

Welcome to our latest Newsletter.

Apart from the routine running of the organisation, two topics are exercising the minds of the members of the GP Committee at present. One is the organising and funding of the European Teams event which is referred to later. The other is a radical change in the NIBU Constitution and details of the proposals will be circulated to clubs in due course. I would urge all clubs to give these matters their full attention.

One topic that gets raised time and again is that of etiquette so I make no apology for raising it again. In order to safeguard the future, not only of the NIBU but also of club bridge in general, it is essential not just to attract new members but to ensure that they remain. The key to this is to make them feel welcome and not a nuisance. The bridge community comprises a cross section of people and some are crosser than others and some are just meek. It reminds me of the two Quaker children that were taken to the Headmaster for fighting. Upon being asked what caused the fight one said “He said that his father was meeker than mine!” Well being bridge enthusiasts, according to what I read we are all intelligent people. We should therefore be able to understand that we must have new members to replace those of us that fall off our perch, and that means that we must make them feel welcome. Correct them by all means, but do it politely. And if they get a good board against you congratulate them, albeit through gritted teeth.

End of lesson!

### Letters Page

You will recall that we used to have a letters' page feature in the magazine. We would like to reintroduce it, but cannot do so without

content. We need your help. Just send us an email and we will print your query, or gripe or complaint or suggestion, or bridge hand, either anonymously or with your email address, whatever suits you. Derek needs all our help for such a page to function, so let's get typing: we genuinely would like to hear from you, our readers. Please email us at [derekcannell@gmail.com](mailto:derekcannell@gmail.com).

*John Murchan*

### Coming Up.

#### 2012 SPRING CONGRESS

April 27 – 29 at Armagh City Hotel.

Opening 7.45 Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday:** 8.00 pm

Congress, Inter A and Inter B Pairs.

**Saturday:** 12.30

2<sup>nd</sup> Session Congress, Inter A and Inter B Pairs.

7.00 pm:

Congress Mixed Pairs.

**Sunday** 12.00

Congress Teams (Senior, Inter A, Inter B)

There has been a huge amount of work put in to the organisation of this event, particularly by Anne Hassan, so do try to come along and support us.

Contact:

[Hassan.anne@gmail.com](mailto:Hassan.anne@gmail.com)

Or 02890862179 or 07801585951

### Contacts:

Derek Cannell at: [derekcannell@gmail.com](mailto:derekcannell@gmail.com)

Or at 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7HE.

Also, Liz Scott at [lizscott@nibu.co.uk](mailto:lizscott@nibu.co.uk)

Or at 36 Manse Road, Newtownards, Co Down, BT23 4TP.

# NEVER GIVE UP

By Ian Hamilton

A hand from the Camrose Trials may interest.

I misplayed in 4S in the last match of the event, playing with brother Willie. We were playing against Diane Greenwood and Ruth Connolly.

♠ x  
♥ QJ9xx  
♦ AQJx  
♣ Axx

♠ J9xxx  
♥ xxx  
♦ 7x  
♣ KQx

♠ x  
♥ AK10x  
♦ xxxx  
♣xxxx

♠ AKQ10xx  
♥ x  
♦ K10x  
♣ J109

The diamond 7 went to the 10 in hand, and I cashed 2 top spades. I relied on Ruth having 3 diamonds (improbable) and played the last top trump before diamonds. Ruth duly ruffed, the defence took a heart, and eventually scored a club and another trump. Everybody put their cards back and we scored up.

Try keeping the third top trump and instead playing a heart. East wins and does her best by returning a diamond, won in dummy. Ruff a heart.

The Club jack is fortuitously covered, and won by the ace. Another heart ruff follows, then a club exit. West can do no better than win the King and get out with her last club. The coup de grace is the third diamond.

West has only her 3 remaining trumps and must ruff and lead into your tenace.

Never give up!!!! (It does need West to have both top clubs and 3:3 in the rounded suits.)

Funny enough almost the same play eventuated at the East Down Teams.

This time I was up to it and the defence maybe slipped a bit.

