

Welcome to our latest Newsletter.

Lots of things have happened since our last edition. The European Teams event in Dublin has been and gone and we have a new Constitution. Not without comment I might add but, as I read somewhere, the storm raged round the mountain, then the rain stopped, the clouds lifted and the wind died down and the mountain was still there. Mind you, there are still a few breezes about but the new system is in place and we'll see how it goes.

For those without the means to access the NIBU Website, the bare bones of the Constitution are as follows:

The Union is run by what is termed a Council comprising Office Bearers (President, Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Master Points Secretary) together with seven councillors. The councillors are elected at the AGM from a list of delegates nominated by clubs. The Council meets at least three times a year.

The Council then elects the members of four Standing Committees, these being Finance & Membership, Laws & Ethics, Tournament and lastly Selection. These committees comprise Office Bearers and a number of club members elected from delegates nominated by clubs. The purpose of this clearly is to enable clubs to have more of an influence in the running of the organisation.

A major requirement that has been introduced involves the website and, in particular, the publication of minutes of both council and standing committee minutes within specific times of the meetings. This will be quite demanding both for those taking the minutes and for the website manager. Hopefully members will take the trouble to read them.

The adoption of the Constitution was not without criticism and, as noted earlier, there have been a number of comments and suggestions to correct and improve the document. A small sub-committee comprising

Greer Mackenzie, Ciara Burns and myself has been tasked to carry out this exercise so watch this space!

I have been asked how many of these Newsletters are printed and the answer is about 650. Invariably there are little gaps that need to be filled between the main articles which is why contributions, however small, are always welcome. These can be opinions, questions, reports – anything really, and if you don't want your name attached then it can be anonymous and only the editor will know who you are. The number of letters we have received in the several years that we have been issuing these can be counted on one hand so come on, surprise me and send something. Then when I am sitting here printing, collating and stapling and then posting I can think that perhaps it was all worthwhile!

A big thank you to those who have contributed articles this time. These include *Ronnie Morrow, Ian Hamilton, Ciara Burns, Rex Anderson, Katharine Johnston, Alan Sharp, Sandra Landy (via Sandie Millership), Jeff Millership & John Murchan.*

Correct solutions to the last Crossword were received from **Anne Burns, Robin Burns, Seamus Donaghy, Marie Ferguson, Judy Gallagher, Wendy Gunning, Ronnie Morrow, Tony O'Gallagher, and Leslie Robinson.** Four other solutions were also received and if the senders (or anyone) would like to email or telephone me I can let them have a copy of the solution.

The winning entry picked at random by **Ciara Burns** was **Wendy Gunning.**

Contacts:

Derek Cannell at: derekcannell@gmail.com
Or at 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down,
BT19 7HE.

Also, Liz Scott at lizscott@nibu.co.uk
Or at 36 Manse Road, Newtownards, Co
Down, BT23 4TP.

AN INTERESTING HAND

By *Ronnie Morrow*

An interesting hand cropped up at the local club a few weeks back.

West dealt and picked up the following hand -

♠ Axxxxx
♥ Void
♦ AJ10xxxx
♣ Void

Partner held these cards -

♠ x
♥ Axx
♦ Qxxx
♣ Axxxx

With diamonds breaking 1/1 with the K onside, and spades breaking 3/3, even the most inept declarer could not be prevented from taking all 13 tricks in a diamond contract. The debating point of the night was how West valued his hand, and specifically what opening bid he chose, playing fairly standard ACOL, to get those values across.

There are at least six possibilities which were either used on the night, or mentioned by various people present as possibilities. These include -

The conservative 1S - *"I have only nine points so I will treat this hand as a weak 2 suiter"*.

The more ambitious 1D - *"I know I should have 15 points to reverse, but my 2 voids must be worth something"*.

The pushy 2D - *"There must be 8 tricks in there somewhere"*.

The gung-ho 2C - *"I haven't held a hand with this distribution for the last 20 years, and I am not going to play it in any silly part score"*.

The super pessimistic 3D - *"I was always taught to pre-empt with AJ10xxxx, and a six card side suit headed by the A has got to be useful"*. (Yes - one lady did, indeed, open 3D)

The ultra clever Pass - *"With this shape, and point count, there will be lots of bidding, and I can get into the action later"*. One very capable West adopted this approach, was relieved that the subsequent bidding did not go Pass-Pass-Pass, and then managed to persuade opponents, and partner, to continue bidding

until 6D was reached. Opponents then let him down by forgetting to double which, I suspect, had been part of the plan. One N/S pair were not so lucky. In an auction where they could have defended a diamond part score, and didn't, and could have defended a diamond game, and didn't, they decided the time was right to double when they had "forced" their opponents to the six level. Not a great success! My partner deemed the West hand to be worth a 2D opening, which resulted in probably the evening's most energy efficient, though not very scientific, auction of 2D - 6D - all pass. What would you open on the West hand?

