

In our last Newsletter we reported that there could be difficulty in meeting all the duties called for under the new Constitution, which itself still has to be finalised. We are all volunteers with a life outside bridge (at least, most of us!) and there are some matters which are proving to be unreasonably onerous. These are being vigorously addressed by your Council and the Standing Committees and the results should be apparent soon.

You will see that we have devoted a major part of this issue to the Camrose Trophy in which our team performed excellently, coming third and very close to second. They well deserve our congratulations together with our Junior Camrose team who were a creditable third against some very strong opposition. You can read more about the Camrose in the “*Thoughts of Chairman Ciara*” inside.

Thanks go to our contributors, **Chairman Ciara, Neill Cauwood, Alan Sharp, Rex Anderson, Philip Dufton, Ruth Connolly, Ian Hamilton, John Murchan and June Spiers.**

Life can be hard for directors:  
Two Alans taking a break.



## **NIBU SPRING CONGRESS**

**Armagh City Hotel**

**26 – 28 April 2013**

**Book Early for a Room!**

Telephone the Hotel Central Reservations number in Belfast:

**028 9038 5050** between **9.00am** and **5.00pm**  
and:

**Quote ‘Bridge Congress Weekend 26 – 28 April 2013’**

(£45 Per Person sharing per night)

(Single Supplement £20 per night)

**Congress Website:**

**<http://www.bridgewebs.com/nibucongress/>**

**[hassan.anne@gmail.com](mailto:hassan.anne@gmail.com)**

**or 07801 585951 or 028 9086 2179**

*(Please note note that the only organised Open Pairs Session will be held on Saturday Night as numbers attending other Open Pairs Sessions are too few to make these sessions feasible. If anyone wishes to organise Open Pairs at the other sessions we would be delighted to assist.)*

See the website for the full programme.

There will be a Congress Carvery for £10 during the break.

Play in the Congress Teams will finish at approx 8.00 pm and prizes for Teams will be presented immediately after results. .

### **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.

## **THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS**

*Or “Thoughts of Chairman Ciara”*

*By Chairman Ciara Burns*

As many of you are aware the NIBU adopted a new constitution at last year’s AGM in June. This brought about significant changes in the structures and governance of the Union. A great deal of work has and is still being done by Rex Anderson in the drafting of the Constitution and the preparation of a manual which will be available to our clubs on the NIBU website.

I am the first Chairperson to have a two year, rather than one year term of office. Under the old constitution, I would be readying myself for the AGM and the handover of the office. I am entirely new to sitting on committees and I have struggled with some aspects. We, solicitors are generally not known for being good man managers or “team players” I am, for the most part, glad that I have another year as the new structure allows for a greater degree of continuity. We are very much finding our feet and have made a few mistakes but overall I feel it has been a rewarding and productive year.

We have a new executive Council, which through the inclusion of 7 club representatives in its numbers will hopefully better represent club members and allow a greater understanding of their needs. We are also trying to be less Belfast based. Of the four Council meetings to be held this year, three will have been held in Derry, Maghera and Enniskillen.

Efforts have been made to try and offer a policy of insurance to our clubs. We are hoping to be in a position to provide a policy of insurance, offering public liability cover, property cover and most importantly trustees and committee indemnity insurance. Extensive investigations have been done and we would hope to have a proposal finalised before the AGM.

Our congress in Derry in September was a huge success – with numbers up by approximately 25%. The NIBU owe a huge debt of gratitude to the indefatigable Anne

Hassan, our congress organiser. We attracted visitors from the Republic of Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland all of whom spoke of the warm welcome they received. It would be great to see an equally improved turnout at the Armagh Congress which takes place in the Armagh City Hotel between the 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April.

In January, we ran an extremely successful Camrose both in terms of organisation and at the table in La Mon Hotel, outside Belfast. The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, a mere 5 victory points behind England. Brian McDowell stepped in as our new International Match manager and ran the event seamlessly and with quiet efficiency. We received a huge amount of positive feedback, both about the venue and the organisation in general. Indeed, other Unions asked the question in correspondence as to how the NIBU, the smallest of the home Unions, managed to run this event so much better than anyone else, despite the fact we are entirely dependent on the support of our volunteers.

Professor Alan Sharp completes his three year term of office at the AGM in June. He has been a wonderful ambassador and a wise counsel for the NIBU.