♠ 752  
♥654  
♦ KQ103  
♣ J106

♠ Q1064  
♥ KQ3  
♦ J98  
♣ K93

♠ void  
♥ J109872  
♦ A764  
♣ A54

♠ AKJ983  
♥ A  
♦ 52  
♣ Q872

This time the contract was 4S doubled, after I overbid over EW's failing 4H.

A heart went to the bare Ace, and the trump Ace revealed the unsurprising bad news. A diamond to the King was pounced upon by East, who tried to cash a heart, ruffed by declarer. A club to the Jack and Ace was followed by yet another heart ruff by South. Another club was won by West, who exited in the suit, North winning the 10. Now King, followed by a diamond ruff reduced South to the bare KJ of Spades and the 13th club. West was forced to ruff this and lead into Declarer's KJ of trumps.

One off looks bad, but our partner's managed to beat 2S doubled by one, for a surprising flat board!

## WHEN TRUMPS BREAK BADLY DON'T PLAY THEM!

By Ian Hamilton

Two recent hands from the Interprovincial Championship illustrate the above useful dictum.

♠ 5  
♥ KQJ8  
♦ QJ765  
♣ K54

♠ Q107653  
♥ void  
♦ K843  
♣ A86

♠ K  
♥ A9432  
♦ 92  
♣ J10973

♠ AJ982  
♥ 10765  
♦ A10  
♣ Q2

W	N	E	S
1S	X	P	4H
P	P	X	P
P	P		

I was blessed with a diamond lead, which ran to the 10. A trump to the King and Ace revealed the not unexpected bad news. East returned the spade King, won by the Ace. After cashing the diamond Ace a club went to dummy's King. The diamond Queen was passed to West, South ditching his losing club Queen. East's club discard was revealing. He would have ditched a spade had he had another one.

West's club return was ruffed by declarer, who ruffed a spade high. A diamond winner was ruffed and overruffed. Another spade was ruffed high and the last diamond winner also ruffed and overruffed. After trick 11 declarer was left with two losing spades, dummy with a losing club and the losing heart 8. East had a club winner and the trump 9, and claimed the last two tricks. One down.

Rewind to trick two. Leave trumps alone, and cash the diamond and spade Ace's before leading a club to dummy's King (West does not profit by taking the Ace, setting up a second club winner for declarer). The diamond Queen is played, declarer dumping his club

Queen as before. West plays a club, ruffed by declarer. Now ruff a spade high. East can

overruff and play a trump. However, dummy wins the 8, and plays a winning diamond, ruffed and overruffed. Declarer can now continue his cross-ruff.

The crucial difference is that declarer now has 4 high trumps in dummy (East having allowed the 8 that status by leading the suit) with which to ruff losing spades. Alternatively, East can discard. Declarer plays a winning diamond, again ruffed and overruffed. Another spade is ruffed high. Again East cannot profit by overruffing and playing trumps. Another diamond is ruffed and overruffed, and a third spade ruffed high. Declarer's remaining cards are a losing spade and the heart 10. He must make the latter at the next trick, whether or not East over-ruffs. In all, declarer makes a spade, a club, 2 diamonds and 6 trumps - 10 tricks.

The essential difference between the two plays is that in the winning line declarer uses all three of dummy's high trumps to ruff losing spades. By playing a round of trumps declarer is in effect "trumping" one of his winning trumps. East can play a round of trumps at some stage to reduce the cross-ruff, but only at the expense of according dummy an extra high trump. East must have 5 trumps. His double makes no sense otherwise. Indeed his double was foolish. It should have helped declarer into the winning line, which would likely not have been found without being forewarned. Pity I wasn't up to it.

**Exhibit 2** features an eccentric bidding display by my partner. He would have been better giving preference to 3 spades over my forcing to game 3 hearts, then passing my continuation of 4 hearts (showing the 5th heart). However, then there would have been no story! This time I was up to the task of coping with a bad trump break. Keep your eye on dummy's trump 2.

