

*London
Metropolitan
Bridge
Association*



MetroNews

*The newsletter of the
London Metropolitan Bridge Association*

Autumn 2018



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Words from the Chairman

In the last issue, the outgoing LMBA Chairman, Ian Payn, wrote a farewell editorial. This time I am delighted that our new Chairman, Dominic Flint, has taken up the baton and provided the following piece – Ed.

There was an additional frisson attached to England's semi-final clash against Croatia in the recent World cup. A win for England would mean a clash with the London's Green Pointed Swiss Teams event and several members of the committee were thinking up inventive contingency plans. In the event, England returned results in both the semi-final and the consolation match on Saturday which were consistent with the form book and the treasurer breathed a sigh of relief.



At the London Congress, it was very welcome to see a slight increase in numbers over last year and, like many other County Associations, the financial wellbeing of the LMBA is heavily dependent on the success of this event. This brings me nicely on to the main subject of this article.

There is no secret that in this country and indeed across much of Europe, Bridge faces the challenge of encouraging new players into the game. Last year I attended a meeting organised by the EBU where representatives from each county were invited to participate in a brainstorming session, in the hope of producing a coherent set of ideas that would encourage more people to take up the game.

There was common agreement that there were two distinct demographics which needed addressing.

By and large the average age of the club member is increasing and, inevitably this means over a period of time a decrease in membership for reasons of mortality. In response, many clubs offer increasing opportunities to play daytime bridge, and the popularity of Café bridge events shows no signs of reaching a saturation point. All of this is of little help to those who are still employed, - one of the two demographic sections areas identified as deserving attention. The other is the junior end of the spectrum – those aged under 26 (see below).

Strangely there seems to be no lack of demand in desire to take up the game. The adult education centre Citi Lit based near Holborn, fills its four courses with little difficulty, but it is not clear whether, or indeed if, those who have attended progress further on completion of the course. Where do they go?

With one or two exceptions many clubs are struggling to maintain numbers, but those that are succeeding are the ones which provide lessons and sessions aimed at the novice player.

What has changed over the last two decades is the appetite for tournament level bridge. The gap between the regular club player and those that compete at county

and national level continues to widen. Hard evidence of this is provided by examining the names of those that make it through to the final stages of the more prestigious knock out competitions. The same teams appear year after year and this must be of some concern to the national selectors. New blood is required.

Perhaps where the county association can make a significant contribution is at the other end of the demographic spectrum – the juniors. Although schools exist that offer Bridge as an extracurricular activity, they are the exception rather than the rule. Many teachers bemoan the ever decreasing attention span as a consequence of the instant gratification provided by computer games. I would add that electronic gadgets do little to develop social skills

Bridge therefore seems to have a lot to offer and the LMBA is committed to help set up bridge clubs within schools either by providing equipment or with volunteers. In my view, the best case scenario for success is where schools employ a teacher who plays bridge who can be persuaded to participate. Alternatively, a bridge-playing parent or a grandparent who has strong connections with a school would be a useful introduction.

If you are reading this and you fit into this category I would be very keen to hear from you.

At the time of writing, four junior squads, many of whom are affiliated to London, are making their last preparations before they set sail for the junior world championships which take place from 8th – 18th August in Wujiang China, and as usual you will no doubt be able to follow the matches on BBO.

Earlier in the year the English Bridge Union launched an initiative to raise funds to support the costs of the teams, and the LMBA along with other counties rallied to the cause, donating profit made from various events.

This is one contribution, but I am passionate that much more needs to be done to encourage the young to take up playing bridge.

Those of you who read the last issue will recall the outgoing Chairman's satisfaction with his exit strategy. You could say I was well and truly end played. It would be remiss of me not to thank him for his stint in the chair and remind you that you have the opportunity to ratify his choice of successor or not at the AGM which will take place at the Young Chelsea on the 6th September.

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Annual General Meeting

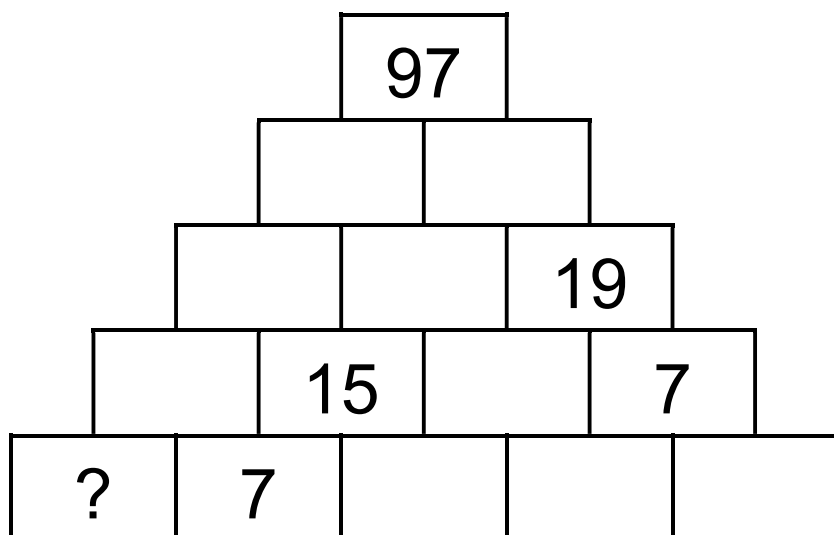
The 2018 AGM of the LMBA will be held on Thursday 6th September, at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA, starting at 7.00pm.