Going forward, we hope to initiate a redesign of our website and Greer MacKenzie has posted a link requesting feedback/comments on our Homepage.

I am trying to make a personal visit to as many clubs both affiliated and non affiliated as possible. Thankfully I have 2 years to try to complete this task. Those I have attended thus far have given me a very warm welcome. If you would like to contact me re a club visit my number is 07866707360 and e mail - ciara@caldwellwarner.co.uk

On a personal, note, I would have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my term of office thus far. I have been overwhelmed by the amount of help and support which I have received. I had no idea until I actually got into this job how much work actually goes on behind the scenes. I have learned a certain amount as well – the future of bridge in

Northern Ireland is dependent on a healthy and well supported bridge Union and 8 months into this job – I still REALLY hate giving speeches

## CAMROSE 2013: SPADE BREAK, HEARTBREAK

*By Neill Cauwood*

Having spent much of the first Camrose weekend assisting the Director and Match Manager, I retired to the Vugraph room to spectate a few hands from the final stanza on Sunday evening. Before long the following hand appeared:

	NORTH	
	♠ 9 4 3	
	♥ 4	
	♦ J 9 8 5 3	
	♣ K 7 3 2	
WEST		EAST
♠ K 8 6		♠ Q 10 7 5
♥ A K Q J 10 7 5		♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ Void		♦ A K
♣ 10 8 4		♣ A J 6
	SOUTH	
	♠ A J 2	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2	
	♣ Q 9 5	

Despite the superb heart suit and fit the East/West hands did contain some weaknesses, namely two club losers, holes in the spade suit and doubleton A K of diamonds facing West's void. All six pairs quickly discovered the heart fit and commenced cuebidding, thereby uncovering at least one of the weaknesses and leading two pairs to sign off in 4 hearts, two in 5 hearts, whilst the remaining two bid the slam. On the Vugraph hand East opened one spade, encouraging West to assign full value to his king of spades. When East cuebid 4 clubs West bid the slam, but must have been disappointed to find one half of East's points

opposite his diamond void. North started the defence with a diamond lead.

The hand offered four possible lines of play for twelve tricks:

Line 1. Pin all hopes on the spade suit. The standard play involves leading a low spade towards the king and, whether or not it holds, leading subsequently towards the Q 10, finessing against North's hoped-for jack. As the cards lie the straightforward line fails.

Line 2. On the Vugraph hand declarer attempted to improve his chances by eliminating the minor suits and, at trick 8, leading the king of spades from hand. At this point South had retained A J 2 of spades and Q 10 6 of diamonds. Had South won this trick with his Ace he would have been forced either to return a spade into dummy's Q 10 tenace or to lead a diamond thereby conceding a ruff and discard. South, however, neatly avoided the trap by refusing to play his ace on the king.

Line 3. A third option involves the play known as the "backward finesse", a technique which appears in the textbooks rather more frequently than at the table. On this particular hand, however, it would have proved successful. Declarer begins with the ten of spades, allowing it to run if not covered; if the ten holds nor forces out the ace, West has his twelve tricks. If the ten is covered by the jack, West wins and subsequently finesses against North's nine of spades! Scary, against the odds, but successful as the cards lie.

Line 4. None of the six declarers tried the fourth option although it does, in fact, offer the greatest chance of twelve tricks. At trick 1 declarer discards a spade on a diamond. At trick 2 he leads a spade towards his king. He draws trumps and returns to dummy with a trump ( the 9,8 and 6 of trumps provide two entries). Declarer now discards his third spade on dummy's second diamond. Finally he ruffs a spade and returns to dummy to take a further spade ruff. This line succeeds when: (a) the

spades break 3/3; OR (b) either defender holds J x; OR (c) South holds A x; OR (d) North holds the K and Q of clubs. The combined effect of all four possible layouts offers an overall chance in excess of 70%. The four declarers not in slam were not unduly concerned about a twelfth trick of course.

### YOU HOLD....

*By Alan Sharp*

Sitting East you pick up a balanced 10 count

- ♠ J x x
- ♥ J x x x
- ♦ A Q 10
- ♣ Q x x

They are vulnerable, you are not. Your partner, West, opens 1 D, Precision, showing 11-15 points and a minimum of at least 2 diamonds. North bids 1NT; you double; South redoubles, Helvic, weak with a 5 card suit, requiring partner to bid 2C; West passes; so does North! Your lead, don't worry, there are only 2,960 points riding on your choice!