Overheard One Club Night

Anonymous

Declarer to RHO

"Does your partner's discard of the nine of diamonds have any significance?"

RHO to Declarer

"Well, sometimes it means she wants the suit led, and sometimes it means she doesn't want the suit led, so I can't really help you."

Declarer seemed unable to find a follow-up query.

Who said that bridge isn't an exact science!

COMING UP

Don't miss the **AUTUMN CONGRESS**

On the 14th – 16th September at the Derry City Hotel.

On Friday night after the opening ceremony at 7.45 the first session of the Congress Pairs, the Inter A and the Inter B pairs will be held at 8.00. On Saturday afternoon the second sessions will take place followed by the Mixed Pairs and the Open Pairs events in the evening. On Sunday the Teams sessions will be held in the afternoon and early evening.

Full details can be found on the web site and you can contact Anne Hassan at 02890862179, 07801585951 or email her at

Hassan.anne@gmail.com for any further information.

NIBU SPRING CONGRESS 2012

By Ian Hamilton

The above was played in Armagh on the last weekend in April, and there was an excellent attendance, boosted by the event not clashing with other events in the South and elsewhere.

The Congress Pairs was won by Ian Hamilton, and Paul Tranmer, who were helped by some errors by their opponents. One pair bid 7H against them, only to find 12 tricks the limit. Another pair messed up Ghestem 3C (showing the red suits over 1S), and although rescuing themselves to 5D after one had raised “clubs”, had their score corrected to 5C doubled minus 2300 by the director.

Breaking Burn’s Law twice (“when declaring a trump contract thou shalt have more trumps than the opponents”) was not as much as a disaster as it deserved. (Not the first time anyway!)

Dealer South
E/W Vul

♠ 842
♥ KJ954
♦ 1084
♣ A43

♠ 1053
♥ A2
♦ A963
♣ QJ105

♠ J76
♥ 873
♦ QJ75
♣ K2

♠ AKQ9
♥ Q106
♦ K2
♣ 9876

South opened a weak NT, North transferring to Hearts. West doubled South’s 2H completion for takeout, and East essayed 2S, believing that to be the one suit West guaranteed.

The heart Queen was ducked, the Ace winning the second round. The club Queen was covered and won by the Ace, and a heart ruffed in

dummy. Declarer continued with two rounds of clubs, North ruffing. In for the first time, she might have switched to a trump, but instead tried a diamond to the Queen and Ace. West’s last club was ruffed and over-ruffed. Declarer retired after taking his 7th trick with the diamond Jack.

Minus 100 compared favourably with all the minus 110 scores when N/S were allowed to play 2H. Daft game sometimes!

The Mixed Pairs was won by Patricia Kelly and Martin Brady, with over 60%, a top ahead of Richard Boyd and Ruth Connolly.

Again breaking Burn’s Law proved a winner:-

void, AKQ, AQxxxx, AQxx

AKQJxx, xxx, xx, xx

The best spot appears to be 4S, in the 6:0 fit with 650 available. Several slams were bid, but none should make as South requires spades 4:3 (they were), a finesse, plus a ruff to hand avoiding a trump promotion, to make in spades, and a diamond slam is little, if any, better. Some pairs made 6NT, the defence contriving a “safe” spade lead. All declarer needed now is to guess which minor suit finesse to take! Any plus score was above average.

The Congress Teams featured a fine performance by brother and sister John and Anne Bergin, playing with Pat McDaid and Connell McCloone. They comfortably headed Rex Anderson, David Greenwood, John Murchan and Duncan Happer.

The margin might have been less had Duncan taken advantage of a Grosvenor Coup* by his opponent in the penultimate match.

♠ 9542
♥ Q6
♦ Q952
♣ KJ3

♠ J87
♥ AJ1085
♦ 10
♣ Q742

♠ AK3
♥ K97
♦ AKJ7
♣ 986

♠ Q106
♥ 432
♦ 8643
♣ A105

Duncan played 3NT, on the heart Jack lead, after West had overcalled in hearts. Duncan won with the Queen, and managed to duck a spade to West's 7, who, unaware of the full layout, exited safely in the suit.

West was asleep at the wheel when the spade and diamond winners were cashed, ending in hand, as he should realise that if South has the club Ace, 3NT is cold. He should therefore come down to the bare club queen and his heart suit. Instead he came down to AJ hearts, Q7 clubs in the 4 card ending, needing the rest to defeat 3NT.

