

What a diverse bunch of people we are in the bridge world. Some refuse to leave their comfort zone and will only play with their peers or less experienced players, some will play with anyone and some will not play with less able players. That's their choice and that's fine. However, it can happen that in team events the whole gamut of abilities is represented even though not against each other. In this case perhaps it should be incumbent on the more senior members to make the others feel comfortable and aware that their contribution is just as important as the rest. Failure to adhere to this approach will simply result in the pool of Intermediate players willing to take part drying up. No need for a team huddle, just a friendly word, that's all.

'Nuff said.

I make the usual but no less sincere thanks to our contributors. I would particularly like to refer to Ian Hamilton's article about the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs. The amount of work he does for this is humongous, and I know that he has not mentioned all the things needed to be done, so please support the event when it comes to your club.

Shortly we will be discussing the development of this publication to see how it can be improved or made more interesting. We would be very interested to hear your views, suggestions or comments so **please** put pen to paper, mouse to mat or finger to phone and let us know what you think. We won't be offended – promise!

If this edition gets to you in time, make a point of attending the second round of the Camrose Trophy which is being held at La Mon House Hotel from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March. Even if you just

pop in for a short while to show your support, it is appreciated by the competitors.

Apart from odds and ends thrown in by yours truly, we have some interesting items – all worth reading. While you do so, look at the small items and see if there isn't something similar that you can send in. Three of these were simply things that I found amusing (you might not, of course!) from my own experiences. We need them to fill in gaps between the major articles so don't think they would not be wanted.

Inside, Our Chairman, **John Bergin**, reports on his first year in office, and a busy year it has been.

**Simon Cochemé** has another of his very entertaining articles – this one on American sayings.

**Liam McCloskey** has provided us with a reminder of some of the rules but in a light hearted way.

**Drew Lindsay** looks at a couple of hands from the Masters in Dublin.

**Ian Hamilton** writes about the trials of organising the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs.

**Michael McFaul** remembers a night at the Commonwealth event in Glasgow.

**Diane Greenwood** tells us when to pass. Not always easy!

**Orla Quigley** writes about her experience as a novice – and very welcome this item is.

**Alan Hill** went on a directors' course in Spain recently. He didn't mention that out of 49 attending he came 8<sup>th</sup> and is one of only ten with an A grade.

As usual, contact me, Derek Cannell, at 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7HE or derekfcannell@gmail.com. Telephone 02891469203.

## Chairman's Report.

The New Year is often a perfect time for reflection and it is interesting to look back at what I consider to be a typical year in my bridge-playing life. What a year it's been! The breadth and variety of opportunities and experiences have been many including: club, regional and national competitions; charity fundraisers; working with other clubs and committees; publications and resources; enjoyable social occasions; lectures; awards and prizes; teaching in clubs and schools... and the list goes on. One highlight amongst many was the excellent Autumn Congress which was particularly memorable for the impressive increase in participation by our Intermediate players. Hopefully, this trend will continue for the Spring Congress in April.

Of course, no bridge year should be taken for granted. All the opportunities available are down to the efforts and dedication of many people. The NIBU has a great tradition of outstanding volunteers who have developed and grown this sport we love - there is a game to be played any day of the week at any time of the year!

Our priorities have to focus on enhancing the enjoyment and experience of players. This, in turn, will assist with the drive to increase the numbers of active players in the game. As Chairperson, I will work alongside Council and our committees to support and liaise with clubs, responding to your needs and wishes. We would like to hear your ideas to improve bridge. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact myself or any of our representative members. You may even consider getting involved in one of our committees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members for your involvement in our club, the NIBU. I am proud to be part of such a great organisation where everyone contributes to its success.

Looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming year.



John Bergin, Chairperson NIBU

## The TD Rota

The following is an exchange of emails at Kelvin which might amuse:

**CJ:** Attached is the proposed TD Rota. Let me know if you have any problems.

**DC:** It's the Queen's Birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> so it will be subject to me not getting an invitation. Also I have no partner for the second Tuesday.

**CJ:** You can swop the first and second Tuesday with me. Also, I had a call from HM to say "No bleedin chance of an invitation. May husband end eye hev standards we messed keep."

**DC:** I am not happy that HM communicated with you without the courtesy of advising me first. I shall be issuing a severe reprimand. The swap will work fine as I play with Liz that day.

**CJ:** I think you are getting too familiar with HM calling her Liz. I didn't know she played bridge too – and on a Tuesday with you. Wow!

I am still waiting.....

## The Language of Bridge II

Simon Cochemé

*In which we look across the Pond at what the Americans have to say.*

The Americanization of the English language continues apace; we are good, not well; we no longer meet people, only meet with them; and our politicians now quit rather than resign.

