

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter and a Happy New Year to all.

During a recent Tuesday club night I was thinking about what to write here and my gaze wandered round the room, much to the consternation of my long suffering partner. What a strange game this is, I thought. I can see two current Camrose players, other Internationals, and Inter A & B players too and it struck me that no other game that I could think of would have players with such a wide spectrum of abilities all participating in the same event with no handicap. Everyone seemed quite happy, as indeed I was, the seniors being considerate to the juniors and making the whole experience a pleasure. Hard to win though! I could only think that those that steadfastly refuse to try this are the real losers.

I write this mindful of the poem submitted by one who wished to remain anonymous in print. If you are a senior player partnering a much less experienced player remember that a frightened partner is no partner at all. Leave the comments until the end, unless asked for it at the time, and do it gently as we all want to learn but also want to retain some sort of dignity.

One of the contributions describes the recent D'Orsi World Championship Seniors Trophy in Chennai (India) where Rex Anderson and five Dublin players represented Ireland. For space reasons this is a heavily edited version of the more detailed text that Rex provided and I am sure he will let anyone have the full version free of charge if they ask. They finished a magnificent fifth which was far better than expected and they came very close to surpassing even this. It was very disappointing therefore that there was a dearth of publicity about this achievement with a begrudging few lines in the Belfast Telegraph.

In addition to those for who tributes have been printed in this issue, a significant number of other friends and colleagues have passed on over the last few months. Our thoughts go out to those bereaved, particularly at this time.

What's Inside?

Simon Cochemé provides his last of a highly amusing series on the Language of Bridge. Hopefully Simon can send more of this kind of entertaining article.

Rex Anderson reports on the World Seniors Championships and also has written a feature on the Multi 2, partly in verse.

Ian Hamilton writes about the Interprovincials – well done the Intermediate team!

Michael McFaul has sent an old, but very relevant, article about Robert Plunkett to accompany the tribute from *Paul Tranmer* promised last time.

Greer MacKenzie gives a report on some brilliant endplay.

I Have Heard That.. is an attempt to resurrect a page for miscellaneous items from clubs.

With so many evenings of bridge played and so many clubs, surely there must be other items of interest or amusement that are worth printing. It doesn't have to be an erudite epistle, just something that you think others might like to hear. We do have members who are very willing to write about any topic that is suggested.

Alan Hill explains the Declarer Play Rule.

Colin Jeffries sent in an amusing poem that he found on the internet.

My thanks to all the above and to others who contributed items to fill the inevitable holes in the text.

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

Or Michael McFaul at mjmcfaul@gmail.com

The Language of Bridge Revisited

By *Simon Cochemé*

To finesse in Germany is *schneiden*, to cut, and a tenace is *Gabel*, a fork. So if you want to cut in German, you need a fork, not a knife! And they say that Germans don't have a sense of humour. Russians also use cut and fork for finesse and tenace, so obviously the joke has travelled.

Cutting may be used by the Germans and Russians for finessing, but the Japanese use cut (*kiru*) for a ruff, as do the Sri Lankans, with the Singhalese word *cupanoa*. This is all getting a bit complicated, with different countries using the same words for different bridge terminology. In India, dummy is called a donkey but in Sri Lanka, it is a jack that is known as a donkey. The Greeks use *hook* as a nickname for a jack, because of the shape of the letter 'J', but Americans use *hook* for finesse. And finesse is where we came in.

English bridge terminology has its own contradictions. Why do we simply bid game, but always have to bid *the slam*? And in the slam zone, why do we say we have bid *the grand*, but never *the small*?

Australians use the names of cities with appropriate post codes as slang for some of the larger penalties. Thus 2000 is known as a Sydney and 2600 is a Canberra. I wonder if Americans say Indianapolis for a penalty of 500? Russian bridge players measure the size of a penalty in balloons, so 1100 is eleven balloons.

The word bridge is believed to have come from *birich*, Russian Whist. The traditional name for diamonds in Russia is *boobni*, tambourines, and a Russian redouble is called *riepa*, a turnip.

If an Italian misplays a hand, he or she might say '*Sto giocando coi piedi*', 'I played it with my feet'. When the French admit to misplaying a hand (a rare occurrence) they

have a similar saying '*J'ai joué comme un pied*'.

A couple of people told me that in their countries a hand with 4711 distribution is called an *eau de cologne*. Being a mere man, I had to look it up. On a similar theme, I am surprised that English don't call a 1066 hand a *Hastings*, and a 1444 hand could be a *Botticelli* (1444 being the year of his birth).

The Irish sport of hurling uses the phrase *puck out* for restarting the game and I am reliably informed that Irish bridge players sometimes say 'Puck out' to their partner to tell them it is their lead. 'Puck off?' I asked my source hopefully. 'No,' he told me firmly. 'It's always puck out.'

In Poland the minors are known as young suits, and the majors are old suits. The Thais call themselves adults when they are vulnerable and children when they are non-vulnerable; somewhat different to the definitions of the English Social Services.

The captain of the Japanese Women's team at the World Championships told me that a singleton king is sometimes called a *kingleton*. Isn't that great? Most Japanese bridge words are nipponised versions of English words. So, for example, a hand is *hando* and the suits are *speido*, *hearto*, *daiamondo* and *kurabu*. The idiosyncratic pronunciation in this last example is heard again with *toranpu* (trump) and *barunerbaru* (vulnerable), often abbreviated to *baru*. As an aside, the Japanese word for a suit is *sebiro*, a phonetic representation of Savile Row, where the suits come from! Alas, this is not the word used for a suit in bridge, that is *su-tsu*, which sounds more like a martial art.

