

Well there goes another AGM – preceded by an EGM where approval was received to change the existing Constitution. Ciara Burns then stood down after a very productive term which, in her own inimitable way, she introduced a number of notable achievements. These include not one, but two new constitutions – a formidable task and the new Gala Pairs for Novice, Inter A and Inter B players which will take place in August. This event has been generously sponsored by Baker Tilly Mooney Moore for the Inter A, Greer and Moyna MacKenzie the Inter B and Ian Hamilton the Novice section. This involvement by senior players indicates the importance they attach to this event.

In addition to the above Ciara has also encouraged new clubs to join us, these being Dromore, Iveagh, Kilrea, Limavady, Lisnaskea, Newry, Portstewart, Shorts, Teconnaught and Windsor. A warm welcome to you all.

Mention must also be made of our excellent performance in the Camrose and no apology is needed for including two articles related to this inside

Another initiative being actively pursued relates to schools – both by NIBU targeted at youth bridge and by Kelvin Malone who are engaged in teaching at primary schools. This is a very important field and we ignore it at our peril.

Finally, we must draw your attention to the Autumn Congress, details of which appear inside and on our web-site. Anne Hassan and her team do a huge amount of work to ensure that this runs smoothly so please support it if you can. Anne has asked us to say that if you are intending to stay at the hotel you must book before August 1st to avoid a significant increase in room charges. Do this by ringing the City Hotel at 02871365800 from 9 – 5 Mon-Fri and quote Bridge Weekend Special.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Norma Irwin reports on her experience of bridge in New Zealand. What do you feel about the idea of projecting running scores on a screen?

Rex Anderson explains selection to represent Ireland in the European Championships.

Ian Lindsay writes about a hand from the Senior Camrose.

Simon Cochemé has submitted an interesting article, first published in English Bridge, about the use of French words in bridge. This will be followed by others in future editions.

Michael McFaul explains a hand from the 2014 Camrose match. In another article he poses a question about a double of 1NT.

Barbara Lomas writes about youth bridge and what NIBU is doing about teaching it.

Kelvin Malone details the work done in teaching bridge at primary school level together with future plans.

Ian Hamilton reports about the Camrose with details of a couple of interesting hands.

Alan Hill in response to a reader's query explains about computer dealt hands and how they are not biased despite some opinions to the contrary.

Greer MacKenzie covers a hand from a recent Junior/Senior event at Kelvin.

William McCloskey entertains us with a couple of limericks selected from several that he submitted.

Thanks are due to all the above without whom there would be no Newsletter. Much as I appreciate them, some new names would be welcome as we really do need more input from members so don't forget, send any ideas or contributions to derekfcannell@gmail.com or ring me at 02891469203 or even write to 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7HE. If you do not want your name published then that's fine as long as I know it.

Bridge in New Zealand

By Norma Irwin

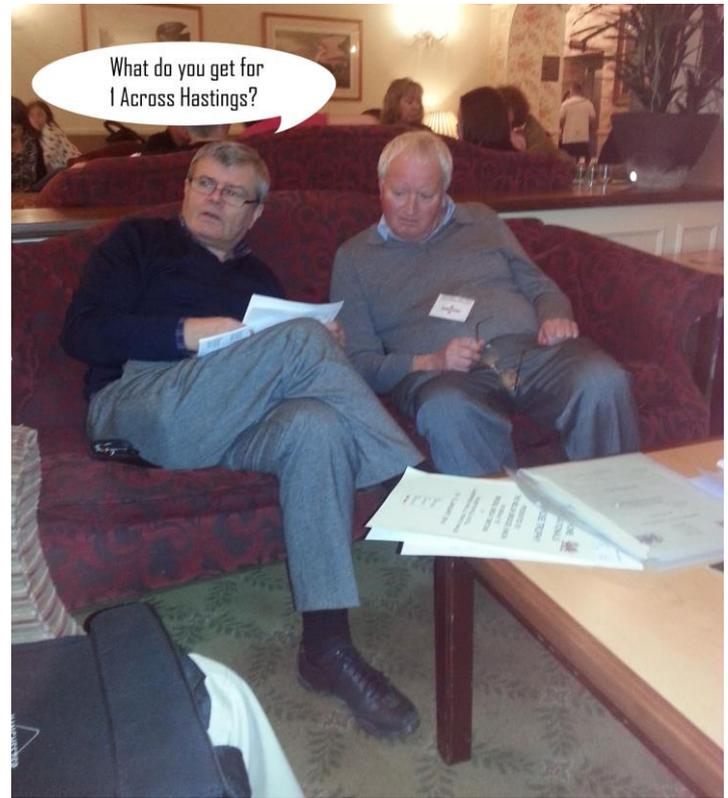
Last year when we were on holiday in NZ we found the local Bridge Club close to the end of our time there and we played twice, thoroughly enjoying the competition and the friendly atmosphere. So when we arrived in Lower Hutt, outside Wellington, this year we went along to the club again and received a nice welcome. As we were there for 2 months we were asked to join as temporary members for a small fee.