What about American bridge terminology? They say *down one* instead of one down, *ace-fourth* instead of ace to four, and *drawing trump* rather than drawing trumps, as though they always played in twelve-card fits. You will still occasionally read *deuce* for the two, although the quaint *trey* for the three has all but disappeared. There are quite a few words that have yet to cross the Pond, but you would probably recognise them if you saw them: *set* for beating the contract, *tap* for forcing declarer, *echo* for peter and *board* for dummy. Two you may not have heard of are *tight*, meaning doubleton, as in ‘*He held king-queen tight*’ and *swish*, meaning passed out, as in ‘*The bidding went two hearts, swish.*’

The most extreme of American phrases is *ruff ‘n’ sluff* for ruff-and-discard. I haven’t seen *sluff* or *slough* used elsewhere in bridge literature, so presumably the lure of the rhyme was too hard to resist, as was *surf ‘n’ turf* for a fish and meat dish.

But all is not well. Protecting in the bidding in England is becoming known as *balancing*, and a flat board is too often called a *push*. And behind *balance* and *push* the ranks are amassing for the next wave of the invasion: *shift* for switch, *stiff* for singleton, *pitch* for discard and *hook* for finesse.

Americans like variety in the presentation of their sports results: ‘*The Red Sox downed the 69ers*’, for example, or ‘*The Bears whupped*

*the Chipmunks*’. The English tend to stick to the ‘Wigan beat Arsenal’ formula, with the occasional ‘Chelsea lost to Stoke’ thrown in. All a bit boring. I have it on good authority (a leaked email) that the EBU Tournament Committee, seeking to jazz up Swiss events, are in the process of sanctioning a new VP scale where the victories between 11-9 and 20-0 will be known as edged, beat, dispatched, overwhelmed, humbled, trounced, demolished, routed, slaughtered and massacred.

Sporting metaphors abound in American writing, and I have seen bridge articles where a player *covers all bases*, or *makes a clutch shot*, or *plays a shut-out*. I have no idea what *slam-dunk* means; it sounds as though you had twelve top tricks and went one down. We must fight fire with fire; difficult contracts must be played on sticky wickets, and overbidders should be caught offside or shown the red card.

Verbalizing, which I believe refers to the American habit of turning nouns into verbs, moved on to acronyms some time ago: *OKed*, *KOed* and, more recently, *RSVPed*. It is only a matter of time before this spreads to the world of bridge and we read ‘They RKCBed their way to a slam’ and ‘He decided to MUD with the Hx7’.

I understand the ACBL (the American equivalent of the NIBU) read my article mentioning that the French have names for the kings on their cards, and liked the idea. Since they don’t have any real kings of their own, they are debating whether to reuse the Mount Rushmore quartet, or to go with four from the shortlist of Martin Luther, Stephen, Billie Jean, Burger, Kong and Elvis.

Time for a deal. This one features that great American, Zia Mahmood, playing for USA2 against Italy in the final of the Bermuda Bowl in 2009:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ 3  
♥ A 9 7 6 4  
♦ J 4 3  
♣ A 8 6 4

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			1♥
2♣	3♣	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4♠	5♥	Double	All Pass

Bob Hamman's 3♣ was at least game-invitational in hearts. Zia ended up as chairman of the board in 5♥ doubled after Hamman stepped up to the plate and bid on over West's 4♠.

Antonio Sementa led the CxQ. Georgio Duboin ruffed, and erred by cashing the ♠A before shifting to a diamond. Zia won the ace (Americans may meet *with* people, but they win tricks without a *with*) and drew trump, literally for once. At trick five he claimed the contract with a minor suit squeeze on West. He would ruff his losing spade on the board and then run the hearts. When the last trump is played at trick ten, West would have to find a pitch from ♦K-stiff and ♣J10-third, with ♦J and ♣A-8-6 dummied over him.

In the other room Jeff Meckstroth had overtricked in 5♠ doubled as East so, when the teams IMPed up, USA2 found they had gotten a 17 IMP swing. They had bested the Italians and medalled with the gold.

As George Bernard Shaw (or possibly Winston Churchill) said, we are indeed 'two nations separated by a common language'.

*(This article was first published in English Bridge.)*

### A Pedant's Reply By Liam McCloskey

I'm told I do a pedant be  
'Cos I obey the rules, you see  
My bids I pick in one smooth move  
No fumbling now while I choose

I show the STOP card as required  
Until ten seconds have expired  
I leave my bids where they've been placed  
Until the opening lead is faced

I tell dummy what to play  
To touch the cards is not OK  
I don't disturb the tricks we've played  
'Til all agree the score that's made

A pedant, now I have learned  
With minor matters is concerned  
But these to me are matters major  
"Long live the rules !" that I do savour

I hope this verse will reconcile  
You, to my view, expressed in style  
Since I do not a pedant be  
Please find another name for me !

### The Extra "e"

Predictive spelling can sometimes be embarrassing. A message from our secretary to the committee suggesting that players should fold their clothes neatly after a Saturday Evening session at Kelvin did cause some consternation, particularly after a flood of enquiries to Dymphna and Seamus as to exactly what sort of game we were playing.