I have always been honest with you about the words and phrases I have found. I would hate it if you went to a bridge club in a foreign land and, in good faith, used some phrase I had told you about, only to discover that you had

insulted declarer's mother-in-law. So I admit I am unable to confirm that the Swedish for a deal that has been completely butchered in the bidding and the play is known as a *smörgåsbord*.

The Dutch use *trein* (train) for a long suit of winners, and Greek defenders like to call out 'January, February, March' and so on as they cash their defensive tricks. They would all have enjoyed this deal.

E-W Game. Dealer South.

♠ K J 10 9 5 4

♥ 8 5 4

♦ 10 8 7

♣ 3

♠ A 7 6

♥ A K J 10 9 7 6

♦ -

♣ J 9 5

♠ Q 8 3 2

♥ 2

♦ 9 4 2

♣ A K Q 4 2

♠ -

♥ Q 3

♦ A K Q J 6 5 3

♣ 10 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
1H	1S	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ace of hearts against 3NT and took the first seven tricks with his heart-train (January to July), plus the ace of spades (August). East had held on to all his clubs so the defence then took their five-trick club-train (September to December, then January again, I suppose). Three no-trumps nine down!

Is this a silly result? Not at all. Zia (South) was Mr Tambourine Man, playing with David Gold in the 2010 Lederer Invitational tournament. They were delighted to score minus 450 on this deal. East-West are cold for 6Cx and 6Hx; indeed East can make 7Cx and 7Hx (only the spade ruff prevents West making the grand slam). If East-West had tried to give Zia a speeding ticket, he would have retreated to 4Dx rather than concede a Newcastle (New South Wales) penalty of 2300.

(This article was first published in English Bridge.)

Reflections on an Inter B/Senior Event

It's competition night!

The air buzzes with excitement and anticipation

Inter Bs' nerves are jangling

Seniors, competitive skills finely honed

Convention are cards completed

All ready to go!

Board One completed – not too bad!

Board Two – disapproving look from partner

He's not too pleased with me!

Whoops – I've now become a 'she'

A non-entity – play deteriorates

Oh woe is me!

And now the Senior Huddle.

Hands discussed intensely - but Bs excluded
They wouldn't understand.

Spiralling downwards – my play discussed

As I struggle to make a contract

Pride makes me play on!

But wait, what is this?

A friendly smile, inclusion in game analysis
Acknowledgement!

We Bs do exist and have a part to play

There are Seniors who encourage

But too soon they're gone.

The final boards completed

I leave in disbelief – discouraged,
disillusioned.

Energy and enthusiasm gone

Confidence crumpled - am I really that bad?

NO – despite it all I will rise from the ashes
and

LIVE TO PLAY ANOTHER DAY!

Later conversations reveal

Some Inter Bs report good experiences

Indeed they want to play again

So, in defence of those Seniors I add this verse

For those who understand our nerves,

Thank You, we will be back.

The D'Orsi World Championship Seniors Trophy 2015 - Chennai, India.

By Rex Anderson

The D'Orsi Trophy is a team championship, inaugurated in 2001, that is held in odd numbered years and is played in conjunction with the Bermuda Bowl open world team championship and the Venice Cup for women's teams. Players have to be over sixty. Europe is entitled to enter six teams which are traditionally from the six highest placed in the European Championship in which Ireland were seventh. Following the withdrawal of the Sri Lanka team in August the Irish Bridge Union accepted an invitation to play. The team comprised Adam Mesbur, Nick FitzGibbon, Micheal and Pdraig O'Briain and Pat Barry all from Dublin and Rex Anderson from Coleraine with NPC Derek O'Gorman.

There were 22 teams from all over the world and the initial format was a round robin of twenty-one 16 board matches with three matches per day starting at 11am and finishing at 7.20pm.

After the completion of the round robin, the eight leading teams qualified for the quarter-final knockout of 96 boards over two days. The losing semi-finalists then played an 80 board match to determine third place.

On the first day Ireland beat India and Canada, losing to USA1 and lay in 9th place.

On the second day good wins against Brazil and Guadeloupe but defeat by Australia lifted Ireland to 7th.

Day three promised to be tough but Indonesia, Poland and Bulgaria were all overcome and Ireland were now 5th.

Day four was not so good with an unexpected heavy loss to Egypt, a very narrow defeat by Pakistan and a victory over Japan dropped Ireland to 7th place.

Day five saw Ireland playing Tunisia, then two tough matches facing England and Austria. All three were beaten and Ireland moved up to 6th place.

Day six also had two hard matches – versus Norway in third place and Sweden lying ninth

plus Chile. All three were won and Ireland advanced to 4th place.

Day seven and only one day to go. Three steady matches would ensure a place in the quarter finals. Opponents were New Zealand who were at the low end of the table, USA 2 in a qualifying spot and China in the bottom quarter. New Zealand were beaten 63 – 1 ensuring qualification for the first time ever. USA and China were also defeated leaving the final table USA1 298.89 VPs, Australia 286.21, **Ireland 280.95** and Poland 273.84. Ireland had finished third and the last ten matches had been won – a result beyond the dreams of the team. Ireland was the only team with all three pairs in the top 17 on the Butler cross Imps table. Nick FitzGibbon/Adam Mesbur were 9th at plus 0.67 playing 256 boards, Rex Anderson/Pat Barry 16th with plus 0.53 on 208 boards and Michael & Pdraig O'Briain 17th at plus 0.52 on 208 boards.

The draw favoured Ireland in an odd way: After round 4 each team Ireland played had already played three tough matches, which meant that Ireland's opponent was expecting an easier ride against a team that had only qualified to play as a reserve. The line-up for the quarter finals was determined by the leading qualifier selecting an opponent from those lying 5th to 8th in the final table. USA1 selected Norway and Australia selected Sweden which left Ireland with USA2 or England. Ireland elected to play USA2.