The Lower Hutt Club meets each evening, Monday to Friday and has some afternoon sessions (with a tea/coffee break). The premises are impressive, maybe a bit short on car parking for day time sessions. There are about 13 tables each session, all use pre-dealt hands and there are hand-outs too. Bridge mates are used for scoring and the results for last few rounds are usually projected onto a screen so your fate becomes apparent very quickly! There is a wide range of competitions, including a Club Ladder. Using the pre-dealt hands and the Bridge mates to full advantage, several clubs play the identical hands simultaneously each session, so you get a regional placing as well as the club result. There is also a regional ladder to add interest.

Most players use the Acol system, many with weak 2's, there are a few precision players and a few using SAYC. The standard, in the sessions when we played, was good. Nobody giving away too many tricks. Usually we managed to get into the top 5 places, except for one disastrous afternoon and I blame the excellent local Sauvignon Blanc imbibed the previous evening for that! The club members have a TD rota and they have an office with a part time secretary, Karen, who also plays a mean game of bridge. We found it very strange that no bidding boxes are used. Bids are written on a specially designed sheet, which is then torn off. So each North is equipped with

a waste paper basket! I believe this method is widely used in Australia too.

We were sorry to play our last game there at the end of March but look forward to our next visit and to renewing friendships.



*Above:
Hastings Campbell and Robin Burns
discussing tactics at the Camrose recently.
Serious business, obviously!*

I came across the following while surfing recently and thought it worth sharing:

Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge to make money, to show how smart you are, to show how stupid your partner is, to prove that you are the greatest teacher since Socrates, to show off the latest fad in bidding or to prove any of the several hundred things that bridge players are so often trying to prove.
Charles Goren

NIBU Players To Represent Ireland In The 2014 European Championships

By Rex Anderson

The Irish Bridge Union trials to select the teams to represent Ireland in Open, Ladies and Senior European Championships to be held in Croatia in June and early July this year have now all been completed.

There was one team of NIBU players among the eight teams entered for the trials for the Open team. Eight teams played a round robin over three days early in January and the top four teams qualified to play a further round robin two weeks later. The NIBU team of John Murchan/Ciara Burns and Greer Mackenzie/Hastings Campbell did not qualify to play on the second weekend. Congratulations to the winning team of Tom Hanlon/Hugh McGann, Tommy Garvey/John Carroll and Mark Moran/Rory Boland which dominated the trials from start to finish and proved to be by far the strongest team.

The Ladies trials were held in February as a pairs trial with 8 pairs qualifying from the first weekend round robin to play a further round robin two weeks later. Diane Greenwood and Ciara Burns both qualified to play on the second weekend with their respective partners from CBAI. Congratulations to the three leading pairs in the trial Hilary McDonagh/Gilda Pender, Jill Kulchycky/Teresa Rigney and Diane Greenwood/Joan Kenny. It is pleasing to see another successful trial for Diane Greenwood, the most experienced NIBU lady player in European Championships with yet another new partner. Diane has represented IBU in Junior Europeans in 1982 and in the Ladies Europeans in 1991, 2004 and 2006.

The Seniors trials held over the St Patrick's day weekend attracted an entry of five teams including one team of NIBU players - Greer Mackenzie/Hastings Campbell and Ian Hamilton/John Ferguson. After a round robin of 16 board matches the two leading teams

played a 48 board final. The NIBU team did not qualify to play in the final. After a close run match between the two teams which had dominated the round robin the winning team was Rex Anderson/Pat Barry and B J O'Brien/Michael McDonagh by the narrow margin of 6 imps. NIBU's Rex Anderson began his European Championship partnership with Pat Barry in 1970 in the Junior Europeans and they played in the Open Europeans in 1975. After a break of 35 years they renewed their partnership and played for IBU in the Beijing Olympics in 2008, the European Championships in 2010 and 2012 and in the World Bridge Federation Championships in 2012.

Crossword 18 Solution

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

Correct solutions were received from *Marie Ferguson, Judy Gallagher, Wendy Gunning, Drew Lindsay, Edward McQuilken, Ronnie Morrow* and *Pat Nicholl*.

Drew's name was drawn out of the hat and he will receive a magnificent prize.

My thanks to those others who submitted entries and the one that stumped them was tankas, the centurions being the tanks holding article (a).

A Quick Double

By Ian Lindsay

This hand produced some interesting points in the Senior Camrose. It also demonstrates how good players pick up inferences from body language, tempo of bidding etc. though they don't always interpret them correctly.