The optimum lead and play produces a score of 2,200 for you; next best gets you 1,600; and even the third choice nets you 1,000 – not bad for a hand on which you may have a non-vulnerable game or possibly no more than a part-score. So you have three chances to make a positive score, but if you don't get it right you will lose 760 when they make – then they will be the ones laughing en route to the bank.

- ♠ A x
  - ♥ A K Q 7 x x
  - ♦ K x
  - ♣ x x x
- ♠ K Q
  - ♥ 8
  - ♦ J x x x x
  - ♣ A K J x x
- ♠ J x x
  - ♥ J x x x
  - ♦ A Q 10
  - ♣ Q x x
- ♠ 10 8 x x x x
  - ♥ 10 9
  - ♦ x x x
  - ♣ x x

A small club, followed by a diamond switch from West nets 10 tricks, minus 4; a small spade gives declarer 4 tricks, minus 3; a small diamond gives him 5 tricks, minus 2, but a small heart gives declarer 7 tricks, an unhappy outcome – for you but not for them.

The hand occurred when I was playing with Antony Alcock in the North-South match some years ago in Newcastle. Suffice to say that Bunny McCombe, the NPC, was very understanding about Antony's lead of his four card suit!

### Crossword 15 Solution

1	D	O	U	B	L	E	D	5	C	O	N	T	7	R	A	C	8		
		K		R		V		O		I		E					R		
9	C	A	N	A	P	E		10	V	A	R	I	A	B	L	E			
		P		V		N		E		V		P					A		
11	D	I	R	E	12	C	T	13	O	R		14	A	S	S	15	E	R	T
		S				L		N				N			M		I		
16	S			17	T	R	A	N	S	18	P	L	A	19	N	T	E	R	S
		E		R		I		E		E		O		N		E			
20	P	R	E	E	21	P	T	I	V	E	B	I	D						S
		A		S		S			E		I							22	T
23	R	O	S	24	A	R	Y		25	B	L	U	D	27	G	E	O	N	
		A		S		C		A		N		R		O					
28	T	H	A	T	C	H	E	R		29	T	R	I	C	K	S			
		E			R		I		O		I		S		T				
30	D	I	X	O	N	C	O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N				

Congratulations to **Florence McClintock** whose entry was drawn at the Council Meeting in December at Maghera.

Entries were also received from **Anne Burns, Ciara Burns, Robin Burns, Seamus Donaghy, Marie Ferguson, Charles Foster, Judy Gallagher, Zita Gibson, Martha Grimes, Wendy Gunning, Edward McQuilkin, Pat Nicholl and Tony O'Gallagher.**

Our thanks to all the above for taking the trouble to send in an entry and for comments and suggestions for improvements (other than making it easier).

*One small point - if we are unable to present the prize in person an acknowledgement of receipt would be appreciated as sending cash by post is not always successful. On more than one occasion in the past this has not happened.*

## NIBU NEWSLETTER

*By Rex Anderson*

*“Everything flows, nothing stands still”*  
[Heraclitus 540 – 480 BC]

As noted in the Summer 2012 Newsletter the new constitution which was introduced in June 2012 was based on the publication of agendas and minutes of meetings of the four standing committees [Finance & Membership, Laws & Ethics, Tournament and Selection] and of Council on the NIBU website so that club members would be informed of what was happening.

The terms of reference of the four standing committees and standing orders of Finance & Membership Committee and Laws & Ethics Committee have been published on the website.

Council is considering a draft manual containing Competition Rules for NIBU competitions, Notes for competitors in NIBU competitions, Master points- when awarded; definitions; ranks, NIBU competitions for which National Points are awarded, Other NIBU competitions, Tournament directors approved by NIBU, Appeals procedures, amended Rules for Leagues, Kelvin Cup, Mackinnon Cup, Millership Cup, Hyman Cup and Agnew Cup. It is anticipated that the manual contents will be published on the website shortly after amendment as considered necessary by Council.

Council has appointed a sub-committee to urgently address the delay in posting of information on the website and improvement of user friendliness of the website.

*“Plus ça change, plus la meme chose”*  
Alphonse Karr [1808 – 1890]

The new constitution replaced the General Purposes Committee with the 4 standing committees and Council. The GP Committee had met on a near monthly basis in Belfast and

dealt with all administration and policy. The GP Committee dealt with many matters which were raised without notice and dealt with without full consideration of all aspects. Only the Selection Committee was independent of the GP Committee.