The quarter finals comprised 3 sets of 16 boards on each of two days and, sadly, USA2 won a tight match 192 – 167 Imps thus knocking out Ireland and went on to win the bronze medal with USA1 seeing off Sweden to win the gold. The World Bridge Federation ranks all losing quarter-finalists as fifth – new territory for the Irish Bridge Union Senior team.

During the tournament the captain and players received many encouraging messages from supporters and these were very much appreciated by the team and helped to keep them focussed.

I HAVE HEARD THAT...

SURELY NOT!

The following is an extract from the Kelvin Malone October Newssheet.

“THEFT It is with sadness that we have to report the apparent theft of the North sign upstairs. If anyone has any information about the perpetrator of this dastardly deed please let one of the Board know as this sign was lovingly made by our Chairman who is deeply upset. Another has now been made and fitted but any other potential miscreants should be aware that he has fitted a microchip to it so that it will self-destruct within 24 hours if removed from the premises and will burn down wherever it is taken.”

Can this be true? Reports have been received that it has been spotted brazenly exhibited on the wall of another club. How can anyone stoop so low? An appeal is being drafted to be submitted to the Rules and Ethics Committee – be warned!

If you would like to confirm its whereabouts this is what it looks like:

N

BIG HAND

By Ken Hammond

During a recent Kelvin Cup Match in our home my wife acted as hostess while the two teams played a 28 board match. During the evening there were various requests, starting with:

“Could you bring us some drinks?”

Then, “Some sandwiches would be nice”

Followed by “Any cake available?”

And “My glass is empty, any chance of a top-up?”

And so it went on.

After the others had gone I went into the kitchen and saw my wife doing the washing-up. “You look tired “ I commented, would you like a hand dear?”

“Oh yes please!” she said.

“Right, you have 5 spades to the Jack, 4 hearts to the 10, singleton diamond....

*Personally I think a slam is a likely outcome!!
Ed.*

BBO

I understand that there was a hold up at a level crossing a while ago when four pensioners were sitting at a bridge table right in the middle. When they were asked what they were doing they said that they had heard that playing bridge on line was the thing to do these days!

STICKY CARDS

One member reports that he got a pack of cards for Christmas that were all sticky. He said he found it really hard to deal with.

SUGGESTIONS

One of the problems with owning your own premises is that you have to ensure that everyday supplies do not run out. Kelvin Malone decided that one way to overcome this was to provide a small notepad so that anyone noticing that something was required could add it. Not long after this was introduced some wag added *Pinot Gregio* to the list. Hand writing experts have been called in. It's all happening at Heron Road!

ZERO TOLERANCE

Soon after starting a game one of the players ruffed his partner's winner.

“YOU IDIOT, that was a winning card – now you've lost us a trick”

“Sorry, I didn't notice”

“WELL PAY ATTENTION!!”

At this point the opponents called the director and pointed out the Zero Tolerance sheet pinned to the notice board.

The director indicated this to the offender and said “We have a Zero Tolerance Policy at this club.”

“And I have a Zero Tolerance Policy too, towards idiots!” was the reply.

Robert Plunkett – an appreciation

By Paul Tranmer

Robert James Plunkett was born on the 13th January 1943 in Belfast. One of five children, he was educated at Inst and Queens University from which he graduated with a degree in Chemistry. Deciding that a career in a laboratory didn't appeal he joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service instead. His initial posting was to the nascent IT department and he subsequently moved to the DoE Roads Service where he worked his way up the greasy pole until he reached Principal level. He took early retirement on ill health grounds in 2001. Robert married his beloved Lorna in 1967. They produced three children, two boys and a girl, who in turn presented them with two grandchildren.

Robert's career in bridge started almost accidentally when he happened to pick up a "Teach yourself to play Bridge" book. Immediately hooked, he worked his way through it from cover to cover then decided he'd better start to play. He persuaded or encouraged several of his work colleagues to play and lunchtime bridge sessions ensued. Eventually the numbers playing in the Civil Service were sufficient to allow the formation of a Bridge Club in which Robert was an enthusiastic member. He also became a member of the Kelvin and Malone Club in Belfast where he played with his first regular partner Denis Millar, amongst others.

I first met Robert in 1987 when Denis and he came over to London to compete in the UK-wide Civil Service Pairs championship final. Across a large but hushed hall I vividly remember his dulcet tones explaining in considerable detail just how well he'd bid and played a hand and how unlucky he'd been to go off. He received little in the way of sympathy but lots of calls of "quiet please"!

A year or so later I relocated to N. Ireland and a year after that Robert and I decided to start playing together. That decision marked the start of a partnership that lasted 26 years. As a

partnership we played Precision, a system that we modified extensively over the years. It is a mark of Robert's expertise in bidding theory that his significant modifications to the Precision 2C opening bid and continuations have been widely adopted by many pairs that play the system.

After the wait for my residency qualification was over we decided to enter the Camrose Trials and we made it onto the Camrose Team for the first time in January 1991. Our team mates were Rosenberg-Anderson and Campbell-MacKenzie, npc D Greenwood. The match was away to Scotland and we lost, albeit narrowly. One particular hand stands out where Robert and I both overbid very badly, (we used to do that a lot in the early days!), and got to 3NT with a combined 21 count and a diamond suit of xx opposite Qxx after an opponent had bid the suit. Well, diamonds were led at trick 1 and the Q scored. However, despite the fact that to make 9 tricks declarer had to knock out two aces, the next time diamonds were played was at trick 12 and the contract rolled home! After that first Camrose match, Robert and I played again a further 25 times over the years. He also had the pleasure of being selected to play in the Senior Camrose with Rex Anderson.