♠Q2  
♥J54  
♦953  
♣AK765

♠ J  
♥1098  
♦QJ1086  
♣Q1032

♠ 98765  
♥Q6  
♦A742  
♣J9

♠AK1043  
♥K732  
♦K  
♣84

When the opening diamond Queen went to the Ace, felling the King, and the continuation was ruffed by declarer, things look bleak, with East already having one more trump than South, and ample diamonds to continue the force.

Trick two was the heart Ace, and trick three a spade to the Queen. The appearance of the Jack was ominous. Abandon trumps! A heart to the King brought at least some good news, the Queen appearing. Next step, a heart to the Jack. East ruffed and tried another diamond. Declarer discarded a club, West winning. However, now dummy was out of diamonds. Another diamond sees dummy ruffing, declarer discarding a heart. The last heart goes on dummy's second club winner, and South is high trumps. Alternatively, (and in the event) West can lead a club, dummy winning. Now declarer can finally pull trumps, and claim.

East does better not to ruff dummy's heart Jack, instead discarding a club. Declarer continues with dummy's top clubs. East must ruff the latter or there are already 10 tricks. Another diamond again reduces South to one less trump than East. Declarer plays a heart, East ruffing. In the endgame East has two losing trumps and a diamond, South two winning trumps and a winning heart, dummy two losing clubs and the precious trump 2. East is stymied. A trump is obviously futile, declarer being high. His alternative diamond

lead allows declarer to pitch a winning heart, ruffing instead in dummy. South is now high trumps.

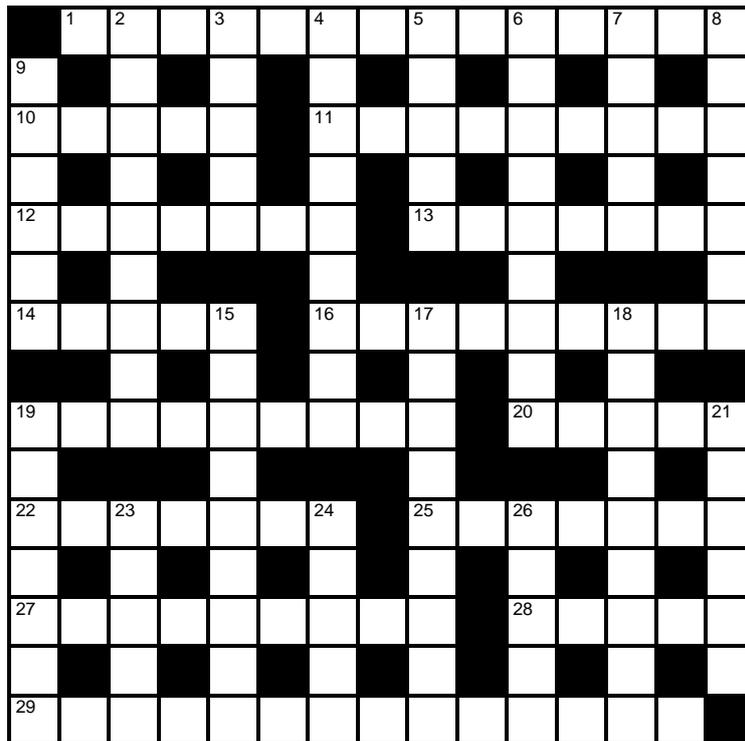
All in all it is true that players often err by playing trumps too early, or playing more rounds than they should. It is often best to play a side suit before pulling all the trumps outstanding. There can be several reasons for this. One is the need to use dummy's or declarer's trumps to ruff a side suit good. Another can be that the only entries are in trumps.

The above illustrate two rarer reasons to avoid playing trumps prematurely. In the first dummy's trumps are needed for a cross-ruff, and although the defence can play one round of trumps to reduce them, this is at the expense of weakening their pips. In the second example dummy's meagre trumps had to be preserved to maintain trump control.