## Lucky or Unlucky

### Master Pairs (Dublin 2014) Drew Lindsay & Bill Scott

*By Drew Lindsay*

This is one of the best supported events on the CBAI calendar and I look forward to it immensely every year. It is a 3 session event with a Teams scoring format where you play as a pair in 12, 7 board matches against 1 other pair in each match. It is run as a Swiss format which means you move up and down tables and theoretically play against stronger or less strong opponents depending on your results. The first 2 sessions are on Saturday at 1.30 with a 2 hour meal break and an 11.00pm finish. Sunday is an early start at 11.00am but this allows the winners to be announced at about 3.00pm and home in time for tea.

We started poorly and found ourselves in a lowly position, with just 1 win, in the first session.

We broke for dinner in the Morgue and buoyed by a delicious meal and some healthy hand discussions with our Southern neighbours we returned that evening and won 3 of our evening games to finish 4-4 at close of day 1. (The Morgue is a popular restaurant in Templeogue village)

Our most exciting match came in the penultimate round where I believe we had one unlucky slam and one fairly fortunate one.

<b>Unlucky</b>	Scott	Lindsay		
	S	W	N	E
	P	1D	2S	3H
	3S	4H	P	4NT
	P	5H	P	6H

After the spade lead I drew trumps and finessed the JD which held the trick. I now played the AD and if the Diamonds are 3-2 I can discard 2 losing clubs on the established suit to bring home the slam. Alas, on this occasion they are 4-1 and when the AC is offside I have to settle for 1 off. As the cards lie the contract can be made on the successful finesse of the D9 on the first lead of the suit.

## Lucky?

	Scott	Lindsay	
S	W	N	E
	1D	P	2D
X	2H	P	2S
P	4NT	P	5D
P	6D		

2D is inverted, 2H shows 15+ and a heart stop. 2S shows a spade stop. We then reached slam via RKC Blackwood. With the KH right (indicated by the opps X) and the 10 & 8 of hearts doubleton in the North hand the last trick went to the H7.

The lady on my left pointed out that this lie of the cards was rather fortuitous (not her exact words)

So just when we thought we had bid and made a good slam that few others were in we were actually just lucky! (perhaps she was correct!). We also bid and made a 6NT on this set and when the opposition missed a cold grand with 37 points and 14 top tricks we ended up with our best win of the weekend.

We had a good Sunday, won our 4 games to finish 8-4 and 34<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 93.

Some good quality bridge, friendly atmosphere, superb conditions and excellently run by Fearghal, Mariad and their helpers. I highly recommend this competition for all avid card players.

## What is Your Decision?

*By Alan Hill*

South bids 1NT and North alerts this as strong. West then bids a natural 2 Clubs following which North changes the description of the NT to weak. West then changes his bid to Pass (which is legal) and North bids 2 Spades natural. East now bids 3 Clubs holding only two clubs. Is this allowed?

You will find out if you are correct next time when Alan will be writing a feature on Authorised and Unauthorised Information. No prizes I am afraid!

## **Celtic Simultaneous Pairs**

*By Ian Hamilton*

It was the NIBU's turn the host the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs in December 2014. The competition was initiated by the SBU several years ago when the BBL Simultaneous Pairs became no longer supported by WBU, SBU and NIBU. Efforts this time to tempt the CBAI, Manx BU, Cornwall County BA, and the Brittany Division of FFB were to no avail, despite considerable effort.

In the event 34 SBU, 29 WBU and 13 NIBU clubs participated, a grand total of 1139 pairs playing in 80 heats. Aberdeen played all four heats, and Ayrshire had a great turnout.

Play was dominated by Tony Ratcliff, of WBU, who with Mark Roderick in Vale of Glamorgan on Monday, scored 69.7%, 2% ahead of anyone else. He was disappointed to only manage 66.2% on Tuesday (5<sup>th</sup>), playing with Julian Pottage in Barrivale, but came good again with Julian on Wednesday in Bridgend, scoring a comfortably winning 68.9%. Too exhausted to play Thursday he allowed another WBU pair, Tony & Belinda Davies of Knighton to get the best score of the week with 70.6%. NIBU players managed 4<sup>th</sup> spot in two heats. SBU pairs were second in all.

Putting this sort of show on requires a fair degree of organisation and effort. The WBU kindly circularised all their clubs seeking entries, and I supplemented this by e-mailing all those on a list produced by E-Cats, the scorers. Every Region in SBU is autonomous, so they had to be circularised separately. Also, historically participating SBU clubs were canvassed. Inertia ruled, and I eventually had to e-mail every club in WBU and SBU asking them to confirm their entry! This produced a flood of entries. I put them all, with contact emails, phone numbers and addresses, on a spreadsheet.

Normally, I get a software programme to give me 32 random hands, with a roughly fair HCP split N/S to E/W. These need screened, to ensure none are a bore, either passed out, or a guaranteed flat board in an obvious contract. This reduces the number to 28, and eventually results in a booklet of 8 pages, four hands a page, plus a title page. Any more than 28 is in any case unhelpful, as the hands beyond 24-27 get rarely played in most clubs, skewing results.