The new constitution replaced the GP Committee with the four standing committees which each report to the Council. The standing committees carry out the normal work of NIBU. Council considers reports and documents issued by each standing committee and ratifies or refers back for further consideration recommendations made by a standing committee and makes executive decisions as required. Council has to meet 3 times each year.

A major change in the new constitution was that all members of NIBU [that is all members of affiliated clubs] would be able to see on the website the matters discussed by Council by viewing the agenda, documents under consideration and minutes and the agendas, minutes and reports of each of the four standing committees.

In order for this to work all members of Council need to receive copies of all documents and reports to be reviewed or discussed at the same time as the proposed agenda for Council meetings.

For various reasons a number of items, such as minutes of the September Council Meeting and Standing Orders for some of the Standing Committees and other minutes have yet to appear on the website.

*“Progress may have been all right once, but it has gone on too long”* [Ogden Nash 1902 – 1971]

Hopefully the members of NIBU will take the opportunity to have the provisions of the new constitution carried out after the current teething problems have been resolved.

# FIRST CAMROSE WEEKEND IN NI 2013

By Philip Dufton

The NIBU team (Rex Anderson, Ciara Burns, Hastings Campbell, David Greenwood, Greer MacKenzie and John Murchan) had an enjoyable weekend at the La Mon hotel. This was not only because we were reasonably successful (that helps!) but also because the hotel was excellent and the staging impeccable. International bridge players who normally love to complain were stunned into silence. Also all the teams appreciated the great turnout of supporters, which gave the event a real buzz – indeed a player on another team said how much better it was than their home matches which were like playing in a morgue.

The Vugraph is a great place to watch the action and listen to the expert analysis. However for reasons that I will return to at the end of the article, I like to sit at least some of the time behind a player in the open room. Below are three hands that I found instructive. I would thank the team for their help in assembling them – any errors are my fault.

## I am just an old-fashioned girl?

Rex and David were one of the few pairs playing strong Acol two bids in the majors. Nowadays most players use such bids for weird destructive (hopefully to the opposition!) weak bids but there is a lot to be said for being old-fashioned.

Dealer E, E/W Vulnerable:

♠ K84	
♥ K64	
♦ 8654	
♣ T94	
♠ 65	♠ AQJT93
♥ JT92	♥ Q5
♦ KQT2	♦ A
♣ Q76	♣ AJ83
♠ 72	
♥ A873	
♦ J973	
♣ K52	

David as East opened 2♠ showing 8 playing tricks in ♠ and Rex as West responded with a negative 2NT; David re-bid 3♣ showing a second suit and Rex signed off in 3NT. Nine tricks were made in this unbeatable contract (not so sure if I was playing it) for a score of plus 600.

On the other five occasions the board was played, the contract for East/West was 4♠. For once getting to a better contract was rewarded as in 4♠, there should be four losers – one ♣, two ♥s and one ♠ - 12 imps for Northern Ireland.

Perhaps there is something to be said for constructive rather than destructive openings?

## A shot to nothing?

Greer and Hastings play a natural Acol based system but it is not without its gadgets as the following hand shows.

Dealer W, E/W Vulnerable

	♠ K63	
	♥ K8	
	♦ QJ986	
	♣ A87	
♠ AT854		♠ 972
♥ 6		♥ QJ943
♦ T74		♦ 53
♣ JT42		♣ 965
	♠ QJ	
	♥ AT752	
	♦ AK2	
	♣ KQ3	

Hastings as North opened 1NT (12-14) and with the opposition passing, the bidding went 2♦ (transfer) - 2♥ - 4NT (quantitative). Looking at it, I thought ‘only 2♥ but near maximum – 6NT’. However Greer and Hastings have an agreement that when they go on after a quantitative raise, they bid 4 cards suit at the five level and 5 card suits at the 6 level. Hence Hastings bid 6♦ and Greer realizing that it might be necessary to ruff

hearts to set them up (if for example South had ♥QT752) made a well thought out pass. What would you have done over the 4NT bid? – be honest!

Of course on this occasion 6NT was equally good and hence Greer and Hastings must have been disappointed that their efforts had been wasted. However justice was perhaps done when the slam was not bid in the other room.