## Grandpa

The computer swallowed grandpa.  
Yes, honestly it's true!  
He pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.  
It devoured him completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
He must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.  
I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.  
In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online.'  
So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grandpa you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' him  
And send him back to me.  
*Anon*

## WINTER 11-12 PRIZE CROSSWORD



### Across

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> Scrad (9,5)</p> <p><b>10</b> Artist made from stern stuff! (5)</p> <p><b>11</b> Order pens used for him to reply (9)</p> <p><b>12</b> About five Gaelic back? (7)</p> <p><b>13</b> Sitting, Kent initially starts by an old hill (7)</p> <p><b>14</b> Take notice! Is back to sheep! (3,2)</p> <p><b>16</b> Protocol has 5 players troubled when North changes with East (9)</p> <p><b>19</b> Winner gets cats back for a start (5,4)</p> <p><b>20</b> Airless dwellings (5)</p> <p><b>22</b> Guards get South out to get a way in (7)</p> <p><b>25</b> Crush work papers (7)</p> <p><b>27</b> Back pat gets one needled (6,3)</p> <p><b>28</b> 6 tricks in a mosque (5)</p> <p><b>29</b> Bra held up to help later (7,7)</p> | <p><b>3</b> Sellers play high first (5)</p> <p><b>4</b> Enter game shuffling to get contract (9)</p> <p><b>5</b> Left out rents helps (5)</p> <p><b>6</b> Avoid in both hands, angry - collar tricks (9)</p> <p><b>7</b> One raid breaking bones (5)</p> <p><b>8</b> Odd road wander about (7)</p> <p><b>9</b> Dears call a suit (6)</p> <p><b>15</b> Sent out, paternity suit somehow affects growth(9)</p> <p><b>17</b> Offhand I hear that you are as punctual as me (9)</p> <p><b>18</b> Gipsy keeps the score (9)</p> <p><b>19</b> Send elf off to be sliced (7)</p> <p><b>21</b> Grapple plant opens doors (6)</p> <p><b>23</b> Attempt haunt! Time up (5)</p> <p><b>24</b> Put deist to work (5)</p> |
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### Down

- 2** Pioneer pub on a hill keeps eggs (9)
- 26** Make up on behalf of one round the edge (5)

Solution to Derek Cannell, 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7HE or [derekfcannell@gmail.com](mailto:derekfcannell@gmail.com) by June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
 Congratulations to **Judy Gallagher** whose entry for the Summer 2011 crossword was drawn from the hat at the November GP meeting.

## CARD PLAYED

A reader has enquired about the procedure for playing the cards by dummy following criticism for touching the appropriate card to indicate which one was to be played.

Although there are other rules that are ignored – such as leaving the boards at the centre of the table – I thought I would ask Alan Hill to give his thoughts.

He writes as follows:

I was always advised to call the cards from Dummy as declarer rather than touch them. This was to avoid any confusion as to which card was touched. However I checked the 2007 Law on the subject and it states – Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table. In playing from dummy's hand declarer may, if necessary, pick up the desired card himself. (Law 45 B.) Seems clear?

The following is quoted from the EBU commentary on the laws (White book) :-

### **Declarer picks up card from dummy "if necessary"**

In Law 45B it is said that declarer may, if necessary, pick up a card dummy to play it. The term "if necessary" refers to the times when dummy is not present, or where declarer or dummy have some medical reason that makes it difficult to play cards in the normal way. It should not be used as a catch-all excuse to allow declarer to pick the cards up for no other reason than that he has played dummy this way for thirty years.

One could also mention Law 74 C 8 (under violations of procedure) leaving the table needlessly before the round is called. No comment in the White book here. It does suggest that dummy should be present if required to play declarer's cards.

How should the TD handle this? First of all if declarer creates confusion by the manner in which he plays the cards then if he did not call the card he will likely be ruled against. Otherwise it is unlikely that the TD if called will do anything more than ask the player to comply with correct procedure having ensured that playing the cards directly is not necessary. Indeed I would not expect to be called as TD unless playing the cards by hand by declarer was causing a problem.

Finally a soft Irish voice called for the Ace at a European Championship. His opponent thought he said eight and played the King. This got all the way to the appeals committee. Moral don't play a card until the player on your right has played.