♠ K106
♥ J743
♦ A10
♣ AK75

♠ A92
♥ K865
♦ KQJ93
♣ 6

♠ J873
♥ 1092
♦ 42
♣ J984

♠ Q54
♥ AQ
♦ 8765
♣ Q1032

The bidding at the two tables when N Ireland played England was:

West	North	East	South
Owen	Hall	Senior	Campbell
		P	P
1♦	X	2nt	P
3♦	P	P	P
		Result 3♦+ 1	
		130 to England	

West	North	East	South
Burns	Kendrick	Lindsay	Gibbons
		P	P
1♦	1nt	X	P
P	2♣	X	P
P	XX	P	2♠
P	P	P	

Result 2♠-3 300 to N. Ireland

The other four times the board was played the results were 2♦+2 twice, 5♦-1 and 1nt+1 all declared by East/West.

First, should North double or bid 1nt? Double is generally the cheapest way into the bidding i.e. it is likely to be the least expensive if the cards lie unfavourably. But 1nt defines your hand better. Still A10 is not a great holding and you can play in the other three suits. The board was played 6 times, 5 players doubled, only 1 bid 1nt.

Secondly what should North do having bid 1nt and been doubled, clearly only holding A10 you are going for a bundle, also partner doesn't have a 5 card suit or he would have pulled it? If you leave it a bad board is certain so you have to try something. So Kendrick bid 2♣, by chance he found a 4-4 fit. Kendrick said later that I doubled quickly and confidently, so he thought/sensed 2♣ wasn't their best spot. He redoubled, saying rescue me partner bid your best major. I thought he was short in ♣, prepared to play there if undoubled, no double no trouble, but planning to redouble if doubled asking for partners better major. It's the sort of thing you read about in books but rarely see in practice. I suspect his partner concluded the same, though he thought for some time before bidding 2♠. Since they were undoubled he had limited the damage.

Anyway the comedy continued, I lead the 2 of clubs out of turn. The Declaring side now has various options. On the theory that someone stupid enough to lead out of turn wouldn't have the wit to make a good lead they decided North not South would play the hand with South as dummy and the ♣ lead stood. The opposite theory is that if someone is so anxious to lead that they lead out of turn, you should forbid that suit lead. Anyway the ♣ lead enabled us to get two club ruffs to defeat it by 3 tricks, and we gained 5 IMPs on the board. So why did neither my partner nor I double, that would have converted the minus 3 equals 300 into 800. If one of us had had 4♠ and the other 2, the player with 4 has a clear double. But 3-3 is a problem. Perhaps there is a way round it. Any suggestions?

The Language of Bridge I
(Previously published in *English Bridge*)
By *Simon Cochemé*

In which we look across the Channel to see what the French have to say.

The English like to sprinkle their conversation and writing with French expressions; they think the inclusion of a *bon mot* or two adds a certain *je ne sais quoi*. Of course, one can overdo it. To write ‘He exhibited his usual *savoir-faire* and *sang-froid* by eliminating clubs *en route* to a *coup de grâce* in spades.’ might be considered *de trop*.

What about French phrases that apply directly to bridge? Well, here are a few you should avoid: *carte blanche* is not French for a Yarborough, a *cri du coeur* is not a signal in hearts, and *force majeure* does not date back to the days when the French played strong twos in hearts and spades.

But seriously though, have the French got any interesting bridge expressions? Yes, they have. There is *en passant*, but that has come to us from chess. When the French are in a doubled contract they say *jouer batonné* (under the cosh?) and, instead of our rather clumsy ‘ruff with your natural trump trick’, they say *couper avec son argent*. I also like *passe Blanche-Neige*, where you pass the opponents in a failing contract in the hope that partner will reopen with a double.

Where an English player might accuse his (male) partner of hogging the contracts, a Frenchman would show his chauvinistic side and say ‘*Tu joues en mixte?*’ I say chauvinistic, but maybe they are right. Maybe men do play more than their share of contracts when partnering women. We have a right to know. I will investigate and get back to you.

I remember being surprised when I learned that the word *finesse* was not borrowed from the French; they say *impasse* (as do the

Germans, the Norwegians and many others). What an inappropriate word to use, it sounds like a *cul de sac*.

The most puzzling of French expressions is their phrase for a phantom sacrifice – *crème renversée*. My first thought was that this might be their equivalent of spilt milk, but no, the literal translation of *crème renversée* is cream caramel! I am tempted to follow the French on this one, and the next time my partner makes an unsuccessful sacrifice I will describe it as a rhubarb crumble and him as a gooseberry fool.

Most people play that, when your partner’s opening bid has been doubled, a jump to 2NT shows a good raise to three of your partner’s suit. The English don’t have a name for it, but in France it is called *Truscott*. I asked Alan Truscott about this a few years ago and he told me that he hadn’t invented the convention, but that it had been popularised in France by an article of his. If you ever play bridge in France you may need to know that their word for transfer is *Texas*, but you will be at home, if a little confused, when they use *jumper* interchangeably with *sauter* for a jump bid.