By contrast, declarer "knows" that he is defeated if east has the club Ace, and that the only credible reason for west keeping two clubs is that he has the Ace, and is hoping that declarer messes up, and takes the "no win" Jack finesse.

So Duncan duly played a club to the sensible King, going down in a contract the opponents had chucked him.

* Grosvenor Coup. Where a player gains (or fails to lose) by making a losing play in such a way that his opponent is himself fooled into taking a failing line, not believing his opponent could play as such.

Emergency at Knightsbridge.

Your editor recently arrived for a meeting at 80 Knightsbridge Court to find Joanne McMorrow standing outside having a puff. We chatted for a few minutes and I admired a very nice *buxus* plant surrounded by some cyclamen all in a large pot. We then went in for about an hour and a half and on coming out a strange smell could be detected. Not the dogs I thought, but anyway off we went to our cars and carried on talking. Shortly afterwards Sandie and Jeff came out and we heard a shout so back we went. The moss and bark at the top of the pot was smouldering and then, as we watched, burst into flame. "Holy Moses!" shouted Jeff, "the bush is on fire!"

Sandie dashed off for her camera (for insurance purposes you understand) and Jeff ran off to get a bottle of Bollinger* that he keeps for emergencies. Spraying it on the flames like a Formula 1 winning driver the emergency was soon over but with fewer cyclamen and a lightly roasted *buxus* remaining.

Joanne thought it must be spontaneous combustion because nothing else explained it. Might have been something the dogs did though?

*OK maybe a slight exaggeration here.

- *Note: name has been changed to protect the identity of participants.*



TEACH and PLAY BRIDGE USING COMPUTERS

By Sandra Landy

VuBridge is an amazing piece of software which allows you to bid and play pre-prepared hands online.

The moment I saw it, I knew this was what I had always needed to teach my students. Every teacher who has seen VuBridge in use has agreed with me!

This is how it works. All the students log on to VuBridge and select the set of hands to be used in the lesson. Then the student's hand for the first deal is displayed on the screen, using real card images. Their hand is bid using simple ACOL bidding, whilst the computer bids the other three hands. Only the 'correct' bid is accepted. So if the student, with 13 points and a balanced hand, should have opened 1NT, that is what they have to bid, no other bid is accepted.

When the final contract is reached, the student becomes declarer and dummy is displayed on their screen. The defensive cards are played by the computer and, as in real life, the student plays dummy and their own hand. But the computer objects if the student attempts to play the wrong card, just as the teacher does if she sees the student misplaying a deal. So the student has to work out what they are doing that is wrong and change the card played.

Picture your students sitting at their laptops, all bidding and then playing the same deal. If you have 5 or 6 students, nobody will be sitting out. Everyone can have a go, rather than three players sitting doing nothing whilst the fourth player tries to work out what to do. Now everyone can bid and play the same cards. At the end of play, the teacher can review the bidding and the play, because all students will be seeing the same screen.

Courses available

The EBU *Bridge for All* course recommends teaching MiniBridge to beginners, as it introduces card play without learning bidding. So we have made an online MiniBridge course, which is available throughout the world. There are ten lessons, each with eight deals to be played.

Do tell everybody about free MiniBridge, particularly people with children. Nowadays youngsters get hooked on playing games on their computer; let's make sure they are playing MiniBridge. To play online MiniBridge, log on to **www.VuBridge.com/MiniBridge**.

The beginner's bridge course has been developed by Paul Bowyer, an experienced teacher who has used his lifetime's collection of hands and lessons to provide you with well-tested material, suitable for all young people (and older students as well). The trust has paid for the course development and our contract with VuBridge includes its use by teachers at no cost. My students love the opportunity to replay the class hands at home, reinforcing their class teaching – I am sure yours will enjoy that too!

Teachers wanting to use our bridge course should email **info@VuBridge.com**. Tell them your email address, your bridge union (EBU, SBU, WBU or NIBU) and member number. Ask for instructions to be sent. It is absolutely free to teachers, just so every young person with a laptop can learn to play bridge.

The Educational Trust for British Bridge (ETBB) was founded in 1990 with a generous donation from a player, who was impressed with the work being done by the British Bridge League (BBL) in training our junior teams. To extend our teaching work, he wanted his money to be used for Junior Bridge in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Our first project was a teacher's handbook for teaching bridge in schools – amazingly that book is still being issued by the EBU to new teachers twenty years later!