### **DON'T.....**

When your partner makes a bid that needs to be alerted and one of the opposition asks you what it means, we all like to be helpful don't we? Well sometimes you get that sinking feeling in your tummy and just can't remember what your partnership agreement is. Or maybe you have never discussed it. Many less experienced players (and some others!) are wanting to be nice and say "I don't know but I am taking it as...."

**DO NOT** do it. You are giving unauthorised information to your partner.

Simply say "No partnership agreement" or "I don't know."

**DO NOT** fiddle with your bidding box while you are thinking what to bid. Many quite experienced players do this, not just beginners. Especially don't flit from the pass section of the box to the suit section and back again. Again, you are giving unauthorised information to your partner.

## PREEMPTS.

By Alan Hill

When your partner preempts have you a good idea what they hold or are you left in as much dark as the opponents?

Here is a hand from the Drogheda Congress. Both vul. Dealer W who passes. Partner bids 3NT. Solid minor no more than one K outside. You hold:-

♠ AKJ643

♥ A

♦ 73

♣ A932

Clearly partner's suit is Diamonds – unless you can open short an honour!

So what does your partner hold? Can their suit be broken and not necessarily solid? Will they have 7 or 8? Do they use a convention just because it is in the bag or do they mean what they say? With my partner I could answer all questions. Suit solid and 8 cards. Now I can count 12 tricks on top and as long as partner has 2 hearts I should be able to get a ruff. There are also possibilities of making a spade trick if partner only has a single heart. So I bid the cold Grand. Only 4 pairs out of 36 bid it. If you preempt first in hand on Axxxxx or AKxxxxx or Jxxxxxx partner will find judgement difficult.

## UNFORTUNATE OR WHAT???????

By Rod McComb

There were thirteen tables that night and we were sitting East/West.

On one hand, at the very last table, N/S bid and made six spades.

Expecting it to be a fairly flat board, we were taken aback to find that all the other N/S's were in 4 Spades + 3!

Now think about it.

1. No N/S pair bid well enough to find the grand slam. Our opponents were the closest.
2. Our opponents were the worst N/S players as they allowed us to make one trick.
3. No other E/W pair played well enough to take a trick
4. I consider that, on this particular hand, we were the best pair in the room.
5. Guess what we scored on this hand?

## Summer 11 Crossword Solution

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

The winner was Judy Gallagher whose entry was selected by Sandie Millership at random at a GP meeting. Thank you to all those who took the trouble to complete it and send in their solution. These were: *Patricia Bergin, Anne Burns, Robin Burns, Seamus Donaghy, Marie Ferguson, Judy Gallagher, Zita Gibson, Edward McQuilkin, Ronnie Morrow, Pat Nicholl, Tony O’Gallagher and Leslie Robinson.*

## **Tony Casey** **Obituary**

Tony was born in 1932 in Roslea, County Fermanagh. The family moved to Cavan and Monaghan, when his father was promoted to the rank of sergeant in An Garda Síochána. Tony attended St. Pat.'s Cavan until he won a scholarship to University College Dublin to study Dentistry. When he graduated, he first worked in Birmingham and then moved home to take up a posting in Portadown.

It was here that he was to meet his late wife Mary, a bridge partner for life. Tony's passion for rugby led to him being a referees' assessor for many years. Following a lengthy career in private practice, Tony went on to work for the NHS and then the Prison Service until his retirement in his 70s. Not a man to be interested in retiring, he helped out a couple of days a week in the Pain Clinic at the City Hospital and soon was involved in Belfast community hospital radio, as well as sitting on a church marriage tribunal. Tony came to the forefront of bridge in N Ireland in the early 1980s as the driving force and visionary behind the rapid rise of Derryvolgie bridge club. He was a very talented administrator, but he had the foresight to become a bridge teacher and through those efforts is responsible for a lot of the players who have represented Ulster at Interprovincial level and beyond over the last 25 years.