I then check that the N/S and E/W HCP are not now out of balance, if necessary rotating or flipping a hand or two, occasionally simply moving one of the high cards, so that they are close enough to parity to be acceptable. This done, it is a straightforward exercise to produce a PDF of the hand record for organisers making up the set, and a dealing file for those with the wherewithal.

Analysing each hand can take a while, not always helped by the double dummy analysis available, which can lull you into thinking a game will be bid, or a slam, just because the cards lie well. I try to envisage the bidding, and assume both 5 card majors, with a strong NT, or Acol are played, and contrast any differences in results. Four hands are commented on, the commentary being typed into Dealmaster Plus, which produces the hands. This spits out the hand records nicely laid out, saved onto an A4 PDF page, using Adobe Acrobat . The process is repeated for the remaining 6 pages.

The cover page is easily manufactured from the logo I have (kindly donated by WBU), adding the date and set number. The whole booklet is then put together from its constituent eight pages. The double dummy grid cannot be automated, and a blank has to be added 4x to each page, carefully positioned in the top right of each hand record, then the numbers inserted.

The whole booklet is then printed, and I read it. Typos are corrected, and analytical errors corrected. Many of the hand commentaries need completely re-written, so that there is a balance between comments on bidding, play, and defence, plus a bit of humour, if possible, and a lack of repetition in phraseology. About 10-20 re-writes are required per booklet. Errors still slip through.

After manufacturing all four booklets for each day of the week the PDFs are brought to the printer, who reduces the booklets to A5, and prints the numbers envisaged by the received entries. Black and white is half the price of colour, so that gets the nod.

Doing the hand commentary sets one up to look silly when few reach the spot suggested, but by and large the hands go to script. Board 1 on the Monday set was a case in point, where N/S found a very favourable lie of the cards, and the only question should have been the extent of the plus score.

Dealer North  
Love all

<p>♠AQ987 ♥1095 ♦872 ♣87</p>	<p>♠K52 ♥A8 ♦J4 ♣QJ10953</p>	<p>♠J104 ♥QJ432 ♦Q10 ♣A64</p>
	<p>♠63 ♥K76 ♦AK9653 ♣K2</p>	

It was speculated that some would reach 3NT N/S, or possibly 5 of a minor, 5♣ superior since the suit was solid. A few would declare minor part-scores, making 12 tricks if the spade ace was not taken, 11 otherwise.

3NT should make 11 or 12 tricks on a heart lead, declarer just losing the club ace, and

perhaps the spade ace, the latter escaping due to the lucky fall of the diamond honours, unless taken when the defence were on lead in clubs. On a spade lead 3NT scrambles home due to the same lucky diamond lie.

This largely proved the case, but doesn't explain how 14 declarers managed 430. Likewise, declaring a minor there were a remarkable 21x 130s on offer, when declarer should at most lose two aces. Worse, 20 declarers managed a minus, admittedly one in an ambitious 6♣ contract, but someone was 3 light in 3NT. Even on a spade lead, if you err by playing clubs, one off should be the worst achieved.

Putting 74 clubs' packages in envelopes was no mean task, though some Scottish clubs saved a degree of effort by receiving all their paperwork by e-mail (and saved themselves 50p a head in table money). Printing out curtain cards and hands records, plus a covering letter took several days, and the task a full week. The worst error was posting a package to Lusaka, Zambia in August. It eventually arrived 3 weeks late, in January, having sojourned in Lusaka, The Gambia, en route. They didn't play, despite me e-mailing them all the stuff.

Nerves were shattered during the week of play. Four clubs failed to play on Monday, some without explanation. Others were very slow to upload results, failed to respond to e-mails, and needed phoned to see had they played. One club from Wales sent me an envelope of travellers, and I ended up scoring the event for them (and misspelling the winner's name). As results were uploaded pairs were counted, the remittance due calculated, and a suitable invoice made up and e-mailed to the relevant contact, entering all the sums due on the trusty spreadsheet, then moving them to the "PAID" column as the cheques came in later in the week and beyond. In the event it was not until mid January that all the money was forthcoming. Many needed chivvied, and

WBU had to chase one club for me who only part-paid.

Eventually, E-Cats were able to finalise all the heats, e-mailing me results, which needed printed up and posted to each club, along with winners' certificates (all needing to be printed) and pens as prizes that I had ordered from England. This was another week spent at the computer, printing, addressing and filling envelopes. Finally, the accounts could be done, and NIBU pay out the expenses due – not inconsiderable, and incurred over a 6 month period in planning.

My favourite hand of the week was this – hand 21 on Wednesday:-

Dealer North  
N-S Vulnerable

♠K652  
♥A5  
♦10765  
♣A109

♠1094  
♥10974  
♦A  
♣KJ865

♠Q83  
♥862  
♦K82  
♣Q732

♠AJ7  
♥KQJ3  
♦QJ943  
♣4

I reckoned that N/S would reach 5♦ or 4♠, conceivably 3NT. 5♦ is easy, just knock out top trumps. North's spades go on hearts, and South's third is ruffed in North.