Average club players (including myself) waste so many bids by not assigning them a meaning. Certainly Greer and Hastings treatment seems very sensible and I am going to try to get my partners to play it.

### Meet with triumph and disaster?

Dealer N, None Vulnerable

♠ KQT954	
♥ 2	
♦ 753	
♣ T63	
♠ AJ	♠ AT
♥ KT	♥ AQJ63
♦ AQ8	♦ JT942
♣ AKJ9852	♣ 4
♠ 8632	
♥ 98754	
♦ K6	
♣ Q7	

Ciara and John were playing against David Price and Colin Simpson – a charming but very tough pair who were recently members of the English Senior team that won the World Championship. North opened a weak 2♠ and Ciara overcalled 3♥. Thereafter, John was not going to stop short of 6♥ with his strong hand. Sitting watching, I was glad that I was only the NPC and did not have to play the contract (my thoughts are in brackets).

Ciara won the ♠ lead, took a ♣ finesse (pew that worked!), cashed the ♣A and the ♣Q fell (yippee its making!). Ciara then took ♥K and

T and found the foul trump break (it's not fair!). She played another club which South ruffed and he then switched to a sneaky ♦6 (gulp/panic!). Ciara ran it to her hand and claimed (easy-peasy!). A big gain to the NIBU as the slam was not bid in the other room.

How would I have played it – at the time I did not have a clue but it would have been much easier sitting in the Vugraph room. Then I would have known that the clubs were running and that the diamond finesse was right!

This brings me back to why I sit in the open room. When you can see all the hands, you can easily convince yourself that you would always have taken the winning line. So next time there is a home Camrose match, sit behind your favourite player in the open room and see whether you would have done better – if so the Selection Committee would like you to contact them!

### BRIDGE BREAK

#### By June Spiers

I spent Christmas on a Bridge Cruise which left Tilbury, England on 20 December and called at Vigo in Spain, Lisbon in Portugal, Puerto del Rosario in Fuerteventura, Las Palmas in Gran Canaria, Santa Cruz in La Palma, Funchal in Madeira and Oporto in Portugal arriving back in the UK on 3 January.

We played bridge every evening and the mornings when at sea. I had two very pleasant partners Angela & and Alan and Angela and I won the Championship Pairs.

The food was excellent and our ports of call interesting particularly Madeira where I had a cable car and toboggan ride. Certainly a good way to get over the festive season.

## **NIBU Interclub Duplicate**

*By Ian Hamilton*

NIBU has run its own in-house Simultaneous Pairs four times a year for 30 or more years. Originally organised by Sam Hall, and scored by the late Jimmy Clark, it aims to provide an interface between the regular NIBU competition players and those NIBU club affiliated players who otherwise rarely participate in NIBU events. Clubs play the same hands in their own club, which are then scored across the entire field.

Ian Hamilton has organised the competition for the last 20+ years, overseeing various incremental changes. It now has two heats per session, and is scored by E-Cats Internet site, allowing a much more elegant and professional-looking competition, with results available on-line. He is hopeful that the various changes are for the better.

Entries for the past 6 years are as follows, the 09/10 figures being badly affected by snow and a postal strike.

07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
994	1075	948*	981	996	1156

As can be seen the participation figures have been broadly flat for the last half dozen years, despite falling membership, but have risen significantly this year since splitting each event in two, allowing more clubs who have overlapping membership to participate. Indeed, the March Interclub had 331 pairs playing, well in excess of the previous record of 299 in March 2009.

Financially, the competition contributes significantly to NIBU's revenue. This year the competition will gross £6,954. With expenses coming to c£3,000 annually (including prizes), the net benefit will be of the order of £4,000.

A further Simultaneous Pairs is being hosted by NIBU this year, under the same stewardship. The Celtic Pairs also sees WBU, SBU clubs and several others (including one from Zambia) participating. Support from as many clubs as possible would be appreciated.

## **BRIDGE DAY CRUISES WITH STENA LINE**

Stena Line has just launched a brand new programme of cruises onboard Stena Superfast from Belfast to Cairnryan that we hope will be of interest to bridge players of all abilities. These are fun events, designed to showcase the excellent facilities aboard the Superfast while playing a friendly game of bridge.

For just £15 per person, you can take part in our onboard bridge competition, directed by Northern Ireland Bridge International John Murchan and Kelvin Chairman Colin Jeffries.