Bridge was always high on the agenda of the various holidays that Tony and Mary ventured on in later life, even in places as far away as America and Capetown. Tony's column in the Irish News as The Acolite has been published for nearing 30 years and his articles as the Northern correspondent in the Irish Bridge Journal were widely appreciated by all competitive players. In his later years he was a frequent player at Balmoral, Cooke and Carryduff bridge Clubs. Our sympathy is with Tony's three children and he will be missed by bridge players all over Ireland.

## **ARAS AN UACHTARAIN** **By Sandie Millership**

A party of fourteen from the NIBU were amongst a delegation of fifty who were invited to meet President Mary McAleese at the Aras an Uachtarain on Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> in honour of the World Senior Pairs Championship which was won by Pat McDevitt, an Ulsterman from Donegal, last fall. President McAleese had a few words with all attending and was presented with a Belleek Plate by IBU President Mary Kelly-Rogers.

The day was completed by a celebration banquet attended by nearly two hundred guests. Alan Hill, retiring after sixteen years as Joint Honorary Secretary of the IBU (and many more years on the committee) was presented with a gift by last year's President, our own Liz Scott. Next, our Chairman Sandie Millership and Paul Porteus (General Secretary of CBAI) presented a tribute to all the surviving medallists from past years. The evening then finished with a light hearted but competitive quiz.

The next day saw the inaugural Pat McDevitt Senior Pairs which was competed for by 101 pairs and fittingly was won by Pat McDevitt playing with Michael McDonough. There was an open pairs event for those of insufficient seniority and the evening session was won by Anne Fitzpatrick and Barbara Collins.

It was altogether a great two days for all.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CARDS

*By Derek Cannell*

I was looking at a pack of cards and realised that I had no idea about when they were first used so I decided to look it up. No, not on the Internet but in books – mainly the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *The Discoverers*.

English playing cards are used all over the world – particularly where Bridge and Poker are played. However, whilst in England we use the same pack for other card games, in other European countries they use a completely different face design for their own games. These have suits such as Hearts, Leaves, Bells and Acorns in Germany.

It seems that they may have originated in China where, in the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907) and the following Sung era, games were played with what they called “sheet dice”. It doesn’t seem clear how it was introduced to Europe but some of the early decks had symbols resembling Chinese markings and may have been brought back by Marco Polo in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. An alternative theory is that they might have come from the Mogul armies via the Saracen invasion of Italy. Or perhaps both.

At one time the rich people had hand-painted cards but printed ones were common in the late 1300s and became so popular that in 1404 the Synod banned the clergy from playing. In 1423 St Bernard of Siena spoke from the steps of St Peter’s and instructed his listeners to go home and get their cards and burn them in the public square.

Playing cards were being printed in various places even before Gutenberg was printing books! There is a record of the mysterious Master of the Playing Cards who produced a very elegant set around 1440 and apparently there are some 60 sets still in existence. Now wouldn’t that be a good name instead of Tournament Director? To call out “Master of

the Playing Cards please!” instead of “Director please” would make one feel very humble.

Well, by 1465 the use of cards was so well established that a petition was submitted by manufacturers to introduce protection against imports.

The Tarot deck, indigenous to Italy, comprises picture cards (not like the numbered cards from the East) and represent forces, virtues and vices and are numbered from 1 to 21 plus the addition of The Fool – precursor to the Joker. They are well known as fortune-telling cards although simple games can be played with them.

The numeral cards were divided into four suits – cups, coins, swords and cudgels and each contained numbers 1 to 10 plus king, queen, knight and page. These were added to the Tarot deck giving 78 cards – apparently still used in some parts of the world.

The 52 card French deck is now used all over the world, evolving from the Tarot deck. German 32 card and Spanish 40 card packs also evolved but these days games for them are played with a shortened standard pack.

The English adopted the French ones but with different names. The French “pique” or pike looked like a spade, the “carreau” or square became the diamond, the “trefle” or trefoil was the club and the heart was the same.

As with most popular products, eventually they were taxed and Charles I increased this to half-a-crown a pack – quite a sum for those days! After 1765 the tax paid was shown on the Ace of Spades which led to traffic in forgeries of that card and the tax was reduced to a more moderate level!