All LMBA members are very welcome to attend. Do come along to have your say on the organisation of bridge in London - light refreshments will be available.

Agenda

- 1 Registration of proxies & apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 14th September 2017
(**Note.** These can be found at www.metrobridge.co.uk)
- 3 Matters arising from these minutes.
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Adoption of accounts for 2017
- 7 Subscriptions (direct and Pay-to-Play) for 2019-2020
- 8 Elections to the Executive Committee
- 9 Appointment of honorary auditor
- 10 EBU shareholders' Report
- 11 Any other business

Puzzle Corner



Each pair of blocks adds up to the block directly above them.

What number should replace the question mark?



The solution is on page 29.

LMBA results this season

London Congress

The Swiss Pairs at the London Congress was once again filled to capacity with 70 pairs competing (we squeezed in an extra table this year!). After a worrying time when it seemed a lot of players might be missing from the Swiss Teams due to a clash with the World Cup finals, we actually increased the entry to the teams also this year, with 30 teams in play.

John Atthey and Mike Pownall performed an impressive double by winning on both days of the Congress, the teams along with Martin W Jones and Claire Robinson. This was the second win in a row for Martin and Claire, who also won last year.

The full list of prize-winners in each event was as follows:

Swiss Pairs:

1	John Atthey & Mike Pownall	105 VPs
2	Barry Stoker & Gordon O'Hair	103
3=	Alan Scott & Simon Gass	98
3=	Derek Oram & Celia Oram	98
5	Gad Chadha & Debbie Sandford	93



Swiss Teams:

1	John Atthey, Mike Pownall, Martin W Jones, Claire Robinson	100
2	Jeffrey Allerton, Philip Wood, Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne	98
3	Todor Tiholov, James Thrower, Stefano Tommasini, Andrew Murphy	89



Ian Gardiner Trophy

The qualifier heat of the London Teams of Four Championship for the Ian Gardiner Trophy was held this year on 4th February. The event is scored on the same basis as the Pachabo, the national Inter-County teams championship and nine teams competed this time.

The leading positions at the end of the two-session qualifying day were:

1	Nigel Igoe, Kiril Delev, Adriano Rodrigues, Stefano Tommasini	116.5 VP
2	Brian Kelly, Chris Brewin, David Newman, Nigel Bird	110
3	Richard Creamer, Trevor Mathews, John Pemberton, Steve Popham	107
4	Nick Sandqvist, Nathalie Shashou, Qian Li, Alexandra Birchall	104.5

The heat winners are pictured, right.

Both the first and second-placed teams contained players without London allegiance. Only full London-allegiance teams are eligible to win the trophy and to represent London in the Pachabo, so there was a play-off for the title between the third and fourth ranked teams, those captained by John Pemberton and Nick Sandqvist.

The Pemberton team had lost in the play-off in the last two years, but it was third time lucky this year, when they prevailed in the 48-board match, beating the Sandqvist team by 30 IMPs. They are pictured below.



The team went on to play in the Pachabo in June, finishing half-way down the strong field.



London Championship Pairs

There was a disappointing entry to the Championship Pairs this year, but the event was nevertheless keenly competed. The winners were Nick Sandqvist and Natalie Shashou with a score of 55.21%, closely followed by James Thrower and Ali Ahmed on 33.16%, with Lee Rosenthal and Doreen Green third on 55.05%



Several of the leading pairs were not London-allegiance, so the four pairs who went forward to the Reg Corwen Trophy, the Inter-County Pairs Championship, were Nathalie Shashou & Nick Sandvist (1st), Kath Stynes & Debbie Stanford (4th), Trevor Mathews & Richard Creamer (6th) and Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan (8th). The best performance in the Corwen came from Chris & Brian who were challenging for the title throughout, but who finally finished in fourth place on 58.65%.

Lederer Memorial Trophy 2018

The usual ten strong international teams were once again invited to play in the Lederer Memorial Trophy in February this year. This was the Israeli team's second visit, and after coming third last time, they jumped to the top of the table this year. They are pictured, right, with Migry holding the trophy.



The final positions and the members of all the teams are shown below. For details of some of the hands, see David Burn's article on pages 19-21.