Your French partner may seem a little rude when you lay down your hand as dummy. If he says *Damn*, don’t take offence, just play the queen. And if he says *Ass* or *Pity*, play the ace or the smallest card.

Here is a famous deal, played in 1936 and featuring the great French player Pierre Albarran. Albarran’s ace-showing responses to a strong 2C are still widely used in France. He is also credited with inventing *canapé*, which you gourmets will be disappointed to learn means bidding your shorter suit before your longer.

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ A 8 6
♥ K J 7
♦ K Q 4
♣ Q 8 7 6

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

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ A Q 3
♦ A J 10
♣ 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
Venizelos	Culbertson	Albarran	Frey
Pass	4NT	All Pass	1NT

Dick Frey's 1NT was 16-18 and Ely Culbertson's 4NT was quantitative. The Dx9 was led and Frey could count nine top tricks. Setting up a club seemed a good route to a tenth, with the 3-3 spade break in reserve, so Frey immediately ran the C9. Albarran ducked smoothly and Frey decided to go for an overtrick by playing the C10. Whoops! One down and an expensive *faux pas*. Guy Levé's *Encyclopaedia of Card Play Techniques* tells me that this is an Al Capone Coup.

The French have names for the kings, queens and jacks, and these are occasionally used in erudite bridge articles. The kings are David (from the Bible), Charles (after Charlemagne), Caesar (Julius), and Alexander (the Great). A bit of a mixed bag, but I suppose it would be a bit silly if they were all called Louis.

Their queens are Pallas, Judith, Rachel and Argine (an anagram of Regina). The jacks are known as *valets*, much less disparaging than jacks or knaves in English, and are called Ogier, La Hire, Hector and Lancelot.

Talking of kings and queens, the French say *mariage de trèfle, coeur*, etc. when holding the king-queen of a suit and *petit mariage* when holding the queen-jack. I haven't checked, but no doubt they say *partenariat civil* for king-jack, and *ménage à trois* for king-queen-jack.

(This article was first published in English Bridge.)

AUTUMN CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Friday 12th September

7.45 pm Opening Ceremony
8.00 pm Congress Pairs (1st Session)
Barnett Cup (Sponsored by McCambridge Duffy & Co)

Inter A Pairs (1st Session)

Mackenzie-Johnston Cup

Inter B Pairs (1st Session)

Patterson Cup

Saturday 13th September

11.00am Discussion of Hands led by Dr Ian Hamilton

12.30pm Congress Pairs (2nd Session)
Inter A Pairs (2nd Session)
Inter B Pairs (2nd Session)

7.00 pm Congress Mixed Pairs (*Sloane-Robb Trophy*)
Open Pairs

10.15pm Reception (*Hosted by the NIBU Chairman & President*)

Presentation of Prizes

Post Bridge Hooley (*Band & Dance*)

Sunday 14th September

11.00 am Congress Teams (1st Session)
(*Sponsored by Hidden Hearing*)
Congress Teams (2nd Session)

Congress Buffet Dinner, Tea/Coffee £10 during the break

Play in the Congress Teams will finish at approx 8.00 pm

Prizes for Teams will be presented immediately after results

Camrose 2014.

By Michael McFaul

Northern Ireland turned in an excellent performance to finish runners-up at the second weekend in Manchester. With one session to go, it seemed we really were in with a good chance of winning the Camrose for the first time. Unfortunately England defeated Scotland by a higher margin than Northern Ireland defeated the EBU and we were 2nd by a margin of 7 Victory Points.

Watching the teams perform on BBO could be quite unsettling with big swings occurring back and forth at regular intervals. The biggest swing came on this hand from the match against Wales

N/S Vul. Dealer East

	North	
	♠ J63	
	♥ AK63	
	♦ AQ5	
	♣ Q65	
West		East
♠ AKQ105		♠ 8
♥ J9		♥ 10874
♦ K10932		♦ J7
♣ A		♣ KJ10932
	♠ 9742	
	♥ Q52	
	♦ 864	
	♣ 874	
	South	

When the Welsh East passed in first seat they played quietly in 2 Diamonds making 9 tricks. However at the other table Rex Anderson opened 3 Clubs passed round to North who bid 3NT. This was passed round to David Greenwood who, having already made a good decision not to try for 4 Spades, swiftly applied the axe. In the Scotland / EBU match, after a similar auction, the Scottish North passed, settled for 4 down and minus 14 IMPs. The Welsh North however redoubled (!?) in the vain hope that his partner could find a

better spot. South's subsequent pass seemed to suggest he feared the fire more than the frying pan but minus 2220 was not a score likely to go down well with Welsh supporters. A net score of 2090 translated to minus 19 IMPs.