51st EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Ciara Burns

The 51st European Championships were held in the City West Hotel, Dublin, from 12th to 23rd June 2012. Ireland had stepped into the breach when Greece was forced to withdraw as host nation for economic reasons. Much credit must go to the tireless efforts of the organising and fund raising committees in managing to stage an event within a matter of months which would usually require years of planning. The Championships could not have happened at all, had it not been for an army of volunteers, bedecked in yellow polo shirts who willingly gave up their time to help. Our own Sandie Millership was Technical Director whilst Anne Hassan and Liz Scott ran the hospitality desks. Alan and Heather Hill worked as caddies and John Murchan spent 2 weeks uncomplainingly (!?) dealing thousands of boards. At any given time, 144 tables were in play, each of which had their own set of 20 boards – 2880 boards. There were often 3 matches per day over an 11 day period which gives some idea of the logistical scale of the enterprise undertaken. It makes the London Olympics look easy...

The Championships comprised 3 series – Open, Women and Seniors (over 60s). A total of 72 teams took part. The numbers were somewhat down from previous Europeans as some countries (particularly former Soviet Bloc Countries) chose not to travel as the event would cost more than if it had been on “mainland” Europe.

Overall, the performance of the Irish teams competing was disappointing. The Open team, which had won a silver medal in the same event in Warsaw in 2006, qualified for the final stages but finished a disappointing 15th from 34 participants. The women’s team fared worse, finishing last. The Seniors team in which we had our sole NIBU representative, did better; finishing 15th out of 19 teams but were more competitive generally and had some

notable wins including a victory over former world champions, England, in the final match. The Open series was won by a team representing Monaco which was put together by Swiss businessman Pierre Zimmerman which comprised his partner Franc Multon, formerly from France, two former Norwegians, Helgemo and Helness and two players who have in the past won numerous medals representing Italy, Fantoni and Nunes. Their coach, for the sake of completeness, used to represent Poland. To say they struggled with the words of the Monacan National Anthem at the medal ceremony is somewhat of an understatement. The Women’s series was won by England and France won the Seniors. Scotland put in a very commendable performance in the Seniors, coming 3rd and qualifying for the World Championships in Bali next year. Well done to our fellow Celts! One hand from the Championships which demonstrates the different approach from players with regard to pre emptying:

DEALER NORTH

NONE VULNERABLE

♠ QJ98753

♥ 963

♦ 97

♣ 10

♠ K4

♥ K84

♦ Q8654

♣ A62

♠ A10

♥ A107

♦ 10 3

♣ KJ9873

♠ 62

♥ QJ52

♦ AKJ2

♣ Q54

Commentators asked the question – does the North hand qualify for a first in hand 3S opening at love all, according to your standards. The answers varied from table to table. Many players would consider the hand

too light and the spade suit too weak and fear going for a big penalty but it showed the benefits of pre-empting early and the difficulties it presented opponents.

In the Scotland v Israel match the Israeli North opened 3 spades which was followed by three passes. Despite both East and West having an opening bid, there is no easy or sensible way into the auction. Thus, rather than making nine easy tricks in 3NT for +400, they had to defend 3S and settle for +50 for one off. At the other table, the Scottish North passed throughout and the Israeli East/West had an easy auction to 3NT. Eleven tricks made - +460 to Israel, which converted to 10 imps.

In the Sweden v France match the French North opened 3S and was again left to play there – one off. At the other table the Swedish North passed initially and the auction proceeded as detailed below –

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Pass	1C	Pass
1D	3S	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The belated pre-empt had no effect. Once his partner was able to open the bidding West had a routine 3NT bid and gained 9imps.

The moral of the story? Pre-empt early and often perhaps?

**51st EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
DUBLIN 2012
SENIORS
By Rex Anderson**

In the Seniors section Ireland fielded a team of Pat McDevitt and Rory Timlin, Eddie Fitzgerald and Michael McDonagh, Pat Barry and Rex Anderson captained by Donal Garvey. The team contained 5 of the team which finished in 9th place in Oostende in 2010.

The team had anticipated a finish in the top 10 and were disappointed to finish 15th out of 19

although two of the Irish pairs finished narrowly better than average on the Butler scoring.

After a poor start on Saturday and Sunday Ireland was last in the rankings after 2 days. There followed a mini revival on Tuesday and Wednesday before poor results on Thursday and Friday.

The tournament venue at Citywest Hotel near Dublin was excellent and to the players the organisation seemed effortlessly fault free. Behind the scenes the successful organization was constructed on expertise and attention to detail and the army of willing and competent helpers.

The standard of bridge in the Seniors seems to have improved with only four weak teams averaging 12 or less VPs per round. Ireland averaged 14.33 VPs at the end of a group of five teams finishing just under the average of 15VPs.

One of the rays of sunshine was a narrow win against England in the last match and the following is a hand from that match.

Seniors' bridge is slightly different from open bridge. A senior is more likely to bid on a borderline hand where it is a close decision as to whether to pass or bid because he can never be sure that the bidding will get back around to him.

With N/S vulnerable and West the dealer as South you hold ♠KJ7642 ♥J3 ♦ void ♣QT643.