Cards have survived various attempts to ban them by monarchs, nobles, governments and religious foundations but they are still with us, Devil’s Tickets or not!

## EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Bridge League is a confederation of National Bridge Confederations, currently standing at 47 members with around 400,000 players. Their principal annual event is the **European Team Championships** which was intended to be run in Greece but they withdrew in October 2011. An agreement was signed between the IBU President Mary Kelly-Rogers and her EBL counterpart, Yves Aubry, and ratified by the IBU Board on January 23 2012. It is a major coup for Ireland and around eighty teams will be competing and there will be an open pairs session each day. More information will be distributed to clubs by various means and members are encouraged to attend the event if at all possible. There will obviously be a frantic race to get the event organised on schedule for 12 – 23 June at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin and a great number of volunteers are giving their services unpaid to ensure that it can be achieved on budget.

For those that are unaware of our link with IBU perhaps you would like to know that the IBU (Irish Bridge Union) is a confederation of CBAI (Contract Bridge Association of Ireland) and NIBU and as such all NIBU members are automatically members of the IBU. The IBU organises participation in European and World Championships on behalf of the whole of Ireland and at present our Tony O’Gallagher is Vice-President and Harold Curran Joint-Secretary.

The CBAI is the official regulator for Contract Bridge in Eire and it divides the country into 13 regions covering about 500 clubs.

## YOUTH BRIDGE FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Over the Christmas period, most of you will recall that we ran a fundraising campaign to try and help with the International expenses of our youth teams when they travel abroad to play for Ireland.

I would like to take this opportunity to, personally, thank all of those who helped and

contributed so generously to this worthy cause. It is a particularly exciting time for Youth Bridge in N. Ireland, since we have Wayne Somerville and Ian Jones, formerly of Bangor Grammar School and Jake Corry and Ruth Connolly, formerly of B.R.A. representing Ireland.

On behalf of the Youth Committee we really appreciate your efforts on their behalf in these difficult economic times. You all seemed to appreciate that it is imperative that we invest in a proactive youth policy to produce the International players necessary for our future. John Murchan (Irish Youth Bridge Committee)

## BEGINNERS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR COURSE

It was very encouraging to see the wonderful response to the above course hosted by Derryvolgie Bridge Club on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March last. A large vote of thanks is especially due to Pat Johnston for co-ordinating the whole event. Forty budding T.D.s from clubs all over N.Ireland were in attendance looking to learn from Ireland’s premier tournament director, Fearghal O’Boyle. It was great to see such burgeoning talent on display and their zest for knowledge. I know space was at a premium and a bit cramped and this I apologize for, but we never expected such keen response. We have 11 names already on the waiting list for the next such course and we would love to see more. Please contact me on (07709312612) if you are interested and we will be happy to facilitate your entry onto the course.

If there are any other courses which you would like to see us, as a Bridge Union run for members of your club, please, feel free to contact us with your suggestions. That is what we are elected to do and we would like to help in any way possible. We are only a phone call away, please contact the writer.

John Murchan (Competitions Secretary, N.I.B.U.) [jmurchan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmurchan@yahoo.co.uk)

# THE CAMROSE TROPHY 2012

By Ciara Burns

The opening weekend of the 2012 Camrose Trophy took place in the Spires Hotel in Oxford between the 6th and 8<sup>th</sup> January. The Northern Ireland team was David Greenwood and Rex Anderson, Greer MacKenzie and Hastings Campbell, John Murchan and Ciara Burns and non playing captain, Michael O’Kane.

Overall, the weekend was very disappointing, the scores being:

England 99

Scotland 82

Wales 78

SBU ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottish team) 71

Ireland 63

Northern Ireland 56

We arrived in Oxford at 9am on the morning of the event (which started at 8pm) after a 7am flight from Belfast. Our NPC felt we needed time to acclimatize to the altitude and humidity of Oxford. We also enjoyed a lesson from Michael in the art of minibus driving during our journey from the airport. Apparently if you do not know which lane to be in – straddle two and further – the Highway Code is wrong – chevrons can and indeed, should be driven on where possible.