So who was to blame? North's 3NT looks fairly normal if he allows partner the average prescribed point count of 8 after a pre-empt but the redouble was likely to make a bad situation worse. South however must surely reason that anything doubled at the 4 level is bound to be less expensive than 3NT redoubled going light by a similar number. On a 'good' day he could settle for 5 light in 4 Hearts and just pray for a flat board.....

Much has been said about Des Deery who sadly passed away in March. Arguably, Ireland's best ever player, he was of a calibre rarely seen these days. A formidable opponent who relied on impeccable judgment rather than highly sophisticated methods, his urbane manner and appearance were matched by his eloquence in conversation; a joy to listen to.

I had the pleasure of playing against Des many times in my formative years before he left to live in Spain. On one occasion a series of careless mistakes by his partner in a mixed pairs event brought forth gentle admonishment in the form of "I forgive your little peccadillos". However he could also be a master of the withering put-down comment and knew how to damn someone with faint praise. On one of his infrequent returns to play in Ireland during the 1990s he came up against a young player seeking to make a name for himself by showing this 'old dog' a thing or two about the modern game.

Des found himself in a fairly mundane 4 Hearts that seemed straightforward enough until the youngster found a high-risk defence that just happened to sink the contract. "Well done," said Des, "that was a good defence." Then after a few moments he turned again to the youngster as he got up to leave the table and qualified his earlier compliment

"When I say it was a 'good' defence," he said "I do of course mean by today's standard"

Have You Anything to Say?

By Michael McFaul

Partner opens 1NT, you make a Stayman 2C enquiry, LHO doubles and partner passes round to you – what do you do now? Well it all depends on what partner's pass means. Probably he wants rescued but maybe he fancies your chances in 2C doubled? Obviously what's important is that you are both on the same wavelength.

Normally a pass in this situation means 'nothing to say' i.e. 'I do not have a four-card major'. But suppose he had bid 2D which also would mean he had no four-card major – what's the difference?

Assuming the double is lead-directing, it is wasteful not to have an agreement on the meaning of the two extra bids available in this type of situation i.e. 'Pass' and 'Redouble'. There are several variations in popular use, perhaps the most useful being:

Opener bids:

Pass – 'I have a club holding such as xxxx; not enough to stop the suit running but may be good enough if you have the right cards'

Redouble – 'I have a decent club holding that can stop the suit being run and I fancy your chances of making 2C doubled if we have the balance of strength.'

2D – 'My club holding is hopeless, probably xx or little better'.

All these bids of-course deny a four-card major.

What happens if opener passes and responder redoubles? Now does that mean 'Rescue me' or is responder saying 'I would much rather score at least +760 than a mere +180?'

After all players have been known to double 2C on AKx or KQxx and little else. Shouldn't they be taught a lesson?

Bridge into Primary Schools Update

In the last Issue of the NIBU Newsletter Kelvin Malone Bridge Centre reported on the activities of their Schools Sub-Committee. This sub-committee was established to explore

the potential to introduce bridge into primary schools, initially in East Belfast, the catchment area for Kelvin Malone. That previous report described how two primary schools were interested in participating in the initiative and letters had been sent to parents of children attending those schools inviting them to enrol their children in the Bridge After School Club. At that time we were waiting to hear if we would have enough people interested to run the Club. We were really pleased with the response and are happy to report that we were able to run a group in both schools. There were 10 sessions held in each of the schools with those in Strandtown being on a Monday and those in Orangefield on a Tuesday. In Strandtown there was a total of 18 P7 children enrolled with 15-16 playing regularly and in Orangefield a total of 14 children from both P6 and P7 enrolled with 11-12 playing regularly. In both groups there were more girls than boys.

There was a team of six tutors across the two groups, the original four (Stephanie Irwin, Norma Irwin, Jill Houston and Rosemary Kilpatrick) plus two new volunteers (Suzi Jeffries and Barbara Johnston) without whom we could not have managed. Stephanie very ably organised and led the group while for teaching guidance and direction we drew very heavily on Norma's expertise.

The initiative proved very successful and at the end of the ten sessions many of the girls and boys asked about keeping up their newly found bridge skills and the staff in Strandtown are keen that we return next school year to run another Bridge After School Club. In light of this we are now planning a longer course which we will be offered across two school terms starting in October while at the same time considering other primary schools that may be interested in this initiative.

As far as we are aware this is the first time bridge has been introduced to primary schools in Northern Ireland in this way but please if you know of any other similar schemes here do let us know – we are keen to learn from the experiences of others. To that end we have been in contact with similar projects through the EBU, SBU and CBAI and learn that in some instances the home union has given financial support to the scheme – so perhaps our next step is to put in a proposal for such support to NIBU!

Youth Bridge – the Future of Our Game

By Barbara Lomas

Fresh blood into the NIBU is always welcome and the prospect of seeing more young people taking up the game or continuing to play it can only be a welcome boost to numbers and to the future of the game. Schools' bridge certainly exists but the number of participating schools has continued to fall as teachers who ran the clubs retire and no-one steps up to replace them. University bridge in NI is sporadic at best, despite the efforts of a few dedicated Bridge players.