West opens 1♦ and after partner's Pass East bids 1♥. Despite the few high card points your hand has good trick taking potential. As a double would show a strong hand for take out and a bid of 2♦ would show a distributional take at least 5/5 in the unbid suits, you bid 2♦.

West bids 3♠ explained as a splinter bid, showing at least 4 card ♥ support and at most one ♠ and a good raise to 4♥. Partner bids 4♠. East bids 4NT as Key Card Blackwood. You can visualise partner holding ♠Ace so that when you lead a ♠ he will return a ♦ for you to ruff. It appears that partner has at least 4 cards in ♠, so that 5♠ is unlikely to be more than two off if doubled and the opponents look to be solid for a score of at least 450. Accordingly you bid 5♠.

West passes and informs you that his pass is encouraging. Partner passes. East bids 6♣ showing ♣Ace and suggesting a grand slam is possible. You pass. West bids 6♥ ending the auction.

The bidding has been.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♦
3♠	4♠	4NT	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	

As planned you lead K♠ as a suit preference requesting a ♦ return.

The full hand was

	♠A983 ♥8 ♦97654 ♣752	
♠T ♥AK764 ♦KJT832 ♣8	Dealer West N/S vulnerable Seniors Round 19 Board 12	♠Q5 ♥QT952 ♦AQ ♣AKJ9
	♠KJ7642 ♥J3 ♦ ♣QT643	

Partner won the Ace and returned a ♦ so that the contract was one off.

In the other room Rory Timlin was declarer in 6♥ and made 12 tricks so Ireland gained 11 imps.

The same players with John O’Keefe as captain will represent Ireland in Lille in the World Bridge Federation Senior Championships in August 2012.

Springing into Action

By Katharine Johnston

“Hello and how are you ? ” Greetings abound. A few little drinks, a coffee or two - a clear head is needed for what will ensue.

"Gather up now" - a buzz descends as we move towards the lists of where we are placed in this organised venue.

A jostle and more greetings, some tension in view.

At last we are seated and four people review.

Is it Benji or possibly the multi two?"

There is a whistling noise and silence surrounds. Anne Hassan welcomes - so grateful she sounds.

Sandie takes over to honour Margo McClure.

Fergal sweeps round the room. The noise resumes.

The cards are laid on the table then.....ZOOM.

Bridge springs into action. The battle begins. We are lost to the power of the cards and maybe we'll win.

The Newt

Nothing to do with bridge but this report appeared some time ago in a construction report. I just wanted to share it and fill a gap! *I am afraid building work on the project on the site will have to stop as there has been a confirmed sighting of the rare pistaser newt. It can be distinguished by its crossed eyes and its rather ungainly walk. It was apparently discovered by Lord Drunkaser and is now an endangered species due to the increasing cost of its sustenance.*

A PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

By Alan Sharp

It has been a very exciting year in which to be President of the NIBU. It began with a visit, as a guest of the Irish Bridge Union, to Aras an Uachtarain where President Mary McAleese was a most gracious host, and it culminated in the European Bridge Championships in Dublin in June. Whilst I was helping to run the World University Bridge Championships in Reims in July (you will be pleased to know that it wasn't only the bridge that sparkled there, the local brew was in plentiful supply) I had the pleasure of meeting Yves Aubry, the President of the European Bridge League, who, without knowing that I had any connection with bridge here, praised the organisation and personnel of the Dublin championships in the highest terms and expressed particularly his pleasure at sharing a table with the Ulster volunteers at the final dinner for helpers. Hosting those championships at such short notice presented the constituent members of the IBU with a massive challenge and it was very gratifying to see how well the NIBU responded. Many thanks to all who organised events, ran raffles, or participated in competitions and we owe a special debt of gratitude to those who gave their time and expertise in Dublin itself. Well done everyone.

My personal highlight of the year was to play with my partner, Brian McDowell, as part of the Northern Ireland team in the Senior Camrose at Ayr. Sadly we did not maintain the high standards that gained us second place in Oxford the previous year but it was a great experience to play against such exalted opponents. I was also very pleased to see the new constitution adopted with such overwhelming support at the AGM. It is essential that the NIBU looks to the future and one of the key aims of the new structures is to encourage the widest participation possible at all levels of playing ability but also to bring more people and ideas into the development of the game. I hope the various committees will offer opportunities to enthusiastic individuals

for involvement and give a sense of ownership of the NIBU to the clubs, who are its lifeblood. Could I conclude by expressing my thanks to everyone, in particular the officers of the Union, who have helped the NIBU to survive this year – sadly it would be an exaggeration to say prosper because we are, at best, treading water at the moment, but I have high hopes for the future, not least because of the example of our efforts that helped enable the European Championships to take place. May I, on behalf of us all, express sincere thanks to Sandie Millership for everything she has done for the NIBU in a variety of roles, culminating in her chairmanship last year. Her decision to take what I hope will merely be a sabbatical from NIBU office leaves us with several large gaps that will be hard to fill. I hope she and Geoff, another stalwart of the Union, will enjoy travelling but return frequently to grace the bridge tables. I look forward, in my final year, to working with Ciara Burns, her fellow officers and committee members. I wish her, and us all, every success and an exciting and fulfilling year of bridge.