Our only highlight bridge wise was against England on the Friday night. John and I joined the fray for the last 16 boards with Greer and Hastings in the other room. We were 30 imps down after the first 16 board stanza. John and I were faced with the mighty Tony Forrester and David Gold whilst Greer and Hastings played Alexander Allfrey and Andrew Robson.

We gained 7imps on Board 3 when system allowed John and me to bid a tight game which was missed in the other room. Excitement arrived with Board 4 -

N

♠A532

♥1073

♦VOID

♣AQ9875

♠KJ7

♥K965

♦AK6

♣J103

♠Q84

♥QJ2

♦QJ10875

♣2

♠1096

♥A82

♦9432

♣K64

Game All

Dealer W

I was sitting North and my right hand opponent (West) opened 1NT (15 -17). We play Capelletti defence to 1NT and my hand really did not fit into our system but I felt I had to do something. The bidding proceeded as follows.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2S*	3D	PASS
3NT		ALL PASS	

My bid of 2 spades showed spades plus a minor which strictly speaking should be 5 plus spades and at least 4 in a minor so my action was a little off centre. East bid 3D showing a good hand and West had a “punt” at the vulnerable 3NT despite his lack of a club stop. I found the brilliant ( at least in my opinion ) club lead and 6 clubs tricks and the Ace of Hearts later meant +400 to N.I. N/S in the other room bid all the way to 4 clubs which went 1 off for +100 which combined with our score meant an 11 imp gain.

Deal 31 of the 32 board match (played at our table after midnight) was extraordinary at both tables and illustrates how even the best players can get tired and lose concentration.

N

♠KJ742

♥A10

♦K963

♣76

♠A93

♥5

♦AQJ5

♣AKQ83

♠1065

♥KQJ764

♦7

♣943

♠Q8

♥9832

♦10842

♣J105

Greer opened 1C as West, North overcalled 1S and the bidding continued to the no play 3nt by Greer as West. 4H is a much better contract – one can take the ruffing diamond finesse through North which is likely to succeed as North has made a vulnerable overcall with a fairly shabby spade suit and is thus marked with outside values. North elected not to lead his suit but started with the Ace of Hearts. Upon seeing dummy he switched to the 4 of Spades, 5 from dummy and South rather surprisingly inserted the 8. Greer gratefully won with the 9 spades. He now has 9 tricks when clubs divide since he has time to knock out the King of diamonds as he still has a spade stop. However, Greer managed 11 tricks when on the run of the clubs North found the spectacular discard of the K of diamonds. +460... thank you very much. At our table, E/W played in 4H by East. I lazily had not overcalled a spade but John found the great lead of the Q of spades. From this point East, East has to guess the position of the king of diamonds for a spade discard. He incorrectly drew the inference that given I had not overcalled and had already shown up with the KJ of Spades and the Ace of Hearts that I would not have the King of Diamonds. One down meant 11 imps to N.I.

Overall, we won the match by 2imps which converted to a 15-15 draw but a moral victory nonetheless. I graciously found time to commiserate with the losing English team.....

## YOUR VIEWS

When John Murchan wrote a comment about the lack of a “letters” page I decided to ask a few members what they would like to hear more about. Some of these are as follows:

Related to the request for funding for Youth Bridge I was asked what the relationship was between NIBU and IBU, particularly financially. I will try to include an article on this matter which, I might add, is very beneficial to our organisation.

Bridgemates come in for comment, both for and against. This mainly relates to the way that they are used and the pros and cons of having the results on a screen during play.

We really do want to hear from you – perhaps about ideas for future articles to be included or interesting hands that you would like analysed. Anything really. Perhaps you think this is all a waste of money. Don’t keep it to yourself. Tell us.

## COMING UP

Fermanagh Congress – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March at Manor House Country Hotel.

Contact Angela Curran at 02866387333 or at [fermanaghcongress@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fermanaghcongress@hotmail.co.uk)

Or

Margot McClure at 02866324758

Keep an eye on our web site for details of future events and for results of past competitions – as well as other news that might be of interest.