1	Israel	255
	Ilan Bareket, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile, Assaf Lengy	
2	Zia (Holders)	249
	Dennis Bilde, Jan Jansma, Zia Maymoud, Fred Nystrom, Kitty Teltscher (NPC Willie Coyle)	
3	Chairman's Team	245
	Sarah Bell, Mike Bell, Sally Brock, John Holland, Alan Mould, Barry Myers	
4	Gold Cup	234
	Andrew Black, Gunnar Hallberg, Phil King, Andrew McIntosh, Willie Whittaker, Frederick Wrang	
5=	Ireland	224
	Rory Boland, John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Mark Moran (NPC Gráinne Barton)	
5=	Allfrey	224
	Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Andrew Robson	

7	De Botton	223
Peter Bertheau, Janet de Botton, Thor-Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski, Dror Padon, Tom Townsend		
8	Gillis	210
Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist, Simon Gillis, Erik Salaensminde		
9	London	201
David Burn, Heather Dhondy, Gillian Fawcett, Joe Fawcett, Richard Granville, Frank To		
10	Iceland	185
Haukur Ingason, Thorlakur Jonsson, Ragnar Magnusson, Omar Olgeirsson		



Lederer 2018 Runners-up

Café Bridge Drive - Tonsleys

The Tonsleys Café Bridge was held on Tuesday 24th April this year. After several years working with the local Age UK branch, this time a new charity was chosen to benefit – or to be more accurate, two charities. Half of the takings were allocated to the EBU's campaign to send its three junior teams to the World Youth Team Championships in China this summer.

The other half went to Save the Children via another local business - the Mary's Living & Giving shop in Wandsworth Town.



**Save the
Children**

These charity shops were set up with the help of retail expert Mary Portas to raise money for Save the Children, as explained to our players by local shop manager Eugene Cooper who came along at the end to say a few words and to present the prizes. The picture shows him in the basement of the shop premises, where he sorts out all the clothes that are donated – a wonderful selection, so if you are looking for a bargain, do pop along to the shop and see what you can find!



This time we had 66 pairs playing. After terrible weather in the weeks beforehand, we were very fortunate that the rain stayed away and it was not too cold, so everyone had a great day. And a very successful one –

each charity received a donation of £800.

The leading positions at the end of the day were:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Sally Found & Paul Found | 64.23% |
| 2 | Brian Callaghan & Sally Brock | 63.91 |
| 3 | Susi Behrmann & Malcolm Morris | 63.20 |
| 4 | Jan Whitham & Rosie Robson | 62.56 |
| 5 | Jacky Morton & Sherry Murray | 62.24 |



The picture shows the winners with their prizes of champagne plus a meal voucher kindly donated by The East Hill, one of the participating venues.

Garden Cities

This year there was a good turnout of eight teams from 4 London clubs competing in the London Garden Cities heat on 22nd March.

The leading positions were:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | YCBC 2 | +115 IMPs |
| | Brian Callaghan, Chris Duckworth, Franklin To, Ian Payn,
Jackie Fairclough, Kath Stynes, Nathalie Shashoua, Nick Sandqvist | |
| 2 | YCBC 1 | +80 |
| | Fiona Hutchison, Graham Orsmond, Janet De Botton, Peter Taylor,
Phil King, Simon Gillis, Susanna Gross, Thor Erik Hoftaniska | |
| =3 | Woodberry 2 | +27 |
| | Andrew Cleary, Bill Linton, Dominic Flint, Harvey Fox,
Malcolm Morris, Pamela Reiss, Simon Fahoury, Steven Coulter | |

=3 YCBC 3

+27

David Burn, Richard Granville, Graham Sadie, Mike Graham,
David Muller, Trevor Mathews, Mark Davies, Richard Creamer,

The winning YCBC represented London in the Regional Final of the Garden Cities with Fiona Hutchison and Peter Taylor replacing Chris Duckworth and Brian Callaghan who were unavailable, but the team failed to qualify for the finals this time.

Fox Shammon

There was an increased entry in this year's Seniors Pairs for the Fox Shammon Trophy and an enjoyable afternoon's bridge was held.

The clear winners were Konrad Mau and John Gibbons – *pictured right* – and the leading positions were:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Konrad Mau & John Gibbons | 61.75% |
| 2 | Chris Duckworth & Brian Callaghan | 57.54 |
| 3 | Dick Jordan & Simon Prager | 57.34 |



Leagues

All Divisions of the London League finished this season with clear winners.

In Division 1, Heather Dhondy's newly promoted team stormed through to win by a large margin. They scored 102 VPs, well clear of the two equal second placed teams. These were Tartan, captained by Uday Hegde and August Red, captained by Mark Davies, both whom scored 67 VPs.

Division 2 was won by the Barrels, captained by John Clarke, with 76 VPs. Second was Will Roper's YC3 with 52 VPs

This year Division 3 was divided into two parallel divisions on a geographical basis. Division 3 South was won by CMS Alumni, captained by Mark Nichols. They scored 78 VPs, finishing ahead of the London Duplicate team captained by Sati McKenzie who gained 68 VPs.

Division 3 North was won by Diamond BC, captained by Sonia Griffiths, with 58 VPs and second were Coolhurst 1, captained by Jeff Lewis on 50 VPs.

The Home Counties League was competed by the usual six teams from three counties. This year London Red ran out winners, captained by Leagues organiser Dominic Flint. They scored 80 VPs ahead of Tony Richards' Surrey Orange on 57 VPs.

