capal**



# Head Girl

My favourite bridge tournament is the NEC Festival in Yokohama, Japan. This year I had the pleasure of partnering the best player in the Japanese Ladies team, Kyoko Shimamura. As an untried partnership, we had a few 'interesting' auctions, but Kyoko showed with her declarer play why she is the first name on the Japanese Ladies team sheet every year, as witness these two deals.

### N/S Game. Dealer North.

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

|   |
|---|
| ♠ A 8 7 6 4 3<br>♥ A 6<br>♦ Q 10 7<br>♣ K 4 |
|---|

| W    | N    | E    | S        |
|------|------|------|----------|
|      | 1♥   | Pass | 1♠       |
| 2♣   | 2♠   | 5♣   | 5♠       |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |


The West hand would not get involved at most tables but this proved to be a piece of perfect timing for a dubious call as East could pre-empt with 5 clubs, and Kyoko was pushed to the five level. East's final double was very aggressive but perhaps she, not unreasonably, expected a little more from her partner. The contract can be defeated by an initial diamond lead and club switch, but West actually led his singleton heart and Kyoko put in dummy's ten, which held the trick. If trumps are two-one, the contract is cold now – draw trumps, unblock the heart, cross to dummy with a spade and throw a club on the king of hearts then give up a diamond and a club, ruffing one diamond in dummy. But East threw a club on the first spade and Kyoko had to come up with something better, being virtually certain that the ace of clubs would be offside and the ace of diamonds on her right, given the auction and opening lead.

Kyoko's solution was the only line which would have been successful. She drew all three missing trumps, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to dummy with a fourth trump to take a club pitch on the king of hearts. In dummy for the last time, and with no trumps to take a diamond ruff, she now led the nine of diamonds and, when East played low, ran it. When the jack of diamonds was where it needed to be, that was +850.



On the following deal, West led the queen of clubs. There are a number of ways of playing the hand – if the diamond is onside, you may succeed simply by giving up two spades and a club and eventually taking a diamond finesse after pitching two diamonds on the clubs. But that would not have worked on the actual lie of the cards.

### Love All. Dealer South.

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

|  |
|--|
| ♠ J 8 6 5 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ A J 7 3<br>♣ A K 8 |
|--|

| W        | N   | E    | S  |
|----------|-----|------|----|
|          |     |      | 1♠ |
| Pass     | INT | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass     | 3♠  | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass |     |      |    |

Kyoko won the club lead and crossed to the ace of hearts to lead a low spade towards her hand. East went in with the king and switched to the ten of diamonds. Kyoko rose with the ace and led the jack of spades, pinning the ten and holding her trump losers to one. Now it was a simple matter to set up the clubs and claim ten tricks.

The technique Kyoko used is known as an *intrafinesse*. If East plays low on the first spade, declarer intends to put in the eight, hoping to force the king or queen. Then she leads the jack on the second round and hopes to find East with the ten doubleton.

If, as on the actual deal, East goes in with a top honour, the odds are to attempt to pin the ten on the next round. But if East plays the ten on the first round, from both king/queen-ten doubleton and ten-small doubleton, he can give declarer a real headache.

### Brian Senior

## Your Say

Remember this is your newsletter, and so it is your chance to have a say! The Tournament Committee and Tournament Focus will appreciate all your feedback.

Do you have any good ideas for the Tournament Committee? Do you want to comment on anything? Do you want to write about your experiences in the next Tournament Focus? We welcome all articles, correspondence, thoughts, feedback and much more - please just let us know.

You can contact us via: [TournamentFocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:TournamentFocus@ebu.co.uk), or by writing to: Tournament Focus, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8AZ

# The Manfred Mann Hand

Those of us of a certain age, who still retain a few memory cells, will remember a pop group from the 1960's called Manfred Mann, and their number one hit record with the song entitled 5-4-3-2-1. This hand reminded me of that song.

Playing standard methods, South opens 2NT showing a balanced 20-22 points. Despite holding only 4 points, North should normally bid to game. If partner has three or four-card spade support, the major suit game must have good chances. If South holds fewer than three spades, it increases the chances of there being a diamond fit, and then we go for the no-trump game.

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



♠ A 8 3  
♥ A K 5 4  
♦ A 9  
♣ A Q 7 3



## Wanted

Bob Brown needs a partner who can help him rise up the ranks. Bob is based in South Yorkshire but is willing to travel within a 100 mile radius. Please contact us at Tournament Focus.

So, North responds 3H, transfer, and over 3S from South, rebids 3NT. Should South prefer the 5-3 spade fit, or play in no-trumps. On this occasion, the decision is clear cut. Holding all four aces, which are better cards in suit contracts than no-trumps, and the weakness in diamonds, the eight card trump fit is chosen.

The opening lead is the three of hearts, and we are immediately heartened by the sight of dummy. The ten of hearts holds, and gives us an extra trick in hearts. Without that we would need to ruff a diamond in hand before drawing trumps, but now we can discard one diamond from dummy on a heart, and two on the A-Q clubs, leaving one diamond loser. As long as the trumps split 3-2 we have just three losers.