Recently much thought has gone into how to increase the number of young people playing; several Primary Schools now have Bridge coaches and the P6 and P7 children are enjoying playing the game and the number of Primary Schools participating is increasing. The NIBU has set up a Youth Development Committee tasked with producing a Business Plan for increasing the number of young people playing and providing coaching for those who already play to improve the standard of both the Under 20 Peggy Bayer players and the Under 25 Junior Camrose players.

A Facebook page has been set up by Sandie Millership called NIBU Youth Bridge so we felt that this was another way of encouraging and reaching out to the relevant people.

In order to continue to introduce the game to Primary Schools and to provide

secondary/grammar schools with Bridge coaches willing to give up a lunchtime or after-school to assist with a Bridge Club, the Committee needs to have the help of NIBU players who would be willing to give up a little time each week. This would be especially true of any players who actually teach in a school, whether primary or secondary/grammar. Future plans of the committee for any such helpers include a training session, teacher notes suitable for the different age groups and resources for any coaches going into schools.

If YOU might be that person, your only qualifications are willingness to help and a bit of spare time (especially if you are a classroom teacher). The Youth Development Committee will assist and support you; please contact Diane Greenwood at bridgequacker@yahoo.com

Don't Do It Etiquette for Juniors (and some not so junior!)

It can be irritating for more senior players to be playing against less experienced ones who flout the rules. Anxious not to frighten them off by calling the director, some of these misdemeanours are overlooked. For example, staring intently at you partner at significant points (such as a discard or a bid) effectively saying "think about this one, it's important" is forbidden. Also, on occasions a player will hold a card up vertically for a second or two to make sure partner has seen it and realises that it is to be noted. Muttering to yourself also is just not on – I even played against someone who said "I was going to bid that!" after my bid. Another time someone realised that her partner had taken her 4 clubs as ace – asking so when she bid 5 clubs she helpfully said "I think that's enough!"

If you can, beg, borrow or buy a set of rules do so and read the section on etiquette or look it up on the internet. You will find that if it doesn't help you, it will certainly add to the enjoyment of your opponents.

Camrose 2014

By Ian Hamilton

Northern Ireland did credibly in the Camrose this year, finishing second. They were well placed after the first weekend in January in Dublin, lying third with four wins but a defeat by England. There were good performances by David Greenwood/Rex Anderson, Robin Burns/Ian Lindsay, and Greer Mackenzie/Hastings Campbell.

The event concluded in Manchester in March, with Lindsay/Burns being replaced by Ian Hamilton/John Ferguson due to the illness of Robin Burns' wife.

Northern Ireland started well, beating the Republic, and were in the lead at half-time in their match against England, due in part to a spectacular, if fortuitous hand.

Love all Dealer South

		♠ K643	
		♥ Q843	
		♦ J7642	
		♣ void	
♠ Q874		♠ A109	
♥ KJ952		♥ A106	
♦ 9		♦ Q104	
♣ Q65		♣ K1093	
		♠ J2	
		♥ 7	
		♦ AK85	
		♣ AJ8742	
S	W	N	E
1♣	1♥	dble	2♣
3♦*	P	4♦ ¹	P
5♦	P	P	dble ²

* intended as pre-emptive

¹ thinks pard has a better hand

² Christmas in March this year

The Hamilton / Ferguson partnership overreached to a silly contract, but were let off the hook when west lead a spade, and east ducked, letting the Knave score.

A club was ruffed in dummy, and I led the Knave of trumps from dummy, covered and

won by the king, felling west's 9. Now it was plain sailing, with a club ruff, followed by a finesse of the trump 8, then the clubs established with another ruff. Declarer eventually ruffed a major, pulled the last trump, and tabled his clubs.

East should have beaten the contract (several) by winning the spade ace at trick one and shortening declarer with hearts, or alternatively not covering the trump Knave, denying declarer a vital entry to establish the club suit.

Sadly, we faded in the second half of the match, and lost 7:13.

A comfortable win against Wales but a defeat to Scotland (again when leading at half-time) meant that the EBU (England's B team, previous winners of the event and Gold Cup holders) needed to be beaten, plus Scotland had to beat England in the last match if we were to win the Trophy for the first time.

We led EBU at half-time, and had to hold on to our lead to guarantee second place. To win overall we had to pray for a Scottish revival in the second half, which sadly was not forthcoming. Happily, we won the EBU match by just enough of a margin to take second spot.

Counting tricks in defence on the last board ensured an optimistic contract went light, and was the difference between second and third place overall.