4♠ requires North to win the club lead, take a trump finesse, cash the Ace, then play a diamond. West wins, and can do no better than make South ruff a club. North is entered with the heart Ace. The trump King pulls the outstanding trumps, before declarer cashes hearts, pitching his last club. He then gives up the diamond King. An easy 650 (or not).

3NT is similarly hair-raising on a club lead, declarer managing four spades, four hearts and the club Ace, before folding his tent.

Readers will be pleased to know that 680 was recorded once (presumably the diamond tops were crashed), and four pairs scored 650. There were 23x 600s, equally split between 3NT and 5♦. 32 pairs scored 150 in NT or diamond part-scores. Sadly, 54 pairs conceded a minus, some in 6♦, others in various games. A remarkable number (at least 6) played in 1♠, one making 12 tricks.

As they say in football, it's a funny old game.

### **Balmy days and nights in Glasgow – A personal recollection of the 2014 Commonwealth Bridge Event.**

*By Michael McFaul*

During an unusually warm and dry spell, the 4<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Bridge Event was held in The Radisson Blue Hotel, Glasgow from September 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 28 teams were entered for the main event of which 8 would qualify for a quarter-final knock-out playoff. The strongest contenders – England, Canada, Australia, India, and Scotland all entered at least 2 teams. Northern Ireland was represented by 1 team of 6 – Harold Curran (Captain) & Anne Fitzpatrick, Helen Cole & Tyrone Currie and Neill Cauwood & yours truly.

The organisation and timing was impeccable with daily colour bulletins available for all players every morning including news and lengthy analysis of the previous day's matches. Teams were divided into 2 (apparently seeded) groups of 14 so we played 13 matches each of 14 boards and all scored on the WBF scale.

Most of the top teams qualified for the final stages but in the very last match of the qualifying round the NIBU played a crucial role in determining who actually got through.

Going into the last round, England(2) had a handy cushion of 10 Vp's over the Scottish President's team and were hot favourites to qualify with just Northern Ireland to beat. Ironically the NIBU had already recorded a notable win against the Scots the day before. In this match and also in the England match, it was mostly down to key decisions in the slam zone. Take this example:

Board 17 Vs Scottish Presidents  
Dealer North. Love All

<p>♠ AKQJ10875 ♥ 3 ♦ 753 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Void ♥ QJ5 ♦ J1096 ♣ AKQ653</p> <p>♠ 9643 ♥ 842 ♦ KQ ♣ J1084</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ AK10976 ♦ A842 ♣ 72</p>
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West	North	East	South
Punch	Cauwood	Magowan	McFaul
	4S	5H	Pass
6H	Pass	Pass	6S
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Closed room Helen Cole and Tyrone Currie felt they were destined for -11 IMPs after a similar auction except that Currie as West passed his partner's 5H bid. In the closed room I followed Tony Forrester's advice in this type of situation when it looks like 6H will make, and passed initially over 5H. Sam Punch thought for at least 5 minutes before bidding 6H and when this came round to me I reckoned 2 defensive tricks would be hard to come by and 6S would be a good save. -300 was good compensation and 5 IMPs in the bag. Punch and Magowan were uncharacteristically cautious after this - passing out a hand in a strange contract of 4D+1 when game makes in

any of 3 denominations; then stopping in game on a hand where their teammates sacrificed in 7D doubled -5 over our teammates cold 6S. However we now did the Scots a big favour against a strong England team that looked like a shoe-in to qualify.

Board 4  
Game All. Dealer W

<p>♠ 108652 ♥ Void ♦ 73 ♣ AK8765</p>	<p>♠ AJ9 ♥ A764 ♦ A1065 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ 74 ♥ J10983 ♦ Q4 ♣ 10942</p> <p>♠ KQ3 ♥ KQ52 ♦ KJ982 ♣ Q</p>
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West	North	East	South
McFaul	Kendrick	Cauwood	Mestel
3C	Dbl	5C	Dbl
Pass	6H	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dodgy pre-empts can be a double-edged sword. However more often than not they goad the opponents into bidding dodgy games and even dodgier slams.

3C vulnerable may not be everyone's choice of opening bid on the West cards (Plackett for Wales opened 1S!) but it worked well here when Neill Cauwood raised to 5C. Expecting a club void opposite, North bid a hopeful 6H and was sorry to find he had a losing club after all. He ruffed the club continuation, cashed a top trump and sighed deeply muttering "Well that's that then" when he got the bad news. Declarer proceeded to go 3 light, taking some comfort, rather prematurely, from the fact that "At least game doesn't make either". Fortunately in the other room, Helen Cole simply played on diamonds allowing East to

take 2 trumps at his leisure along with West's club trick, for a gain of 14 IMPs.