I leave you with the phrase uttered as soon as two bridge players meet – ‘You hold.....’ May you always get the answer right!

Alan Sharp

Committee Meetings

A member has asked if anyone can attend Council or Standing Committee meetings just to observe proceedings.

The answer is no, this is not permissible. The procedure is that the minutes will be published on the website in accordance with the requirements of the constitution. Should a member have a question to ask then this will be able to be done through the website and a reply will be posted so that all can see it.

The agenda for each meeting is also on the website and members can thus ask for a topic to be raised, also be using the website

IRISH JUNIOR BRIDGE

By Richard Boyd

2012 is my final year as a junior bridge player. I am 25 now and have been playing on the Irish junior bridge team for the past eleven years. I first encountered the game of bridge at the age of 10, holding the cards for a paraplegic resident at a nursing home where my mother worked. I would sit with him every Saturday afternoon for a few hours and slowly learned the game through this experience. Though initially this was done as a favour to help out at the nursing home, the more I learned about the game of bridge, the more interested I became in it. Personally I think this was a very effective way to learn the game, watching and learning the procedures of bidding and play through observation. In September 2001 I started attending improver bridge lessons with Hilary Dowling-Long on Leeson Street. Then in January 2002 I took part in my first international junior bridge event, the Junior Camrose, which was held in Birmingham. So started my experience in Irish junior bridge and I have stayed involved ever since.

During my time as a junior player, I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to many places, take part in various competitions against challenging opposition, and to make new friends from all over the world. My junior experience has taken me from the Netherlands to China, from Denmark to Slovakia, to Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Greece and around the British Isles. This was all made possible thanks to the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland (CBAI) and the Irish Bridge Union (IBYC) Junior Committee, who devote so much time and effort to train up junior players competing in international competitions and work tirelessly to raise funds to support Irish junior bridge with the help of generous bridge players and clubs at events all over the country. This has allowed me to work at consistently improving

my game. I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent Ireland at junior level for the past eleven years and have so many great memories from my experiences. I'll finish by sharing a favourite hand from my junior years...

This hand is from the White House Invitational Junior Event, held in Amsterdam in March 2012; I was playing with Kelan O'Connor:

N	E	S	W
O'Connor		Boyd	
1♠	X	4♠	Pass
Pass	X	XX	All Pass

	♠ J98542		
	♥ -		
	♦ 7		
	♣ AKJT76		
♠ T		♠ AQ	
♥ 9742		♥ KQJ	
♦ KT8452		♦ AQ96	
♣ 93		♣ Q854	
	♠ K763		
	♥ AT8653		
	♦ J3		
	♣ 2		

Lead: K♥

After Kelan opened 1♠, east doubled and I raised partner to 4♠ with this shapely hand. East doubled again and I redoubled, to my surprise it went pass, pass, and pass! East must have been confident holding the AQ of trumps over the 1♠ bidder, KQJ of hearts and an outside AQ in diamonds.

After the King of hearts lead, Kelan was able to win that with the Ace while discarding his diamond loser from hand, ruff a diamond back to hand and lead a trump towards the King. Once the Ace popped up and West followed the rest was straight forward. Kelan was able to ruff two clubs in dummy for two overtricks and a score of +1280. My teammate, Wayne

Somerville from Bangor, made 3NT doubled as West, in the other room, so that was a total of 18 imps to the Irish!

This article was written by Richard Boyd from Dublin and I have asked Derek to include it, as the first in a series of articles from Irish Junior players, to illustrate their progression to the very top of our wonderful game of bridge. Their advancement would not be possible without your help and I would like to, personally, thank all those clubs and individuals who gave so generously to our appeal last Christmas. Without your help our young players would be unable to accept invitations and travel to these prestigious events and represent their country.

I am sure most, if not all, of our readers have been following the London Olympics these past couple of weeks. None of what those athletes achieved would have been possible without the necessary funding for them to train with and compete against the best on a regular basis. We are always short of money to send our young players to events, so if you would like to help in any way, please feel free to contact me. Our next article will be penned by Ruth Connolly from Carrickfergus whom most of you should know well.