The cruises take place on selected Tuesdays, starting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, and depart from Stena Line's Belfast terminal at 11.30, returning at 17.45.

The £15 cost includes the return crossing, main course lunch, complimentary tea/coffee & biscuits, £5 discount in the onboard shop and cash prizes and trophies for the winners.

Stena Line has also kindly donated a number of ferry crossings for use as raffle prizes at the forthcoming Spring and Autumn NIBU Congresses.

To book, and for full details of available dates, go to [www.stenaline.co.uk/bridge](http://www.stenaline.co.uk/bridge) or call **08447 70 70 70**.

For more details and to pre-register for the Bridge competitions, contact John Murchan on 07709 312 612 or email [jmurchan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmurchan@yahoo.co.uk).

### **White House Juniors.**

#### **Patton 2013 Amsterdam.**

Our junior team, Wayne Sommeville, Ruth Connolly, Richard Boyd and David Synnott, are to be congratulated on having represented us in this International Team competition and got off to a flying start by coming second in the first event. This was despite mistakenly being seeded first after the first match which they actually lost, but it's too complicated to explain here!



## JUNIOR CAMROSE TROPHY.

*By Ruth Connolly*

Park Inn Hotel, Manchester - 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2013.

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies are the junior series of Home Internationals for players aged Under 25 and 20 years old respectively. The format of the competition is similar to the Camrose and Lady Milne Trophies, where a round robin is held over one weekend (3x 12 board stanzas) and the team emerging with the highest score are declared the winners!

From the outset it was to be a challenging weekend for our four young protagonists. After a 5 hour delay at Belfast International, we arrived in Manchester, somewhat jetlagged and perhaps struggling to cope with the time difference...

We knew from the beginning we were up against some world class talent, in the form of 4 World Junior Silver medallists, a Lady International player and a few others who would not be out of place cleaning up in various rubbers throughout the country, surrounded by some of the finest declarers around.



(Jake proving that the Junior Camrose Trophy does not look out of place in Northern Irish hands.)

Our four heroes were not deterred. They were determined and professional in their approach to every match, thought about every card turned and I'm very proud to have been with them as NPC.

The Junior Camrose team was:

**Jake Corry, Andrew Clegg, Wayne Somerville and Jordan Atchison.**

My four boys required feeding and watering at exact 4 hour intervals and I just hope I kept them in good enough shape for each match.

Jake and Andy showed excellent judgment throughout the weekend. They carefully made their way to the excellent contract of 6♦ on the following board against the Republic of Ireland, whilst Wayne and Jordan picked up +50 against the slightly less adventurous and inferior 3NT in the other room. 14 Imps to the good guys.

Dealer N Vul E-W

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

## All Ireland Schools Teams

*By John Murchan*

I would just like to congratulate BRA, CarrickFergus Grammar, and Bangor Grammar for their wonderful performance in the Irish Schools' teams, yet again. You will notice that we had six Northern teams in the Gold final won by BRA2 and Bangor2 won the Silver final.

I would like to especially mention their coaches who have been working away for years and are very much unsung heroes..... namely, Barbara Lomas, Stuart Graham, John Reid and Andrew Walker.

# JUNIOR CAMROSE 2013

## Current Results

Team numbers being:

1 Scotland

2 Ireland

3 England

4 Northern Ireland

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ttl	Team
25	25	25	25	16	24	25	23	25	213	3
15	5	23	20	14	21	10	7	13	128	1
<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>4</b>
4	1	7	5	10	9	1	16	17	70	2

Our team was competitive throughout, and secured a well deserved podium finish. 3<sup>rd</sup> place and only 8VPs below a much more experienced Scottish team in second.

Before we left for Manchester I read somewhere that a non-playing captain should be a leader, a psychologist, a diplomat, a nursemaid, a cheerleader, a bridge expert and a friend. He should be firm but fair, strong but able to bend, alert, prompt and resourceful. I'm not sure if I hold many or even any of the above qualities, but if there is one thing I can do, it is to let you know that these four talented individuals NEED your help. We need to invest more of our time and efforts into promoting Junior Bridge and ensuring our young players are being nurtured and coached in the right direction.

## **SLOGAN COMPETITION!!**

It has been decided that we need a slogan for use with our promotional material and other documentation. A prize of £25 has been agreed for the best suggestion which will be decided by the NIBU Council and entries must be in by April 12 to qualify and the result will be announced at the Armagh Congress.