Although it's a mild oversimplification, during Robert's playing career he basically won everything there was to win in N. Ireland bridge. Indeed he was a multiple winner of many of the premier events. Most of his successes were with me, but he was also a multiple winner of the Congress Pairs events with, amongst others, the late great Monty Rosenberg. One title that eluded us for many a year was the Premier 1 League where we seemed to be the eternal bridesmaids although eventually we nailed it! As a partner for me, he was absolutely ideal. Whilst I tend to be somewhat fiery and excitable at the table he always remained calm and unruffled. To his eternal credit he took the regular and usually totally unjustified vitriol I threw at him without turning a hair. "We'll discuss it afterwards partner" was his usual refrain.

Without wishing to insult any future partner or partners I may have I am certain I'll never have one of Robert's calibre and quality again. As a dedicated and long serving member of the NIBU Robert also undertook npc duties for the Lady Milne team on many occasions. He served with merit and distinction on the Selection Committee for many years, latterly as Chairman.

As a person, Robert was a man of considerable intellect and firm opinions which he was always happy to share with others. That trait did not always endear him to his audience but those fortunate enough to spend time in his company soon realised that he was a man of absolute honesty, considerable insight and a great dry sense of humour. He was a good man, a great bridge player and kind and loyal friend to me. Northern Ireland bridge is the poorer for his passing.

IBU INTERPROVINCIALS

By Ian Hamilton

The annual gathering of Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht took place over Halloween weekend in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone, its ancestral home.

All four Provinces fielded three Senior Teams and three Intermediate ones. The competition was run as quietly efficiently as ever by the team of Fearghal O'Boyle and Mairead Basquille, assisted by Diarmuid Reddan, who did all the computer work.

The Ulster Intermediate team took an early lead, were never headed, and could afford to lose their last match to Leinster, Munster finishing in second spot. Many congratulations to the Ulster team, many from the West and North-West of the Province. Indeed, the top cross-IMPing score came from the latter area, James McAllister and Kevin Hinds winning the trophy for the best scoring Intermediate pair over the weekend.

The Ulster Senior team did the opposite, losing their first match heavily, and never threatening to take other than the wooden spoon. However,

they were the toast of Connacht, since they beat Leinster in the last match, allowing Connacht to leap-frog the long-time leaders to take the winners' honours at the last gasp. Only one Ulster pair finished above average in the cross-IMPing.

The Leinster fraternal pairing of Micheal and Pdraig O'Briain showed why they managed to get to the knock-out stages of the D'Orsi Bowl (Senior World Championships) in Chennai, India recently.

Dealer North, E/W Vul

N	E	S	W
Pass	1♦*	dbld	1♠
Pass	1NT	pass	3NT
all pass			

♠74
♥8732
♦Q42
♣9864

♠AKQJ95
♥109
♦76
♣QJ7

♠102 * could be short
♥QJ4
♦AJ983
♣A52

♠863
♥AK65
♦K105
♣K103

This contract sailed home with an overtrick when the defence were unable to muster more than the club king and the two top hearts. It is unbeatable on any lead.

At the other table west, eminently reasonably, declared 4♠ beaten on a diamond lead.

However, the O'Briains came unstuck on the very next board, when they mis-defended a very pushy 3NT, letting it home by failing to lead partner's suit. This actually cost them the title, as they lost 11IMPs on the board, and only finished 1VP behind Connacht.

Dealer East, Both Vul

N	E	S	W
	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♠	pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	all pass		

♠Q8532
♥53
♦1075
♣AK2

♠1064
♥109
♦A43
♣Q9865

♠A9
♥K86
♦KQJ92
♣J74

♠KJ7
♥AQJ742
♦86
♣103

West
♠Q753
♥AJ10853
♦4
♣A3

South
♠A9
♥762
♦AK75
♣QJ86

South leads the diamond ace and views the dummy. Partner plays the 3, suggesting either club values or an odd number of diamonds. Declarer follows with the 2. What next?

See page 10 for the solution – no peeking!!

Junior O’Brian led the club 6, and declarer had to run this to the knave, as he needed this for his ninth trick. It only remained to knock out the diamond ace, then play a heart to the king. He actually added insult to injury by end-playing east with the third round of hearts to lead from the spade king, making an overtrick.

Where west dutifully leads a heart declarer must duck. East wins the second heart and clears the suit, happy that he can eventually get the lead in spades. West must have been taken in by declarer’s confident 2NT bid, assuming a double stop, and deciding the best shot was for weakness elsewhere, he having the diamond entry. Not unreasonable, in truth.

Finally a defensive quiz.

N	E	S	W
Pass	Pass	1NT*	2♣ ²
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
all pass			
* 12-14 2 Hearts and another suit			

I personally disagree with the bidding, west wiser calling his hand a single suiter - if east has one heart and three spades the partnership will finish in a silly 4:3 fit, when a 6:1 fit is much superior.



My Hand Was ♠AKQJ1098765432
Submitted by Colin Jeffries

’Twas the club Christmas party, and needless to say,
The punch and the season had made us quite gay.
“Find your seats and shuffle” the director had said,
As visions of first place danced in my head.
When I checked our position, I got dry in the mouth,
We’d been assigned Table One, sitting North/South.
Just little ole novices, my partner and me,
We’d come fourth once, but never first three.
With two Grand Masters sitting East/West,
We took our positions and said not a word,
But I’m sure our heartbeats could clearly be heard.
We shuffled the cards without blinking an eye,

I dropped one on the floor and thought I would die.

As North I was dealer and though I was green, I knew to open you must have thirteen.

I spread my hand and counted ... alas, With only ten points, I just had to pass.

And frankly, I thought, this was a shame, 'Cos I'd never had 13 Spades in a game.

My left hand opponent, East was his name, Opened "Two Diamonds" and I thought of his fame.