		♠ A10954	
		♥ Q85	
		♦ J53	
		♣ Q8	
♠ KQ873		♠ J62	
♥ K972		♥ J1063	
♦ Q7		♦ K92	
♣ A4		♣ 1062	
		♠ void	
		♥ A4	
		♦ A10864	
		♣ KJ9753	

E/W vulnerable	Dealer West		
W	N	E	S
1♠	P	P	2♣
P	P	2♠	3♦
P	3NT	all Pass	

The English north declared 3NT after I had opened 1♠, and south had shown a strong minor two-suiter with longer clubs. East led a low spade to the Queen and Ace, dummy shedding a diamond.

Declarer attacked clubs, west winning the second round, and continuing with the spade 8 to the 9 and Knave, east returning the suit to the King, as dummy shed two more diamonds.

Now I woke up and counted declarer's tricks. Five clubs and three aces came to eight, so continuing spades would give declarer his contract. Also, had declarer the diamond King, that would equally be his ninth trick. Accordingly, I switched to the diamond Queen, won by the Ace.

All declarer could do was cash his clubs and exit a diamond, hoping whoever won would be end-played in hearts. Not today. 4♦ was made in the other room, so we scored 5 IMPs.

The match was won by 12 IMPs, those 5 IMPs being enough to ensure we finished 2 VP ahead of EBU, and second, though 7 VP behind the winners -England. So near but yet so far.

Pre-dealt Hands

By Alan Hill

Why should we use hands that are computer dealt?

1. We get copies of the hands with a double dummy analysis.
2. We can readily play the same hands at different venues at the same time or have several sets being played at the same time at the same venue.
3. We will get randomly dealt hands rather than poorly shuffled hands.

4. It is easy to get feedback via an expert analysis. (We have had this for some years at NIBU congresses.)

Do not think of these as set hands. Nobody 'selects' them. They are just the equivalent of hands that would be dealt at the table after a 'perfect' shuffle.

Cards that are dealt by hand tend to suffer from insufficient shuffling. If you have a 4-3 suit fit with dummy the opponents will have the other 6 between them. Statistically these should divide 4-2 about 1/2 the time and 3-3 about 1/3 of the time. Studies have shown that when cards are used regularly in club duplicates 3-3 divisions are much more common. This because shuffling is rarely effective enough to randomize the cards, particularly if the shuffling is short.

Rubber bridge tends to collect the cards together as 4 of a suit as tricks are made. Duplicate piles 4 x 13 cards with suits largely in the same order. In both cases it takes a lot of shuffling to remove these patterns completely. If they are not removed the result is flat (uninteresting) hands. If the 4 duplicate hands are not shuffled at all the same hands will be dealt out.

Computer deals are not preset nor are they deliberately wild. Players should not fear them. Over time they will average out to the statistically expected average distribution.

Slow Play

By William McCloskey

There was a bridge player called Harry, At play he oft-times would tarry.

Opponents said "Quick!"

Now play to the trick.

"Please don't hurry Harry" said Larry

There was a bridge player called Joe Who played his cards awfully slow.

Opponents complained

Partner explained

He comes, don't ye know, from Drumbo

Sorry Partner the Finesse Was Wrong

By Greer MacKenzie

Playing in one of the most enjoyable competitions in our calendar I noticed a nice declarer technique. Then had a look round the room to see how many declarers would be challenged by the problem. It was the Senior Inter A pairs at Kelvin Malone so I was confident that a large proportion might miss it. The other thought while looking round the room was, what on earth does John Murchan's phone bill look like! There were 18 tables, a great turn out for a great evening, and while I'm no expert in the master points department, I figured a few of the pairs didn't include a Senior. So how many had our hard working Competition Secretary phoned personally? I bet more than the number of declarers who would spot this basic technical point below.

Think about it first, you have bought the contract in 3D and:

Dummy, North, has:
Q53, AKT, Q954, Q76

Opposite our:
6, J74, AT8632, J53

You get the lead of spade A, then Spade J which goes Q, K and we ruff. Time for some planning. I know, I know, the books say to do it all at trick one, but sometimes I think, let's get a bit of information from the defence before exerting too much mental energy. So have you decided?

The trump suit presents the first technical point. Running the Q brings the suit home for no loser if the J is with the East hand but playing the A gets the money if the King is singleton in either hand. So play the Ace, well done when the King drops, draw the second trump, small to Q and time for another wee think. How to navigate the hearts and clubs?

Remember we're in 3D have already lost one spade, have to avoid losing 3 clubs and a heart. At our table, and at quite a lot I believe, the heart finesse was taken, and lost. Then a heart back left declarer playing clubs with more hope than expectation, one down when the Ace and King were in different hands.

It's a well known fact that experts hate to take finesses if they can possibly see a way round it, and this hand is a classic example. Hope you have spotted the line? Ruff the third spade, it's called an elimination play, then play Ace, King and another heart. Smile inwardly when you notice the finesse was wrong, and now the defence must lead the clubs! or give a ruff and sluff. Wonderful, you hold your losers to 1S, 1H and 2C. Enter the score to the bridgemates. Most went off they say. Oh yes so they did, maybe it was the juniors, they probably took the heart finesse.