With an eight-card trump suit missing the K-Q-J, it is usual to duck the first round, then cash the ace. Assuming a 3-2 split, we leave the master trump outstanding while we cash our side-suit winners. So declarer leads the spade five from dummy, and East contributes the four. Holding all the intermediates, declarer plays the three.

This is then followed by the two from West, and dummy's five wins the trick. The MANFRED MANN trick - 5-4-3-2 - the deepest four card finesse.

This was the full hand. Note, if East "splits" the honours, the contract cannot be made.

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

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



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

♠ A 8 3  
♥ A K 5 4  
♦ A 9  
♣ A Q 7 3

**Graham Hedley**

## Notice

### Great Northern Swiss Pairs

At their meeting on Tuesday the EBU Tournament Committee decided that, owing mainly to the fact that a suitable venue has not been found for either 2009 or 2010, the Great Northern Swiss Pairs will be discontinued with immediate effect.



### OVERSEAS CONGRESS ANDALUSIA, 8 - 13 October

The Iberostar Islantilla Suites Hotel, Huelva is the chosen venue for the 2009 Autumn Overseas Congress sponsored by Bridge Overseas.

Accommodation needs to be booked with Bridge Overseas. The bridge fee is £110 and needs to be booked with the EBU.

Please visit:  
[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/overseas.htm](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/overseas.htm) or freephone number: 0800 0346 246 for more information!



## Future Events

The English Bridge Union has some very exciting competitions coming up over the Summer - why not give them a go?

### Northern Summer Congress 23 - 26 July 2009, Scarborough

The congress is held at the spa, providing a splendid venue right on the sea front with a relaxed holiday atmosphere, ideal for players new to national bridge competitions. Players are advised

to book the congress before booking their accommodation.

### Brighton Summer Congress 14 - 23 August 2009, Brighton

2009 sees the 43rd EBU Summer Meeting, which will be staged at the Brighton Metropole.

The event will incorporate the Seniors Congress and the Really Easy Congress

designed for beginners or less experienced players.

A smart casual dress code, which may include **smart/tailored** shorts, applies for both afternoons and evenings at the event.

To book these and more, please contact the Competitions Department on: 01296 317 203/219 or [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)

## Point-a-board

What's the difference between 'Pairs scoring' and 'Teams scoring'? This is a question you might often have asked, or have been asked. 'Overtricks matter at pairs,' might be the reply, 'whereas at teams the important thing is to ensure that you make your contract'. You might then elaborate on all sorts of finer details about pushing for vulnerable games, and the competitive auction.

But the terms 'Pairs Scoring' and 'Teams Scoring' are misnomers. What we really mean is 'Match Point Scoring' and 'IMPs Scoring' respectively. It just so happens that almost every time that you play in a Pairs Tournament (including your 'normal' club night), 'Match Point scoring' is used; and virtually without exception 'IMPs scoring' is used at Teams.

But there's little reason why you shouldn't use 'IMPs scoring' in Pairs events, and 'Match Point Scoring' in Teams events. The reason why we've always done it the other way round is probably more an accident of history rather than because each format is particularly suited to one method.

In fact an increasing number of organisations – clubs, counties & the EBU – have decided to try out 'Pairs events with Teams Scoring', otherwise known as 'Butler Scoring': All pairs are given the same imaginary team-mates, who score

an 'average' result on every board. For each board played, a pair is awarded IMPs, depending on the difference between their score and the average score (or 'Datum'). Thus getting a 'top' by bidding a slam that nobody else bids would be worth several IMPs, but getting an overtrick that nobody else gets will only get you 1 IMP.

### Now, how about trying the opposite: 'Teams events with Pairs Scoring'?

Actually, this is quite popular in the USA, where it is known as 'Point-a-board', or (rather misleadingly) 'Board-a-match' scoring. This is often associated with a Multiple Teams format, but it can equally be applied to Swiss or Knockout Teams. The idea is very simple – Every board is either 'won', 'drawn' or 'lost', obviously depending on whether you score better or worse than your team-mates' opponents. For every board won, you receive two 'Match Points', and one MP for a drawn board (a difference of just 10 points counts as a draw).

In the USA, they give 1 MP for a win and ½ for a draw. This has exactly the same effect, but it might help to explain where the term 'point-a-board' comes from, there being 1 point at stake between the two contestants for each board played.

How does the scoring method affect your play? For those of you who play most of your bridge in Match-Pointed pairs, it's very much the same. You can win a board by bidding the slam that the opponents don't bid, but you get just as big a reward for an overtrick that the opponents don't make. You can sacrifice against their game if you think you have a better than 50/50 chance of getting a better score; but if it goes wrong and you go for 1700 penalty, then it doesn't greatly matter – it's just one board, one point!

Is this a fair method? Opinion will always be divided. Some people will say that size matters – that bidding and making a slam should be worth more than making an overtrick. Others will say that matches, or sessions, should not be decided on one 'big' board – that each board should carry equal weight within any event: If I outplay my opponents on one board, and they outplay me on the next, honours should be even; it shouldn't matter that one board is a slam hand and the other a part-score battle.

I'll leave you to form your own opinion, but in the meantime, don't close your mind to different forms of scoring – have a go at Butler Pairs, or Point-a-Board Teams.

**Ian Mitchell**