My partner, South, was trembling with fear, And the bid of "Two Hearts" came into my ear.

My right hand opponent sat straight in his chair, "Three Hearts" was the suit he chose to declare.

Now I possessed a good suit, but alas, With nothing in hearts, I could only pass.

My left hand opponent now bid "Three Spades",

And you can imagine that I was amazed.

My partner, South, bid "Four Hearts" and I thought,

If they take the bid, I couldn't lead her best suit.

My right hand opponent studied his hand And soon "Seven No Trumps" was his command.

It was my turn to bid, and just to save face, I doubled 'cos I knew he missed the Spade Ace.

The next bids were pass, pass, pass.

So I was ready to lead, but alas,

My partner was nervous and she led the Heart King.

Now a lead out of turn is a damaging thing.

The Director was called, I can still hear his voice,

As he told declarer he could make his own choice.

With a singleton heart, you must understand,

This could well be his only entry to hand.

So he turned to me and, looking so smart,

He said "Lead any suit, but don't lead Heart."

So, of course, I led my fourth best spade.

I guess it was the best lead I ever made,

Cos' in this hand I never lost the lead, And our opponents (Grand Masters) had to concede.

Thirteen tricks we took right off the top, When we won the board I thought I would pop.

Now I ask you, with a board like this, The rest of the game, well how could we miss???

And I overheard the Director say "Who was that lass

Who had thirteen spades and cleverly passed???"

After winning first place, and still full of fright,

"Merry Christmas" we called and they all said "GOOD NIGHT!"

Margot McClure 1916 – 2015.

Margot was born in St John's Wood, London on 30/07/1916 to Bertie and Nellie Benjamin. She learned to play auction bridge at home with her parents and sister Ursula. She familiarised herself with the Barton Club system but she never read any bridge books.

Margot was a day pupil of St Paul's Public School in Hammersmith and enjoyed playing second violin in the school orchestra under her music master Gustav Holst. Margot next went to school in Switzerland where she continued to play bridge with school friends.

During the Second World War Margot joined the Women's Royal Air Force where she drove officers. She was proud to have served King and country. She was a fervent royalist and very proud of her Jewish roots.

After Margot left the WRAF, she was asked to manage her father's tapestry business in Kesh in Co Fermanagh. She at first stayed at the Imperial Hotel in Enniskillen where she befriended commercial travellers. She met and fell in love with Robert McClure who sold Ford cars and they lived at Kiltierney, near Kesh, where they kept and showed dogs as a joint pastime for many years. After Robert passed away, Margot moved to Enniskillen

where she found a new passion for bridge. She was encouraged by the late Monty Rosenberg to play in competitions and she formed a successful bridge partnership with Noreen Hill. Margot took an active part in the Northern Ireland Bridge Union and served as President and Chairman. She was the driving force in setting up the Fermanagh Bridge Congress with the assistance of Mr Monty and the late Jim Clark, George Clingen and Joe O' Donoghue. Margot was instrumental in organising a successful Camrose Trophy match in Enniskillen in the 1970s.

Margot liked to entertain at home. She held a house party at Saturday lunch time during every Fermanagh bridge Congress and she enjoyed the company of the non-locals who were always made welcome.

Margot was competitive and successful at bridge; she was not fond of conventions and relied on common-sense bridge. She won the NIBU Mixed Pairs with the late Keith Singleton some years back. She was second and third in the NIBU Autumn Congresses with Eric Lesage and once third in the Mixed Pairs with the same partner. She was also third with Mr Monty in the Belfast Pairs and won a tournament with Kate Roddy.

Margot was very well known and popular in Enniskillen; she enjoyed the bridge company of Gerry Hegarty, the late Patsy Brady and Richard Allen, to name only a few local bridge partners.

Margot was honoured to be the second honorary member of the NIBU (*The first being Monty Rosenberg – ed.*) and wore her badge with pride. She was delighted to be invited to meet President McAleese at Aras an Uachtarain as part of a Northern Irish bridge delegation some years back.

Margot suffered from advanced-age macular degeneration which stopped her driving 5 years ago. She could no longer read or do her tapestries but she continued to play bridge helped by a lamp. She showed tremendous spirit and resilience and never complained.

After a 3-week long illness, which she bore with courage, Margot passed away peacefully

in hospital on 6 November 2015 surrounded by friends.

Margot was very keen to receive a card from the Queen in July 2016. She had organised a party for 85 friends who she was going to invite in the New Year. These included Alan and Heather Hill whose company she particularly valued. It was not to be.

Farewell to "la grande dame de bridge d'Enniskillen". She will be fondly remembered for bridge generations to come.

Eric Lesage

Answer to defensive quiz

4♥ by east. Diamond ace led.

♠J10862

♥9

♦J63

♣K1075

♠Q753

♥AJ10853

♦4

♣A3

♠K4

♥KQ4

♦Q10982

♣942

♠A9

♥762

♦AK75

♣QJ86

South must switch to the heart 2. Declarer does his best by winning in hand with the queen and trying the diamond queen, covered, and dummy ruffing. Next comes the spade 3 to the king and ace. South continues with the trump 7.

Declarer is stuck whatever he does. He can win in hand and ruff down the diamond knave. However, he has no entry to enjoy his winners, south over-ruffing a spade. Alternatively, he can win in dummy and ruff a spade high in hand. However, that is the end of the party, dummy left with two black losers.

Note that a switch to the trump 6 can fetch the 8 from dummy, north's 9 and declarer's queen. Dummy can ruff the diamond queen with a high trump, before playing his spade to south. Now south is in trouble. The heart 7 can be

won by east's king as dummy preserves the 3. Declarer ruffs down the diamond knave, and pulls the last trump with the 4!