London News

Club News

The **West London Gay Bridge Club** is holding their Autumn Pairs on Saturday 6th October at St Gabriel's Church Hall in Pimlico, from 1.30 to 6.30pm. The entry fee is £20 per person, which includes tea and cakes and drinks afterwards and there are cash prizes. This is a blue-pointed event, licenced by the EBU, to which all are welcome. Enquiries and entries to davidking1712@gmail.com.

The **London Duplicate Bridge Club** will be holding the 2018 LDBC Pairs Championship in memory of Dorothy Shanahan on Saturday 13th October at the Civil Service Club in Great Scotland Yard. The start time is 12.00 noon and the event will comprise 36 boards with a one hour break in the middle. All are welcome – the entry fee is just £12 per person. There are cash prizes and an optional dinner at the end of the event. For more details or to register email shanahan.trophy@gmail.com.

The **Young Chelsea Bridge Club** is holding a few events at the club in the autumn that are open to all. There will be Ladies Swiss Teams on the weekend of 10th – 11th November, featuring 10 ten-board matches starting at 10.30 on Saturday and finishing at 4.30 on Sunday. The entry fee is £300 per team, which may consist of up to 6 players, which includes a buffet lunch on both days and a drinks reception, and there will be cash prizes. Enquiries and entries should be made to paula2012leslie@gmail.com.

The club is also holding a 12-hour Marathon Pairs on Saturday 1st December, starting at 11.00 am. More details of this and other special events at the club are available from the club manager, Louisa Spawls, on 07555 287005 or at youngchelsea@btconnect.com or.

In Memoriam

There have been some sad losses to the bridge world in the last few months.

Alison Gayfer died suddenly in February following a fall at her home. She was a regular player at the YCBC and was very popular, with a lively personality. She was a qualified bridge teacher who taught bridge at St Paul's School for a while and helped with the teaching programme at the club, including organising "Play with the Expert" events at the club for local school players playing with club members. Our sympathies go to her husband Mike Davis, also a London player, and her two daughters.

Julian Cotton was another regular at the Young Chelsea and also TGRs BC, who died in May aged 79, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Another lively character who is much missed by club members as well as his family and friends.

We also lost two big stars of the game who were regular players in the London bridge scene .



Colin Simpson died in March aged 69 after spending his final months in a hospice. Colin achieved just about all there is to achieve at the bridge table. He was a keen competitor and regular winner at the rubber bridge table, where he played for high stakes. He won all the major English events, including no less than seven wins in the Lederer Memorial Trophy. He represented England many times, culminating in his becoming World Champion in 2009 by winning the D'Orsi Seniors Teams in Sao Paolo. He

leaves behind his wife, Juliana, with whom he often played at the YCBC and elsewhere – our every sympathy to her.

Martin Hoffman was another giant of the game – indeed he was Colin Simpson's mentor in the early days. Born in 1929, Martin survived the holocaust to become what many considered the best pairs player in the world, renowned for the speed of his play. He won every major British competition but mainly he played professionally. He also enjoyed playing rubber bridge and he was doing so right up to the day he died in May, peacefully in his sleep. Our sympathies to his wife, Audrey.



New members

The LMBA is very pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the EBU through the London County during the first half of 2018:

Renee	Biggs	Catherine	Graham	Juliet	Morton
Andrew	Bradkin	Tom	Hankinson	Boris	Nedev
Thomas	Bradkin	Alex	Hannon	Renzo	Orlandi
Duncan	Cardow	Neill	Harcus	Luca	Patel
James	Cater	Angus	Heasman	Zachary	Potel
Jed	Cohen	Oscar	Henshaw	Sia	Ratajczak
David	Dangoor	Eduard	Hueffer	Jan	Riccio
Judy	Dangoor	Sally	Lescher	Benjamin	Savoy
Milan	Escarcega	Mary	Leslie	Marlon	Seton
Eleanor	Ewart	Shawn	Li	Dominic	Wallace
Bruce	Fraser	Stephen	Lowes	Leigh	Wright
Sue	Gillie	Lisa	Martini	Emmanuel	Zuridis
Tony	Gomes	Sara	Moran		

We also welcome the following existing EBU members who have transferred their allegiance to London, or past members who have rejoined, during the last 6 months:

Rolf	Alexander	Steven	Bird	Kitty	Teltscher
Alexandra	Birchall	Ivor	Snowden		

Forthcoming competitions

*Unless otherwise indicated, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. Membership requirements are specified in each competition description. **Details of how to enter events and make entry payments are at the end of this section.***

London League

Entries close **1st October 2018**

Holders:	Division 1	<i>Dhondy</i>	Capt: <i>Heather Dhondy</i>
	Division 2	<i>Barrels</i>	Capt: <i>John Clarke</i>
	Division 3 S	<i>CMS Alumni</i>	Capt: <i>Mark Nichols</i>
	Division 3 N	<i>Diamond BC</i>	Capt: <i>Sonia Griffiths</i>



These league competitions are for teams-of-four, although up to 8 people may play for any one team during the season. Matches are played in home or away venues, which may be homes, clubs or other suitable premises. There are currently two all-play-all divisions and two regionalised third divisions, with end of season promotion and relegation.