Remarkably, like the Scots, England also then proceeded to adopt a cautious approach staying out of slam on this one:

Board 11

Dealer South. Love all

<p>♠64 ♥K1098 ♦J8532 ♣Q10</p>	<p>♠732 ♥A85432 ♦K6 ♣65</p>
<p>♠AJ985 ♥Q ♦AQ104 ♣K72</p>	<p>♠KQ10 ♥J7 ♦97 ♣AJ9843</p>

England settled in 4S after we had competed to game in Hearts. North finessed in clubs after eyeing the 10 suspiciously and made just 11 tricks. Helen Cole bid confidently to 6S then followed the old credo 'eight ever, nine never' and dropped the club Q for another 11 imps. In the end we won the match by 36 IMPs and an 18-2 victory.

The result left Northern Ireland finishing in a very creditable 7<sup>th</sup> position within the group, just inside the top half.

The final was between a Commonwealth Chairman's team led by Paul Hackett and a Welsh team consisting of players that have been the backbone of their Camrose campaigns for many years. The Hackett's won but due to the vagaries of the conditions of entry, they were not eligible for the gold medals since they were not a national side. So Wales picked up Gold without actually winning the event!

The main event was followed in subsequent days by 2 events open to all - a Transnational Teams and an Open Pairs Competition. Everything was brought to a sparkling

conclusion on the last night concluding with a Scottish banquet and Ceilidh.

The Scottish Bridge Union are to be congratulated on organising and running the whole event so efficiently.

The next venue, in 2018, is to be on the Australian Gold Coast.

We are already on the hunt for sponsors.....

Note:

## WHEN TO PASS

*By Diane Greenwood*

It is often said that the pass is the least used call in Bridge. When the opponents intervene you can use the pass as a way of describing your hand to partner. Effectively you have an extra bid in your vocabulary. Furthermore, when you bid instead of passing, you convey something extra about your hand in terms of high card strength and distribution.

Let's look at some example situations where you are presented with the option of passing.

1.

<b>You</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
1♦	P	1♥	1♠
?			

Had West passed, you would have been forced to respond since partner's hand is unlimited in strength and you must allow them another bid. However, the 1♠ intervention means that partner will get another chance so there is no compulsion on you to bid.

So, with ♠Qx, ♥Kx, ♦KQxxx, ♣QJxx you should pass. Although you have a second suit to show, your hand is minimum and you should pass.

But with either ♠x, ♥Ax, ♦KQxxx, ♣KQxxx or ♠xx, ♥Ax, ♦KQJxxx, ♣Kxx you should bid. In this first case you have extra distribution and an above minimum high card point count and, in the second case, a good six card suit to show.

2.

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>You</b>
1♥	D	DD	?

Partner's take-out double forces you to bid, (save when you can pass for penalties with at least three tricks in opener's suit), and you must respond even with no points at all; otherwise the opponents will make a big score in 1♥ doubled. However, once the redouble appears, you are relieved of the obligation to bid since partner will have another chance.

Again, when you make a bid, you are showing something. In this case, bidding a suit would show five cards but not necessarily much in the way of points.

### 3.

The most commonly abused situation is where the opponents have opened the bidding. People feel compelled to bid whenever they have an opening hand, regardless of their distribution. Unless you are very strong in high card points, only enter the bidding when you have a respectable suit to show or you want partner to bid their suit over a take-out double. In the latter case, of course, you must have length in the three other suits and consequently shortage in the suit opened.

When you have a relatively balanced hand, or are long in the opener's suit, it is much more profitable to pass and hope to defeat the opposition in their contract.

### Using the Opponents' Passes

During the play you can often place high cards by remembering that an opponent has passed in a position that they could have opened. Even where they didn't have the opportunity to start the bidding, you might be able to know the position of high cards. For example, the lead may reveal a good five card suit and yet the hand did not make an overcall at the one-level. In this case it is unlikely that the hand will contain any of the missing high cards.

This sort of knowledge can help you 'guess' two way finesses or allow you to play for and endplay or squeeze rather than a simple finesse.

## Bridge – Beginner's Blog

### By Orla Quigley

It helps to be naïve. It really does!

If I knew then what I know now, I'd never had turned up for my first Bridge Club game.

I did the equivalent of arriving for a golf match with plastic clubs and experience only of crazy putting. (To compound my gaucheness it was an Open Cup!). I went quickly into mental 'melt down'. In my innocence, I took solace from the spied cups and saucers in the corner of the room - ah, there will be a mid way break. Nope - never materialised. I had no idea how exhausting three and a half hours of embarrassment and anxiety could be! Approaching the second anniversary of our 'launch', I do remember – and remain grateful for - the warmth of welcome afforded me and the extensive courtesies extended to me throughout the evening's play.

What have I learned, been confused by, or found helpful over the past two years?

Bridge notes initially read somewhat like 'knitting patterns'. They don't make great sense unless you can apply them to real game scenarios. You can't play the game properly until you know rules, conventions and best practice. This 'Catch 22' takes months of teasing out - and many embarrassing defeats. You go from trying to apply anything you can remember to playing defensively and timidly with only one goal - avoiding egregious mistakes that action that spine chilling call 'Tournament Director'. Club Bridge is very enfeebling initially!