John Murchan

The 32nd Bangor Holiday Bridge Congress By Jeff Millership

The 32nd Bangor Holiday Bridge Congress, jointly organised by Bangor Contract Bridge Club and Brunswick Bridge Club, took place last weekend at the Signal Business Centre in Bangor. The event was opened by the Mayor of North Down, Councillor Wesley Irvine and the President of Bangor Contract Bridge Club Katharine Johnston on Saturday and the competition got underway with the Congress, Inter A and Inter B Pairs. The Congress Teams

event and Open Pairs took place on Sunday. The Congress was extremely well attended with players arriving from all over Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Our tournament directors Sandie Millership and Alan Hill ran the Congress very smoothly and the staff of the Signal Business Centre also contributed greatly to a most enjoyable weekend.

There was notable success for local players with Damien Carson & Tyrone Currie coming second in the Congress Pairs competition; Leslie Robinson & Sandra McDowell second in the Inter A pairs and Helen & Dudley Cole along with David Leeman, Ken Ginn coming third in the Congress teams, other local club members also winning some of the minor prizes. Congratulations to all these members of our two clubs and other local players who participated in the competitions and who did so well against strong opposition. The final prize presentation was carried out by Joan Morrow Chairperson of Brunswick Bridge Club on Sunday Evening.

A list of the winners of the competitions is detailed below. Any player wishing to check their results may do so on the Bangor Holiday Bridge Congress website on the Bridgewebs site at:

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/bangorholidaycongress/>

Congress Pairs:

Nuala Mooney & Clare Watson

Non-expert:

Maureen Murray & Ivan Bell

Inter A Pairs:

Melvyn Warnock & Brian Clarke

Inter B Pairs:

Irene Orr & Rosemary Kilpatrick

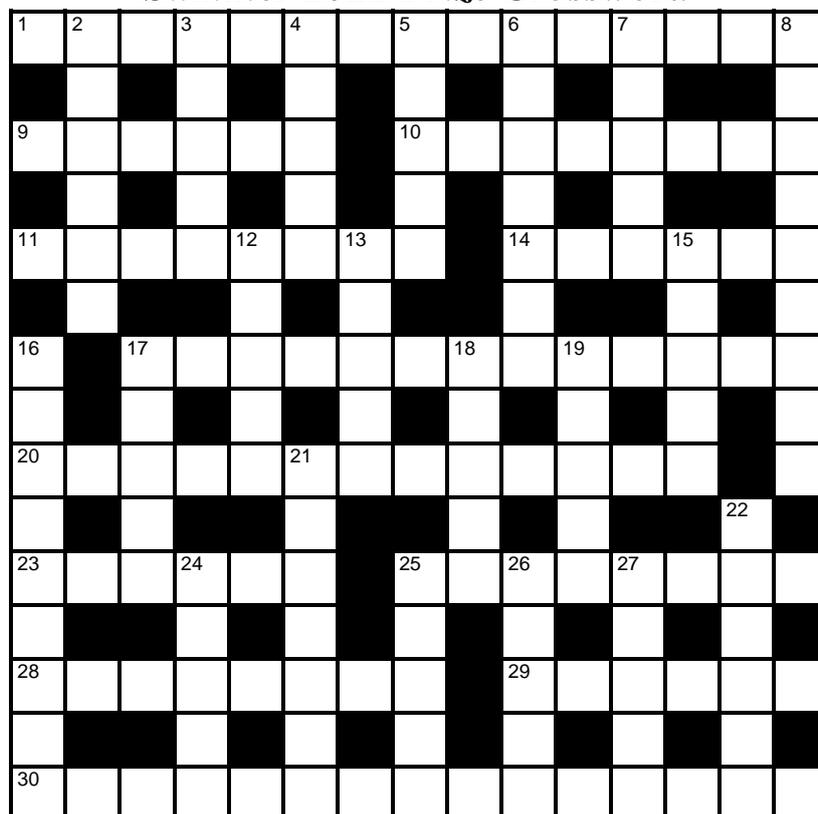
Congress Teams:

David & Diane Greenwood, Teresa Rigney & BJ O'Brian

Open Pairs:

Wayne Somerville & Jordan Atchinson

Summer 2012 Prize Crossword



Across

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 DD tighten for extra points (7,8)</p> <p>9 First bid short cloak over article (6)</p> <p>10 Fickle when vulnerable. Or not (8)</p> <p>11 Straight men will move you (8)</p> <p>14 Declare on a lock back (6)</p> <p>17 They extend life using lantern's parts (13)</p> <p>20 Jumped - tipped beer, vim sorted it! (10,3)</p> <p>23 Beads outside rarely follows artist (6)</p> <p>25 Bachelor started then lounged about club (8)</p> <p>28 Pm time chicken (8)</p> <p>29 Dodges bloodsuckers biting king (6)</p> <p>30 Nixon connived to form defence (5,10)</p> | <p>8 Essays reworded is a retest (9)</p> <p>12 Mollusc holds one to take the rest (5)</p> <p>13 Start a stone rolling (5)</p> <p>15 Alter electronic repair (5)</p> <p>16 Change predates a split (9)</p> <p>17 Lock when siren has worker leaving (5)</p> <p>18 Straight there and back (5)</p> <p>19 Starting North overcalls, bidding in diamonds, but without response (2,3)</p> <p>21 Initially pass spades, you dapper medium! (7)</p> <p>22 Liked Dorothy's dog when it ate well (4,2)</p> <p>24 Overcall revealed in last round (5)</p> <p>25 Noble convention when over 16 (5)</p> <p>26 Loosen relation without a word (5)</p> <p>27 Toughness can be a burden without the French (5)</p> |
|--|---|

Down

- 2 OK sip a mixture with a long neck! (6)
- 3 Indian boy racer started prayer (5)
- 4 Function in level time (5)
- 5 Don't let the major win with a hundred more (5)
- 6 Ulster transport wagon a heavenly place (7)
- 7 Gathers up spell right at the end (5)

Solution to Derek Cannell, 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7HE or derekfcannell@gmail.com by Nov 5th

Winter 11-12 Crossword Solution

	¹ M	² I	³ S	⁴ P	⁴ L	⁴ A	⁵ C	⁵ E	⁶ D	⁶ C	⁷ A	⁷ R	⁸ D	⁸ S
⁹ H		⁹ N		⁹ E		⁹ G		⁹ A		⁹ R		⁹ A		⁹ T
¹⁰ E	¹⁰ R	¹⁰ N	¹⁰ S	¹⁰ T		¹¹ R	¹¹ E	¹¹ S	¹¹ P	¹¹ O	¹¹ N	¹¹ D	¹¹ E	¹¹ R
¹⁰ A		¹⁰ O		¹⁰ E		¹⁰ E		¹⁰ E		¹⁰ S		¹⁰ I		¹⁰ A
¹² R	¹² E	¹² V	¹² E	¹² R	¹² S	¹² E		¹³ S	¹³ E	¹³ S	¹³ S	¹³ I	¹³ O	¹³ N
¹² T		¹² A		¹²		¹² M		¹²		¹² R		¹²		¹² G
¹⁴ S	¹⁴ I	¹⁴ T	¹⁴ U	¹⁵ P		¹⁶ E	¹⁶ T	¹⁷ I	¹⁷ Q	¹⁷ U	¹⁸ E	¹⁸ T	¹⁸ T	¹⁸ E
		¹⁴ O		¹⁴ I		¹⁴ N		¹⁴ M		¹⁴ F		¹⁴ R		
¹⁹ F	¹⁹ I	¹⁹ R	¹⁹ S	¹⁹ T	¹⁹ S	¹⁹ T	¹⁹ E	¹⁹ P		²⁰ F	²⁰ L	²⁰ A	²¹ T	²¹ S
¹⁹ L		¹⁹		¹⁹ U		¹⁹		¹⁹ R		¹⁹		¹⁹ V		¹⁹ E
²² E	²² N	²³ T	²³ R	²³ I	²⁴ E	²⁴ S		²⁵ O	²⁵ P	²⁶ P	²⁶ R	²⁶ E	²⁶ S	²⁶ S
²² N		²² R		²² T		²² I		²² M		²² R		²² L		²² A
²⁷ S	²⁷ P	²⁷ I	²⁷ N	²⁷ A	²⁷ L	²⁷ T	²⁷ A	²⁷ P		²⁸ I	²⁸ S	²⁸ L	²⁸ A	²⁸ M
²⁷ E		²⁷ A		²⁷ R		²⁷ E		²⁷ T		²⁷ M		²⁷ E		²⁷ E
²⁹ D	²⁹ E	²⁹ L	²⁹ A	²⁹ Y	²⁹ E	²⁹ D	²⁹ S	²⁹ U	²⁹ P	²⁹ P	²⁹ O	²⁹ R	²⁹ T	

Correct solutions were received from **Anne Burns, Robin Burns, Seamus Donaghy, Marie Ferguson, Judy Gallagher, Wendy Gunning, Ronnie Morrow, Tony O’Gallagher, and Leslie Robinson**. Four other solutions were also received and if the senders would like to email or telephone me I can let them know where the error was.

The winning entry picked at random by **Ciara Burns** was **Wendy Gunning**.

Ronnie Morrow and Robin Burns felt obliged to point out that 1A could have been displaced or misplaced cards so thank you for that.