If south leads the two instead of the 7, dummy plays the 3 and east can win with the 4, and set up diamonds as before, his king being the entry.

Watch those pips.

Note that a trump switch must be best. Dummy has spades that need disposed of, and can be ruffed by declarer. Any east club side-suit cannot be established thanks to your holding. If declarer has diamonds, as here, some help in the suit is needed from partner.

The Hollywood 2♦ opening bid

By Rex Anderson

It is generally agreed in bridge literature that the concept of the Multi 2♦ originated in Northern Ireland. In the 1960s John Grummit, with help from Jimmy Clarke, devised a convention that he named after the place where he lived — the Hollywood Two Diamonds. In those days, when all NIBU competitions were open, any and all conventions were permitted to be played— licensing of conventions was unknown as was the concept of competitions restricted to intermediate players.

The original Hollywood 2♦ showed either a weak 2 in a major suit or a strong 17+ 4-4-4-1 or a balanced 20 - 22. The idea of a three meaning bid was then novel – and the concept of a bid with two strong meanings and a weak meaning even more so.

Used against innocent players, this bid very effectively prevents them from finding their correct contract, because opponents are unsure whether the 2♦ bidder has a strong or weak hand. This often gives enormous unfair good results to the 2♦ bidder. The 2♦ bid gets good results only when the innocent opponents do not have any defence against it.

John Grummit wrote to Terence Reese in the mid 1960s and explained the concept to him. Reese, with help from Jeremy Flint, developed the idea. In 1970 the English Bridge Union refused any category of licence by a vote of seven to one. Reese was the first, but by no means the only player to try for a licence to play the convention — indeed, Mark Horton applied on behalf of a version of his own a short time after this, and, like Reese's, it was politely refused. It was eventually licensed some years later.

To this day the World Bridge Federation, in recognition of the effectiveness of the Multi 2♦ opener, permits opponents of the Multi 2♦ to have a written defence at the table.

In Northern Ireland the Multi 2♦ opening is now permitted to be used in Intermediate A or Intermediate B events.

THE BALLAD OF JOHN GRUMMITT

By Rex Anderson

When old John Grummitt was at the summit
Of his intellectual powers
His own invention, was a convention
On which he'd worked for hours and hours
And yet he was glad he'd done what he had
He hop'd for a garland of flowers

The old bid of 2 as everyone knew
Put opponents under the gun
John's two diamond bid as an opener did
Show a strong hand four, four, four, one
Or a major with 6 which can take less tricks
Than an opening bid would have done

To add to the fun you could hold twenty-one
Or so if your hand it was flat
Now who could defend when one bid can send
A meaning of this, that or that
To make a double could lead to trouble
To pass could just be 'cat'

The bid was a freak as it could be weak
Yet made more sense than folly would

John started the lark with help from Jim Clarke
Both thought the bid was jolly good
For what it's worth to honour its birth
T'was named the 2 diamond Holywood

So John could promote the bid that he wrote
And develop a new cult, he
Then sent it to Reese the bidding high priest
And with no intent to insult, he
Consulted with Flint and after a hint
Gave it the name of the Multi

Them that are crooks have written in books
That the bid was invented by Reese
If that is libel, swear on the bible
And then I will call the police
I'll say to the judge 'This issue don't fudge'
So Grummitt can now rest in peace

The Results Merchant

By Michael McFaul

(Originally Published in Irish Bridge Journal
March 1982)

Bridge players differ widely in the amount of interest they take in their match points. A junior pair with an above-average set will postpone dinner while they hover frantically over the markers and study each travelling score sheet for possible errors. They will be in their seats 15 minutes before the second session, earnestly tying up loose ends in the system, such as how to compete over a 5NT opening bid by the opponents. Such unbridled enthusiasm is, of course, unthinkable in the higher echelons of the game where it is considered somewhat gauche to take too much interest in one's score. So a good pair with 25 tops under their belt will amble casually to the bar and try to apportion blame for the one bad board. After all, it is more important to have played well than to have done well.

For one leading Northern Ireland player, however, the statistics of bridge present a form of numerology which embodies the very essence of the game. The burly frame of Robert Plunkett manifests itself at most important competitions and when you arrive at

the table he will confidently inform you of the current running score of any pair in the room. "Look at them," he will exclaim, (indicating a pair of tried and trusted National Masters in the corner) they gave these two (pointing to two old ladies on his right) two absolute tops on boards 19 and 20, thereby giving those young lads (nodding to his left) the sessional prize putting YOU into 14th place, and leaving US slightly above average."

Robert's bidding style also reflects his passion for mathematics and computer technology. Permanently on-line, produced in 48 countries and translated into 22 languages, his system is, to the best of my knowledge, the only one in the country that arrives at the table in a suitcase. In a quiet moment he will defy you to name a sequence that the "Andromeda Club" cannot cope with. The request having been complied with, he will delve into a heap of print-out paper and ticker-tape emerging triumphant on the other side ten seconds later.

But it is in a congress setting that Robert's special talents really come into their own. Having booked in at reception – a single room for himself and a double for the system – he will instantly immerse himself in heaps of sessional results, travelling score sheets, leader boards and movement cards. At 2 in the morning he will be seeking out likely participants for a game of "Spot the Palooka", a compulsive pastime which involves Robert reading out names while you try to guess their score. Tiring of that he will introduce "The Deviant Factor", a variation in which you try to discover which pair's scores are much better or much worse than you would expect. A good pair languishing badly at the bottom will have their names rapped out with a pointer as Robert exposes their sorry state with a forceful rhetorical question' "Now would you really expect THEM to be 43rd – and they are getting WORSE?"