As an example, the CBAI slogan is:

“Bridge – A Game for Life.”

Please send entries to Derek Cannell or Liz Scott by post or email.

## **Ray McClurg**

It is with sadness that we write about the recent passing of one of the NIBU's most prominent bridge players. Ray became especially well known in north Down when she moved to Bangor in 1991 joining several of the local clubs where she soon grew to become a very popular player. She was a regular player in Cooke (at the old Drumkeen Hotel) and Kelvin & Malone when she lived in Belfast. Ray was born in 1933 and is survived by her loving daughters Mandy and Janet and three grandchildren. Her husband Sidney died in June 1998 having retired from a lifetime career in the Northern Bank. She had a great sense of humour and invariably when laughter was heard during play, Ray was the instigator and will always be fondly remembered for this. A very social player mainly, she had her competitive moments, winning several major prizes at junior and intermediate level at the local Bangor Congress since her first victory in 2001. She used to play in the intermediate league and more recently won the local AB challenge trophy in 2011 and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the mid-Ulster AB challenge within the last twelve months.

Raye was a member of Bangor and Brunswick clubs, as well as others, and played a role in both clubs in arranging partners for other players. She was due to go on two bridge breaks with friends in February but passed away doing what she loved, playing bridge at Bangor on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

She will be sadly missed by her many friends and we extend our sincere condolences to her family.

## Know Your Methods and Think About the Hand.

A hand from the Camrose  
by *Ian Hamilton*

		♠ AKJ65	
		♥ 875	
		♦ Q	
		♣ QJ82	
♠ 107			♠ 43
♥ QJ10932			♥ AK
♦ 1043			♦ AKJ982
♣ K3			♣ 1054
		♠ Q982	
		♥ 64	
		♦ 765	
		♣ A976	

W	N	E	S
2H*	2S	4H	4S
P	P	5H	All P
* Weak			

I sat North and defended 5 hearts, which it would appear simple to set.

Trick 1 was the spade Ace, 3, 9, 7. We play low = encouraging, high = discouraging. I was unclear if Paul Tranmer was showing length (ie petering from 4), or discouraging, holding five spades, knowing another would not cash.

I therefore switched to clubs, knowing at least one trick there was needed anyway.

Now put yourself in Paul's shoes, upon winning the club Ace. He thinks I have six spades, and have switched, knowing another will not cash, and that we have to take two club tricks to beat 5 hearts. Naturally, he returned a club, won by declarer's King.

Disaster! Declarer took dummy's top trumps, cashed a top diamond, ruffed a club to hand, pulled the last trump, and claimed.

Where did the defence go wrong? It seems it went wrong when I led a club – the TWO, as I did. Had I led back the Queen, Paul would have had no option but to hope for another spade trick, and all would have been well. One error.

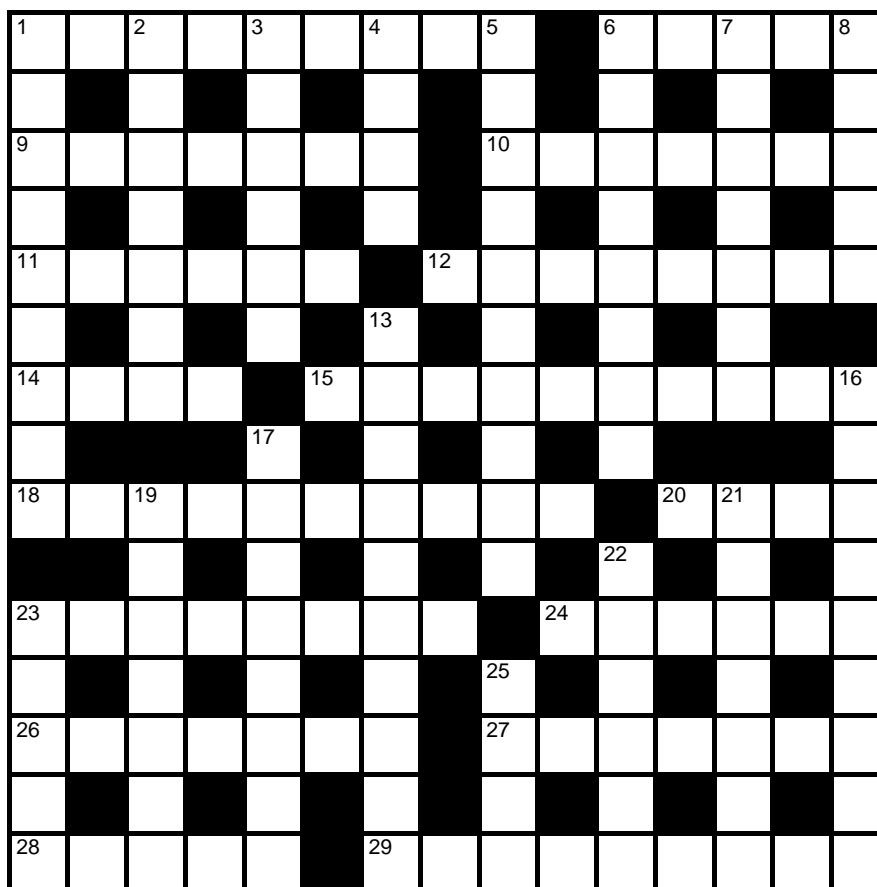
But it actually went wrong before that. Say I lead another spade, and declarer ruffs. He can now enter dummy, and cash two top trumps. However, now he has to either lead diamonds, allowing me a ruff, or play clubs himself, attempting to get to hand to pull trumps. If Paul had had the A/K of clubs, they won't run away.