In Division 1 only, any systems are permitted, provided reasonable notice is given. The lower divisions of the London League are played at Level 4. All players in the London League must be EBU and LMBA members.

New teams are always welcome and will be considered for entry at any level, although it would be exceptional for a new team to enter Division 1 directly.

Entry fee: £25.00 per team.

Entries should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **London League** in the subject line, or may be sent by post to **Dominic Flint** at Flat 3, 3 Marylebone High Street, W1U 4NG.

Enquiries may also be made to Dominic on 07763 845457. Every effort will be made to accept late entries if necessary.

Home Counties League

Entries close **1st October 2018**

Holders: *London Red* – Capt: *Dominic Flint*

This is an inter-county teams-of-eight competition for London and the Home Counties. It is aimed at county second team players who would not normally be expected to represent their counties in events such as the Tollemache Cup. Teams are allowed to field at most two Grand Masters in any one match.



Matches are of 24 boards and are normally played at the YCBC on weekday evenings starting at 7.00 pm. Players must be members of the county that they represent but allegiance is not required. Green points are awarded.

Current participants are Middlesex, Surrey and London (each with two teams), so there is room for additional counties to join in – anyone interested should contact **Dominic Flint** at Dominic.Flint@clara.co.uk or on 07763 845457 for more details.

Entry fee: £20 per team.

Café Bridge Drive – Brook Green

Tuesday 18th September 2018

starting at **10.30 for 11.00 am**

Holders: *Gilly Arber & Elinor Malcolm*

This year will be the third Café Bridge event in the Brook Green area of Hammersmith. The tournament will be played in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in the area, each round of the competition being played in a different venue.



The charity to be supported this time is The Honey-pot Children's Charity, which works to enhance the lives of young carers and vulnerable children aged 5 – 12 years old. They are the only charity in the UK to provide respite breaks and on-going outreach support throughout a child's formative years - very worthwhile, I am sure you will agree. We like to support a local charity when we run Café Bridge events, and the Honey-pot's headquarters are in Brook Green, so it is an appropriate cause.



Players should report to The Jameson, 43 Blythe Road, W14 0HR to register on the morning of play. The nearest station is Hammersmith, a short walk away. Or for those that don't wish to walk, numerous buses also serve the area going along either the Shepherds Bush Road or the Hammersmith Road.

All are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.

Entry Fee: £30.00 per player, which includes lunch at whichever venue you find yourself in at lunchtime!

Advance entry is **essential**. Entries and enquiries should be sent, to arrive no later than 4th August 2018, to Imbaentries@gmail.com, quoting **Café Bridge Brook Green** in the subject line. Please note that Café Bridge events are very popular and numbers are restricted, so entries should be submitted as soon as possible, and will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Enquiries may be directed to **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534 or at christinejduckworth@gmail.com.

Mixed Pairs Championship

Sunday 30th September 2018 starting at **2.00pm**

Venue: Young Chelsea BC, 54 Goldhawk Road, W12 8HA

Holders: *Tony Ye & Qian Li*

The Mixed Pairs Championship is played as a single extended session, match-pointed, mixed pairs event, to be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

All players must be EBU members, but LMBA membership is not necessary.

Entry fee: £26.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Mixed Pairs** in the subject line.

Queries may be directed to the organiser, **David Muller** on 07847 618105.



Men's & Women's IMP Pairs

Sunday 2nd December 2018 starting at **2.00pm**

Venue: Young Chelsea BC, 54 Goldhawk Road W12 8HA

Holders: **Men:** *David Muller & Trevor Mathews*
Women: *Anne Rosen & Catherine Seale*

The Men's and Women's IMP Pairs will comprise a single extended session. If numbers permit, two separate sessions will be held for each field played at the same time in the same venue as each other, using the same hands. Alternatively, the field will be combined but prizes will still be awarded for the leading same-sex pairs.



Scoring will be by cross-IMPs, a form of scoring that is similar to teams-type scoring. That means the emphasis is on bidding and making your games, not on worrying about the extra few points from playing in no-trumps or from overtricks. In other words, a more relaxing form of the game than ordinary pairs, so something that we hope will appeal to many of our regular club and social players.

All players must be EBU members, but LMBA membership is not necessary.

Entry fee: £26.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be

helpful, and should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Men's Pairs or Women's Pairs** in the subject line. Queries may be directed to the organiser, **Michael Hill** on 01732 863283 or at michaelrd.hill@btinternet.com

Palmer Bayer Trophy

Sunday 2nd December 2018 starting at **2.00pm**

Venue: Young Chelsea BC

Holders: *Claire Smith & Mary Anne St Clair-Ford*

This single extended session, match-pointed, 'No Fear' pairs competition is for those who like to play tournament bridge under more relaxed conditions than often apply, and for those who particularly want to enjoy a social atmosphere when playing.