One of my most cherished memories comes from a Portrush Congress some years ago. Several players had assembled on their way back from dinner to muse through the afternoon's results. Suddenly Robert appeared

and startled the gathering into a state of inertia when he held forth in a statement which contained a somewhat convoluted yet ruthless aphorism. "For your edification," he announced. "the way to win this game is to play straight down the middle and bash the palookas! "Now – is that right or is that right?"

Here is a hand from a recent Kelvin Cup match in which Robert demonstrated his skill in finding a killing defence without blinking. Cover the South and East hands and see if you can spot the right play.

N/S Vul Dealer West

All playing Precision Club

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

W	N	E	S
1♥	D	P	1♠
2♦	3♦	D	P
4♦	4♠	P	P
D?	P	P	P

Having made a somewhat dubious double, you lead your singleton Club. Declarer wins in hand with Queen and leads a small Spade towards the table. How do you defend? If you duck the first Spade the contract is home and dry. Robert rose with the Ace, underled his AK of Diamonds, ruffed a Club and exited with a Diamond. His partner had to make another trump trick for one off.

DECLARER PLAY RULE

By Alan Hill

I was asked recently whether Declarer, having called for a card from Dummy is allowed to change the card. The Laws say yes IF there is no pause for thought AND this card was the one intended. The view of the leading European TDs is that this is impossible to

fulfil. Their argument is that you called small so that is what you were thinking at the time. Therefore changing to King must be a change of thought. There is no mention in the Laws about 'in the same breath' a common fallacy.

In passing, if you call small it means the smallest card available in the suit. If you call for the lead with King and there are two Kings in Dummy then you must play the King of the suit played as the last trick if it is there.

If you call for a club you are deemed to have asked for a small club and, unless that was clearly not your intention, you may not change.

If you hold KJxx and lead up to it and call J you may not change the card if you have not noticed the play of the Q on your left nor if the player on your left has not played to the trick and produces the Q. Wait your turn to play. One Irish declarer at the Europeans called for the Ace from Dummy. The defender on his right thought he had called for the 8 (try it – soft Irish accent) and played the K as Dummy detached the Ace. The K was deemed played under the Ace by the TD and the Appeals Committee.

Crossword 21 Solution

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

Correct solutions were received from:

Norma Burns, Seamus Donaghy, Marie Ferguson, Charles Foster, Ian Hamilton, Gerry Henry, Drew Lindsay, Edward McQuilken, Ronnie Morrow, Joan Stewart, Richard Sutton (sadly now deceased) and James Tinsley.

The winner was **Charles Foster.**

Norma Franklin

Nora Mary Franklin, known to us all as Norma, passed away on the 1st October 2015 after a year long battle.

Norma represented Northern Ireland in the Lady Milne on many occasions, initially partnering Moya Kelly and, latterly, Sandie Millership. Indeed, Norma and Sandie had just been selected for the 2015 competition when Norma fell ill. She battled bravely but unfortunately was unable to compete.

Norma was also an active member of several bridge clubs in the North Down area over many years. She was a member of Brunswick, Donaghadee and Holywood Bridge Clubs and served as Chairman of both Brunswick and Holywood and was the incoming President at Donaghadee.

Norma won many of the NIBU trophies during her playing career and her gaiety, laughter and sense of fun will be missed by us all.

Our sympathies go out to her devoted husband David, her daughters Anna and Ruth and her numerous grandchildren.

God Bless You Norma xxx

Sandie & Jeff

Pat Bergin

The NorthWest Bridge family and the NIBU mourns the death of one of their most popular members, Pat Bergin.

Pat graced the Bridge scene for more than fifty years – playing regularly in the local Clubs, both North and South.

A keen competitor, she had many successes at the Bridge Congresses, the local Club competitions and NIBU events, also representing Northern Ireland in the Lady Milne Home Internationals for ladies. She was always good company and enjoyed the post mortems – never slow to express and defend her bidding and play decisions.

Deepest sympathy is offered to her family - - Anne, John, and Michael (keen bridge players themselves), plus Mary, Eugene and Brian, and her grandchildren.

May she rest in peace.

Fr Jim McGonagle

Don't Do It!

A couple of reminders about some bad habits that can cause irritation to your opponents.

Boards: Have a look at Law 7A. It says that when a board is to be played it must be placed in the centre of the table. In NI we are a little more relaxed than in the rest of the UK in that we permit it to be placed in one corner of the table as long as the orientation is kept the same. Hands up those who drop it on the floor or put it on a little table or chair next to the table. Yes, we know it's always someone else who mixes the cards up, but just in case it might be you....

In our club now that we have a dealing machine and can see the hands you might be surprised how often a reversal occurs part way through an event.

Bidding: When you bid keep your hands away from the bidding box until you have made your mind up. Hovering over it with fingers jumping from one card to another is passing a message that you are not entitled to do. Also making remarks like "Oh well, we've nothing to lose" or any remarks at all are strictly forbidden, as is staring intently at partner while putting down a bid (or a card while playing, for that matter). You may as well say "Pay attention here partner, this has a special meaning!"

When the bidding is over leave the bids on the table until the first lead has been made. Sometimes players sweep up their bids quickly before the player on lead has a chance to think about what card to play and we are not all blessed with a good memory. Even if you have passed throughout, that can still be significant when thinking about a lead.

Do try to borrow a set of Laws and read No 74 – you might be surprised.

End of lesson – but there will be more!!

ENDPLAY BRILLIANCY

By Greer MacKenzie

One of the most satisfying declarer techniques is to “endplay” an opponent, meaning to force the opponent to lead when it will cost the defence a trick. A typical example is a 3 card ending like the example below when South is declarer and is on lead at trick 11. If South takes the spade finesse, East will take 2 tricks, Spade King and heart A. But wait, say South deduces or knows the position and instead of the finesse, leads the heart K. Bingo, east is endplayed, must win and lead a spade up to the AQ.