In fact, without a top club, declarer has only 3 HCP for his Vulnerable weak 2. This is improbable. Even for Mike Pownall.

I should have had confidence in Paul's carding, which was showing length in this instance, helping to tell me I can cash two spades. Now a trick 3 club switch beats declarer, so long as Paul has either one of the A/K of clubs, since declarer's entry to hand is prematurely removed. He cannot cash dummy's top trumps and re-enter hand in clubs, to pull the last trump. We either make a club trick or a diamond ruff, or both.

Know your methods. Think about declarer's likely shape, and defend accordingly. Indeed had we been defending FOUR hearts, I have to cash two spades, then play a diamond, hoping Paul has the club Ace (the king won't do this time). Declarer wins, pulls top trumps, but must lead clubs. Paul pops up with the Ace, and I get a diamond ruff.

## Prize Crossword 16



### Across

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| <p><b>1</b> Pointing to sailors making a little noise on the air (9)</p> <p><b>6</b> East leaves the band to undress (5)</p> <p><b>9</b> Without pressure, spirit bid (2,5)</p> <p><b>10</b> Establish how long emu ears can become (7)</p> <p><b>11</b> Stir her tea to warm it up (6)</p> <p><b>12</b> 2D worker on bridge (4,4)</p> <p><b>14</b> Fall right out for money (4)</p> <p><b>15</b> A bull never makes you see red (10)</p> <p><b>18</b> Suggesting singing all about (10)</p> <p><b>20</b> Metal case contains powder (4)</p> <p><b>23</b> Against area to play in (8)</p> <p><b>24</b> Confucius leading the zoo ungulates away for a fight (4,2)</p> <p><b>26</b> Get in first to exercise about English politician (3-4)</p> <p><b>27</b> IKEA ban broken flowers (7)</p> <p><b>28</b> The sound of gas no longer here (5)</p> <p><b>29</b> Forego sci-fi race crash (9)</p> | <p><b>3</b> Timeless grey nerve (6)</p> <p><b>4</b> Little point scoring (4)</p> <p><b>5</b> Minor strolling in great empty nest (8,2)</p> <p><b>6</b> Beginnings of painting held by headless flowers (8)</p> <p><b>7</b> Low level racket runs pub in centre (7)</p> <p><b>8</b> Walk round the French request (5)</p> <p><b>13</b> Doubles of French dishes containing ink cartridge heads (10)</p> <p><b>16</b> Argue once about comfort (9)</p> <p><b>17</b> Light male swallowed by desperate farmer (8)</p> <p><b>19</b> Champagnes nightly hold back the root cure (7)</p> <p><b>21</b> Hound with information for money (7)</p> <p><b>22</b> Bones smell bad with wingless bird's nest (6)</p> <p><b>23</b> Soft god follows company kernal (5)</p> <p><b>25</b> Unknown Humming Bird loses a rust protector (4)</p> |
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### Down

- 1** Non-U aristocrats hold stacks for hoaxes (3,6)
- 2** Tests the scam creates (7)

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>.