Improvers and tournament novices are most welcome and more experienced players may find this an ideal way to introduce family, friends and colleagues to organised bridge. Players need not be members of the EBU or LMBA.

The principal aim of this event is enjoyment, so the pace of play is a little more leisurely than usual. Simple systems only are allowed, but including weak two opening bids and transfers in response to 1NT openings. (A full description of allowed systems and conventions can be found at www.metrobridge.co.uk and will be made available at the event.) A complimentary glass of wine awaits you at the end of the session to be enjoyed whilst discussing the hands that you have just played with an expert, who will be happy to answer any questions.

Entry fee: £20.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful, and should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Palmer Bayer** in the subject line.

Queries may be directed to the organiser **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534 or at christinejduckworth@gmail.com.



Ian Gardiner Trophy

Sunday 10th February 2019
starting at **11.30am**

Venue: Young Chelsea BC

Holders: *John Pemberton, Steve Popham, Richard Creamer, Trevor Mathews*



This is the major London Teams of Four Championship, which is played as a one-day two-session multiple teams event from which the leading two eligible teams

qualify for a head-to-head 48-board match to determine the winner of the Ian Gardiner Trophy. Green-points will be awarded for both stages of the event, and the winners will be eligible to represent London in the Pachabo Cup, the national inter-county teams championship, on 8th - 9th June 2019. The qualifier is scored using the same method as the Pachabo – a combination of IMPs and point-a-board.

Note also that all players must be LMBA members and, in order to be eligible to go through to the final, all players in a team must have London as their primary County of allegiance before playing in the event.

Entry Fee: £72.00 per team.

Entries should be sent to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, quoting **Ian Gardiner** in the subject line, to arrive no later than 3rd February 2019.

Enquiries may be directed to the organiser, **Ian Payn**, on 07713 322420.

Lederer Memorial Trophy

Saturday-Sunday 23rd - 24th February 2019

Holders: *Israel – Ilan Bareket, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile, Assaf Lengy*

This prestigious invitational teams event will again be held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. This event goes from strength to strength and can be guaranteed to provide a first-class spectacle of bridge for anyone who would like to come along. You can watch play at the table, or in the VuGraph room with expert commentary, and you will experience all the excitement of bridge at the very top.

Full details of the teams, and of how to obtain your spectator tickets, will be published in the next issue of MetroNews. In the meantime enquiries may be directed to the organiser, Ian Payn, on 07713 322420.

Advance notice

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 17th March 2019 at 11.30 am.

Two session pairs at the Young Chelsea BC. This event is the qualifier for the national Corwen Trophy and the leading 4 pairs with London allegiance will qualify to play. The Corwen will be held on 1st – 2nd June 2019.

Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 21st March 2019 at 7.00 pm.

Inter-club teams of eight at the Young Chelsea BC

Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 31st March 2018 at 2.00pm

Seniors Pairs Championship at the Young Chelsea BC



Café Bridge Wandsworth

Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Café bridge in the Tonsleys area of Wandsworth



London Congress

Saturday-Sunday 13th-14th July 2019

Venue to be confirmed. The congress will comprise Swiss Pairs on Saturday and Swiss Teams on Sunday.

More details of all these events will be in the Spring 2019 issue of MetroNews.



Competition Information & Regulations

Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the description for each event. Where LMBA membership is required, players who are members of counties other than London can become LMBA dual members to meet this requirement by the payment of our dual membership subscription, which is £5 per annum. Subscriptions may be paid along with competition entry fees, making sure that full contact details for the individual are provided, including email address and existing EBU membership number if appropriate.

Seating policy. Players may be allocated a starting position by the TD on arrival at a venue, or may be required to draw a starting position or cut for North-South. Players who need a stationary position for medical or mobility reasons should if possible notify the organiser or venue in advance.

Competition regulations. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2017) apply to all competitions as do, where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee. Full LMBA competition rules for individual events may be found on the LMBA website at www.metrobridge.co.uk.

Payment of entry fees

Payment on the day is generally acceptable for most competitions, but pre-payment is necessary for the Café Bridge and London Congress events, both to avoid excessive registration times and because numbers are limited.

Payments may be by cash, by cheque made payable to LMBA, or by bank transfer. Debit and credit card payments are not possible.

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Lederer 2018

by David Burn

The Lederer Memorial Trophy is an annual event generously hosted at the RAC club in Pall Mall, and sponsored primarily by Simon Gillis. This year the winners were ISRAEL (Migry Zur Campanile, Michael Barel, Assaf Lengy, Ilan Bareket) just ahead of ZIA (Frederik Nystrom, Dennis Bilde, Kitty Teltscher, Jan Jasma, Zia Mahmood). The roster was of the GOLD CUP winners, DE BOTTON, ALLFREY, GILLIS, OLD UNCLE TOM COBBLEY, and ALL.