	AQ		
	X		
	V		
	V		
96		K7	
5		A	
V		V	
V		V	
	43		
	K		
	V		
	V		

Often the defence can manage to avoid this embarrassment, in the example West might have been able to lead spades through AQ before this ending and indeed it sometimes sounds like a badge of honour when a defender shrieks at partner “you endplayed me” e.g. in the example above, West could have lead Spades earlier but didn’t find it. I’ve often noticed another type of situation when the opening lead is difficult and mostly costs a trick, people love to say “endplayed at trick 1!” However it is rarely quite the case. Now look at the hand below from a recent league match where my partner Hastings Campbell held the South cards after this auction. East was the dealer and the bidding went.

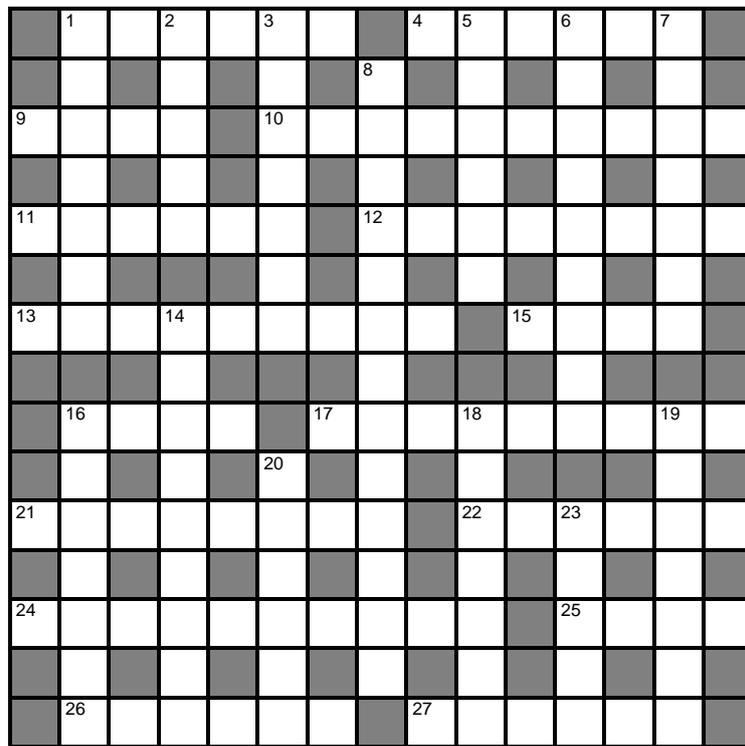
E	S	W	N
1C	1D	1H	P
3C	3S	5C	5S
6C	P	P	P

	♠ QJT82	
	♥ JT842	
	♦ 2	
	♣ J3	
♠ K96		♠ -
♥ A765		♥ Q3
♦ JT		♦ AQ54
♣ QT42		♣ AK98765
	♠ A7543	
	♥ K9	
	♦ K98763	
	♣ -	

Like to choose your opening lead? Declarer appears to have 2 losers, a diamond and a heart but South must lead something and is void in clubs, the only safe suit. Lead spade Ace or small and set up dummy’s King for a heart discard, declarer makes 12 tricks losing 1 diamond only. A diamond lead and declarer doesn’t lose a D, gives up a heart this time for 12 tricks. Anyone for the heart king? Then no heart loser, 12 tricks again.

But Hastings, who is fond of the occasional brilliancy, found the only card to make declarer think, the heart 9! Because of the bidding declarer could be sure that Hastings started with 6/7 diamonds and 5 spades. It is highly likely that the 9 is a singleton, when a duck might be quickly followed by heart K and a heart ruff and the diamond finesse will be for an undertrick. Or the 9 might be from a doubleton when letting it run to the king still leaves declarer needing the Diamond finesse for his contract. So declarer, fearing the ruff and “sure” of the location of the heart king, played heart A, drew trump and finessed the D. I make a point of never looking at anyone’s expression during bidding or play but when Hastings now cashed the heart King I did hear a small expletive on my left 😊. And of course after the hand I was able to announce “partner, you were endplayed at trick 1!”

Prize Crossword 22



Across

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 North leaves, recovers and comes back (6)</p> <p>4 Flower running ceremony (6)</p> <p>9 Timeless match level (4)</p> <p>10 Neat problem to relax around in the German park (10)</p> <p>11 Game cut short after ace goes missing (6)</p> <p>12 Prince from the East open prosciutto (8)</p> <p>13 Strain to replace letters (9)</p> <p>15 Iron Chlorine starts to upset bathers (4)</p> <p>16 Cheated holding new cards one gets (4)</p> <p>17 Piece South cut in average time but unused (5,4)</p> <p>21 Never eat to make yourself tired (8)</p> <p>22 Case resolved as evil characters (6)</p> <p>24 Get HS Lark before it's too late (5,5)</p> <p>25 Ring through local line (4)</p> <p>26 Is rest perhaps relative (6)</p> <p>27 Girl returns to South showing her talent (6)</p> | <p>7 Soundly understands book such as work on bridge (7)</p> <p>8 Slam! Crash! Come to an option without North (13)</p> <p>14 Reduces bids (9)</p> <p>16 Ben hides disappointment with South giving rewards (7)</p> <p>18 Churchman fine with opponents mistakes (7)</p> <p>19 Ends up by being rude about replacing home (7)</p> <p>20 Light from warm ant legs (6)</p> <p>23 Mighty man holds back cash (5)</p> |
|--|---|

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

Down

- 1** Minister was holding South back (7)
- 2** Stolen ace in empty board (5)
- 3** Limo in contest left for writer (7)
- 5** Honour has mixed tricks (6)
- 6** Charge for cut holding notes in speech (5,4)