It is awesome to sit with people who can discuss cards they played as far back as last week. I wasn't aware that people played Bridge several nights a week and travelled to distant venues to do so. As well as the bidding in Bridge, an understanding of the run of the cards is required. That's where the real talent lies, and I have to admit failure in this regard. I am grateful to members who do not declare too early that 'the rest are mine'. Unless it's a barn door situation, it can be difficult for me to appreciate the unspoken play out of the cards.

I am indebted to the more experienced players for help and advice and direction. The pace of Club Bridge is relatively fast and is not the forum for formal learning. Adults have different learning styles, but I've found it most helpful to supplement club play with 'kitchen table' Bridge – but you do need at least one experienced player or you can end up reinforcing bad play or not recognising errors. Bypassing my lack of ability and hiding under my cloak of naivety I have ventured to two Congresses. The first was part of the City of Culture initiative. It was the beginning of my appreciation of the breadth of experience of players and the work involved in running such an event. It was the first time I'd seen a convention card! With great charm, in reply to my query, a delightful visitor explained that her entry of 'AM' meant Area Master and not 'Amateur' as I had imagined!! Played in relaxed – but formal - atmosphere the exceptionally successful 'Gala Pairs' at La Mon House Hotel in August was a wonderful experience. With a section aimed at novice players I felt a very active participant and the day was a tremendous learning experience and fun day out. I'm hoping to re attend this year. So what's a good night at Bridge for me? I'm aiming to shift the emphasis from avoiding a cardinal error to doing something 'right'. I'll defer trying to do something 'clever' just for now! But its fun – and instructional – to watch others do so! The handicap system in action at the club is very helpful in this regard. Whilst my horizons are very low, it does give incentive to try hard each week. So, in summary - I'm still naïve. And it helps, it really does.

### **Phoebe Stewart**

Phoebe passed away in December aged 94 and I played bridge with her on very many occasions. We had some very pleasant evenings when we played "house bridge" – not everybody's choice, but with her it was so interesting listening to stories of her travels to Bhutan, the Silk Road and suchlike. I usually had to finish the crossword for her before we

started. One occasion is worth repeating. I "fixed" a set of cards and when it was my turn to deal I shuffled one set then, after distracting her (and her partner), I dealt the other. This gave her ♠AKQJ10987654. ♣A and ♦A and perhaps reasonably she got to seven spades. Sadly for her I had arranged for me to have ♠2 and my partner ♠3. Also I had no clubs and my partner no diamonds. Club lead, ruff Diamond return, ruff and 2 down!! She was so overwhelmed by having such a hand that she didn't mind going down and when I explained that I had rigged it, she refused to believe it and said that I was only saying that to make her feel better!! A lovely lady.