What would a spectator at the 2018 Lederer have learned from the field of international superstars there assembled? An important lesson is that, particularly at the form of scoring which is a mixture of IMPs and point-a-board, pre-empts vulnerable against not should be particularly sound – even if you are passed out and lose 200 against a part score, that costs you the board. When IRELAND met GOLD CUP this was the first deal:

NS Vul, Dealer North

	♠ AK109763		
	♥ 73		
	♦ 92		
	♣ K8		
♠ QJ42		♠ 5	
♥ A8654		♥ K92	
♦ A		♦ KQJ104	
♣ 952		♣ AQ63	
	♠ 8		
	♥ QJ10		
	♦ 87653		
	♣ J1074		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	3♠	Double	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Another principle attributed to the great American player Edgar Kaplan holds that you should take out your partner's takeout doubles. Frederic Wrang,

playing for the Gold Cup winners with his fellow Swede Gunnar Hallberg, did this and scored 450. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Carroll	Whittaker	Moran	Black
	3♠	Double	All Pass

Wille Whittaker for Gold Cup also opened a rock-solid pre-empt, but John Carroll for Ireland is no Kaplanite, and he scored 1100. Our spectator amended his copybook: open sound pre-empts one not three, and leave in your partner's takeout doubles.

♣♦♥♠

Reverses show extra values, and responder can use Lebensohl to show a weak hand following a two-level reverse by opener. A 1NT opening shows 15-17 balanced. From ALLFREY v ZIA:

Game all, Dealer South

<p> ♠ K962 ♥ 106 ♦ K93 ♣ A1032 </p>			
♠ QJ753 ♥ 74 ♦ 82 ♣ QJ94		♠ 108 ♥ KQJ95 ♦ J75 ♣ K75	
<p> ♠ A4 ♥ A832 ♦ AQ1064 ♣ 86 </p>			

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

A strong no trump and Stayman auction saw Nystrom for ZIA in a sound vulnerable game: since North had implied spades West led ♣Q. It held, and he continued carefully with ♣9 to pin declarer's doubleton ♣8. Declarer ducked this also, but won the third club in dummy. He could have made ten tricks now by ducking a heart to East, later squeezing West in the black suits – an important consideration at point-a-board – but when the diamonds broke he cashed his winners and settled for 600. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Robson</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Our spectator, frowning a little, inserted “don’t” between “Reverses” and “show extra values”, crossed out “Lebensohl”, and amended 15 to 14 in the definition of a strong no trump.

♣♦♥♠

When the enemy open a strong no trump, received wisdom is that one strives energetically to enter the auction – not necessarily in the hope of buying the contract, but merely to disrupt the machinery that the opponents will otherwise use to find their optimum spot. One does not try for game when an opponent opens 1NT. From ISRAEL v DE BOTTON:

EW Vul, Dealer South

♠ 52	
♥ K932	
♦ 92	
♣ J7632	
♠ AQ6	♠ J108743
♥ J6	♥ A1054
♦ AQ8743	♦ K10
♣ 109	♣ 4
♠ K9	
♥ Q87	
♦ J65	
♣ AKQ85	

West	North	East	South
<i>Malin-owski</i>	<i>Camp-anile</i>	<i>de Botton</i>	<i>Barel</i>
			1NT
2♦	All Pass		

West's 2♦ overcall was natural, and seemed to East a reasonable enough spot. North led a spade, so West recorded the unusual score of plus 190. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Padon</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
			1NT
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ showed one major, 2♥ was to play facing hearts, 4♠ was to play facing spades. A hand-written footnote in our spectator's manual reads “One does not try for game – one bids it, or may try for slam.”

♣♦♥♠

“Always consider” say texts on the pairs game, “what result you need – if you have beaten par in the bidding, don't take a risk in the play.” From LONDON v the CHAIRMAN's team:

Love all, Dealer East

♠ Q1075
 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ 1064
 ♠ AJ985
 ♥ 42
 ♦ J5
 ♣ K983
 ♠ K6
 ♥ 865
 ♦ A86
 ♣ AQ752
 ♠ 42
 ♥ KQ1097
 ♦ K9432
 ♣ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Burn</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		1NT (1)	2♥ (2)
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 14-16

(2) Hearts and a minor

West led ♠A and another to the ten and king. East shifted to ♣A and another, ruffed by South who cashed ♥K and led a diamond to the ten (well done) and ace. Ruffing the third round of clubs, Heather Dhondy played a diamond to the jack and queen, then reviewed the situation. Our spectator watching on vugraph could follow her thought processes – if trumps were 4-1, as seemed likely on the bidding, she couldn't draw them so should continue diamonds to ensure down only one. Would that win the board? Well, the opponents would be able to make 4♣ so minus 100 should be good enough against 130 at the other table. But the third round of diamonds was ruffed by *West*, so the contract was down when it could have been made.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Granville</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Mould</i>
		1♣	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥
All pass			

The defence started with two rounds of clubs, and Alan Mould for CHAIRMAN ruffed and played a diamond to the queen and ace. Frank To for LONDON chose to return a diamond, and although declarer would doubtless have got those wrong left to his own devices, he refused to believe that To would lead from the jack with ♦107 remaining in the dummy. He went up with the king, and he made four diamond tricks and five hearts to win the board. "Always consider", mused our spectator, "that your team-mates have probably done the wrong thing and you'll need at least plus 530 on a part score hand to cover them."