STENA LINE CRUISES

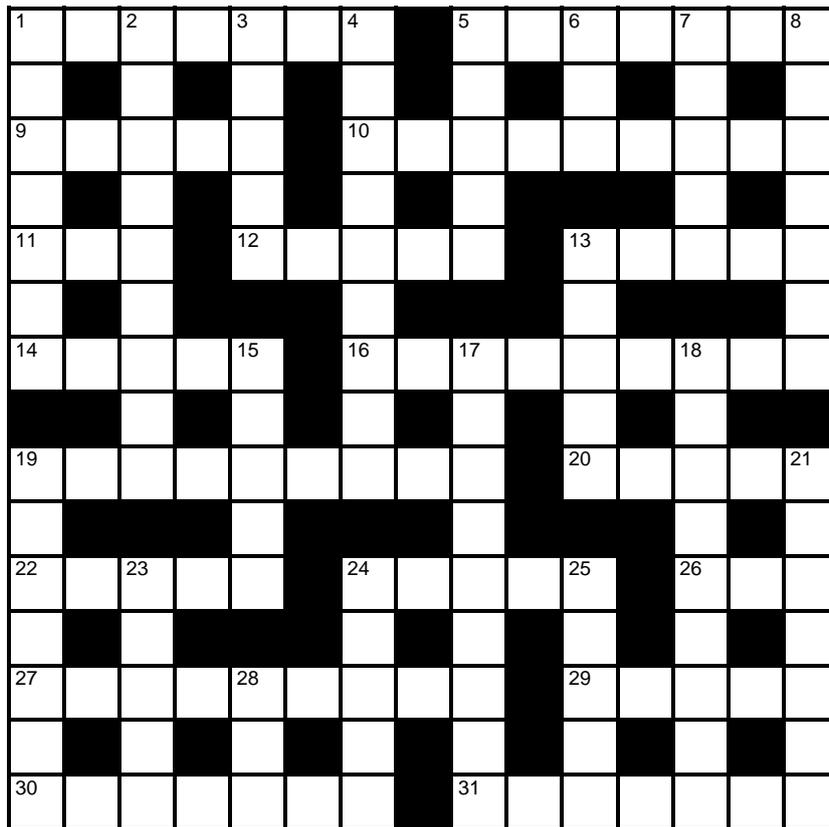
Don't forget that the bridge cruises are being run again this year. Remaining dates are September 9th, October 7th, November 11th and December 9th.

The boat leaves at 11.30 and returns at 1745 and for £19 you get bridge, tea or coffee and biscuits – together with the cruise of course! Even prizes too.

To book either ring Stena at 08447707070 or online at stenaline.co.uk/bridge.

Pre-entry for the bridge is necessary and you can do this by ringing John Murchan at 07709312612 or emailing him at jmurchan@yahoo.co.uk

Prize Crossword 19



Across

- 1 & 5 Has ambitions to achieve, so trumps a spade perhaps (3,4,5,2)
- 5 See 1A
- 9 Get a blue card right after a drink (5)
- 10 Troops in a welcome treaty (9)
- 11 Clipping wires causes anger (3)
- 12 Time is against you (5)
- 13 Decoy puss catches rodent (5)
- 14 Last high class Indian (5)
- 16 Cop and rug around ruffing technique (5,4)
- 19 Brag way after Ben convention (9)
- 20 Smooth to start an occasion (5)
- 22 Minor things include seat (9)
- 24 Fibre coats hot singers (5)
- 26 Slice for wood to start (3)
- 27 Unprepared to trip mom up (9)
- 29 Chew a religious leader (5)
- 30 Starters for sore pen letters (7)
- 31 Artfulness penalises both sides (7)

Down

- 1 Submissive South extravagant (7)
- 2 Other tune composed to that (9)
- 3 Egg about chemical (5)
- 4 Jackal from hole in grass for information (9)
- 5 Vindaloo, not cold but hot – quickly (5)
- 6 Three card sequence holds expert back (3)
- 7 Small support with empty nursery (5)
- 8 Can't ruff without drink quietly (2,5)
- 13 Start chasing after day release engineering activists (5)
- 15 Yes, empty Utah again holds the heat (2-3)
- 17 Establish a trust for playing on (9)
- 18 Bids ring in deliveries (9)
- 19 Defence when North is found in Monte Carlo (7)
- 21 Bird speed to test chemical (7)
- 23 High-class Lord heads back to the start for money (5)
- 24 Lizard with good hope taunts the bull (5)
- 25 Key card wrong, Norma! (5)
- 28 Not amused (3)

Solutions to Derek Cannell, 1 Cranley Road, Bangor,
Co Down, BT19 7HE or derekcannell@gmail.com by Sept 1st