*Derek Cannell*

### **TD In The Sun**

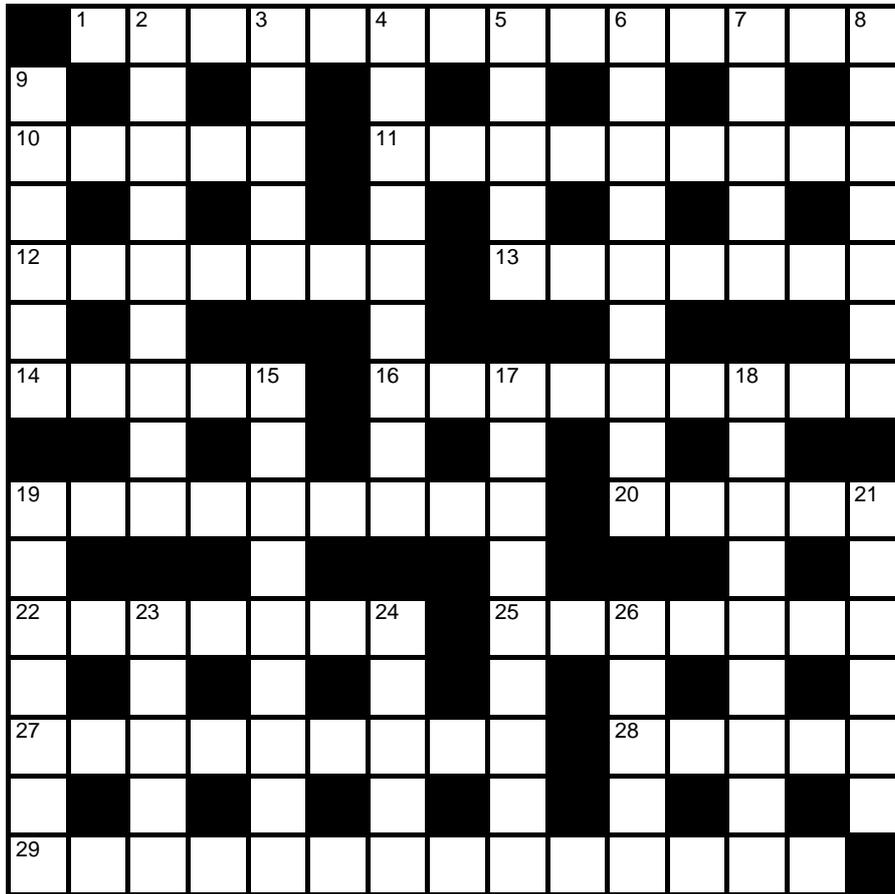
*By Alan Hill*

How would you like to go to Alicante for a few sunny days at the end of January? Sounds good? You will be occupied from 10.00 a.m. until at least 11.30 p.m. You won't be playing but attending a European course on tournament directing. It was entirely on the correct application of the Laws.

There were lectures on topics such as unauthorized information (e.g. bidding over partner's hesitation), revokes, score adjustments, played cards, claims *etc.* However, most of the time was spent on simulations. We were brought into a room as if we were being called to the table and asked to make a ruling on a variety of 'real' situations. We had to ask the right questions and give the rule number we were using. Our answers were then discussed.

Seeing the rules in operation in difficult situations clarified how they should be applied and will give me a lot more confidence in making rulings. Should you have any table rulings that you are uncertain about either as a T.D. or a player you are more than welcome to email me ([clubanddiamond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clubanddiamond@yahoo.co.uk)). I would like to thank the NIBU Council for their support.

## Prize Crossword 20



### Across

- 1 Deranged sailor comes from deck (10,4)
- 10 Allot endless relationship (5)
- 11 One petit bra I formed two agreeable sides (9)
- 12 Feature of bridge, when holding ace, is to make the first move (7)
- 13 Ugly one left out playing low (7)
- 14 A hundred injured look for compensation (5)
- 16 Think about South before replying (9)
- 19 Starting, North and South are left in seats every day, nose! (9)
- 20 Ace bridge player leading up queen (5)
- 22 Second hand very French noise (5-2)
- 25 Lies is what poker is all about (7)
- 27 Unacceptable amount ten ablest men can hold (9)
- 28 Management sounds uninterested (5)
- 29 End nap! Idleness can result in bad feeling (4,3,7)

- 3 Redeem during lunch (5)
- 4 Warning! Painter makes perfume! (9)
- 5 God twice chewed round letter (5)
- 6 Lady clerics on the board (9)
- 7 An excuse an animal - ibis for example - can provide (5)
- 8 Medic right holding frill for cleaning the bed (7)
- 9 Cancer is right in the subject (6)
- 15 For a long time, mine in all parts (9)
- 17 Deep ice is formed to support the arms (9)
- 18 Weather turns out cold for an Ulster party forming a handy distributor (9)
- 19 Why cannot rum punch contain ruffing power? (2,5)
- 21 Recollect desire to live (6)
- 23 No good pretending to be a protein! (5)
- 24 Pass the Toff papers (2,3)
- 26 About to offer again (5)

### Down

- 2 Country people from in no atlas (9)

Solutions to Derek Cannell, 1 Cranley Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7HE or [derekcannell@gmail.com](mailto:derekcannell@gmail.com) by April 30

## Crossword 19 Solution

<sup>1</sup> S	E	<sup>2</sup> T	O	<sup>3</sup> N	E	<sup>4</sup> S		<sup>5</sup> H	E	<sup>6</sup> A	R	<sup>7</sup> T	O	<sup>8</sup> N		
L		H		I		C		U		C		E		O		
<sup>9</sup> A	L	E	R	T		<sup>10</sup> A	G	R	E	E	M	E	N	T		
V		R		R		V		R				N		R		
<sup>11</sup> I	R	E		<sup>12</sup> E	N	E	M	Y		<sup>13</sup> C	O	Y	P	U		
S		U				N				A				M		
<sup>14</sup> H	I	N	D	<sup>15</sup> U		<sup>16</sup> G	R	<sup>17</sup> A	N	D	<sup>18</sup> C	O	U	P		
		T		H		E		S		R		V				
<sup>19</sup> C	R	O	W	H	U	R	S	T		<sup>20</sup> E	V	E	N	<sup>21</sup> T		
A				U				R				R		I		
<sup>22</sup> N	O	<sup>23</sup> R	T	H				<sup>24</sup> C	H	O	<sup>25</sup> I	R		<sup>26</sup> C	U	T
S		U						A		T		O		A		R
<sup>27</sup> I	M	P	R	<sup>28</sup> O	M	P	T	U		<sup>29</sup> M	U	L	L	A		
N		E		N		E				A		L		T		
<sup>30</sup> O	P	E	N	E	R	S			<sup>31</sup> F	I	N	E	S	S	E	

Correct solutions were received from:

**Ciara Burns, Robin Burns, Marie Ferguson, Charles Foster, Nan Henderson, Gerry Henry, Ronnie Morrow, Pat Nicholl, Jack Strong and Richard Sutton** whose name was drawn and he will be rewarded accordingly.