Pictured below: Artur Malinowski & Janet de Botton playing against Migry Campanile and Michael Barel in the 2018 Lederer



Meet Mike Bell

by Chris Duckworth

Mike Bell has risen through the ranks from being a casual junior player only 10 or so years ago, to being one of the country's bridge elite. This rapid advance means that there are still many bridge players who don't know much about him, something I hope to redress in this article.



Mike was one of several pupils at Reading School who were introduced to bridge by Judy Honickberg, one of the teachers there. He was just 14 then, and he continued to play a little at school and started to play duplicate when he left. He enrolled at Warwick University to study maths, but found he did not enjoy studying. He did enjoy playing bridge, so he dropped out and continued to hone his bridge skills.

At that time, online gambling was becoming a big thing, and Mike took up playing poker professionally. In 2010, at the age of 25 he embarked on the potentially lucrative quest to reach the top level of the "loyalty scheme" on a poker site. This required playing almost two million hands in the year! He made a small profit at the tables, but the year would be a failure if he didn't make the target - he was still playing at a party on New Year's Eve. He continued to play on this scale for another couple of years, but in 2013 he decided he had had enough of this way of life and he stopped playing altogether.

One of the main reasons for the change was the fact that Sarah – then O'Connor, now his wife – had just finished training to be a teacher. They had lived together in Cambridge and Manchester and Cambridge whilst Sarah had been studying. She Sarah got a job working at St Paul's Girls School and Mike took advantage of the move to London to start playing bridge professionally full-time.

He was helped at the start by Richmond Bridge Club. Professionalism was almost unknown there, but the astute club manager recognised that having a top class player in the club would be an asset. So she introduced Mike to a few people and he built up his business from these. At one point he was playing too many duplicates each week (Sarah suggested she would like to see him on occasion!), but he now reckons he has a better balance of activities.



Whilst in Manchester, Mike formed a bridge partnership with Michael Byrne (*left*). They had considerable success, including being part of the Camrose winning team in 2009. They won the Premier League in 2010, along with Neil Rosen & Martin Jones, Espen Erichsen & Norman Selway, earning a place in the Lederer. They won the event, and won again when invited back as the Holders in 2012. They went their separate ways for a while, but Mike will be re-forming his partnership with Michael later this year when they travel to Orlando in

Florida for the Open World Series. They will play on a US pro team in the Rosenblum Open Teams, after which Mike and Sarah will play in the Mixed Teams with Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne.

In 2015, Mike formed a new partnership with David Gold (*right*) playing in the Allfrey team with many more successes. They won three Spring Foursomes in a row – each time beating the Irish national team in the final – and the 2016 and 2017 Premier League. They were selected for the Camrose team in 2016, 2017 and 2018 – though they didn't play this year because of the change of date caused by the snow in March! Mike and David also had considerable success playing together in the US last year, reaching the semi-final of the Spingold at the Summer Nationals and winning the Mitchell Board-a-Match before following up with sixth place in the Reisinger at the Fall Nationals.



Mike was also a member of the London Tollemache team which won the trophy in 2016 and 2017, playing once with Sarah and once with Kieran Dyke. Another significant achievement was winning the Four Star Teams at the Summer Festival in Eastbourne last year on a team mainly consisting of London members – Marion Robertson, Sarah, Kieran and Michael.

Neither Mike nor David Gold played in the England open team this year in Ostend, having decided not to enter the trials together this time. Mike feels strongly that, given the decision that the team be decided partially by selection and partially by trials, David should clearly have been one of the players selected, and that their form merited a place as a pair.

Mike's preferred system, when playing in serious partnerships, is one of his own devising known as TriBal. The name comes from the fact that there are three ways to show balanced hands – hands in the 15-17 range are opened 1NT, 1♣ is opened on stronger hands and 1♦ on weaker hands. A popular agreement these days with five-card major systems is to play transfers after a 1♣ opening, and these are included in TriBal, though they differ from the norm as there is no need to include a bid to show a weak NT. The system certainly seems to work well!

I asked Mike about his favourite partner. He was reluctant to choose one, but said, perhaps not surprisingly, that he was most emotionally invested in seeing how far he can take his partnership with Sarah. He is playing with her in the Mixed European Trials in September and I would think they have a very good chance of doing well. He would of course also like to represent England internationally at the top level, and given that he is still so young, only 33, there is every likelihood he will achieve this aim – and maybe help to bring the Bermuda Bowl to this country one day!

Finally, I asked Mike about a favourite hand, and he gave me two, both from events last year that he won with David as part of the Allfrey team. Interestingly, both feature a psychological ploy.

EW Vul. Dealer South.

♠ 1062
♥ QJ63
♦ K103
♣ A107

♠ 98
♥ 62
♦ QJ764
♣ K964

♠ AKQ43
♥ 109
♦ —
♣ QJ8532

♠ J75
♥ AK874
♦ A9852
♣ —

The first was from the semi-finals of the Spring Fours.

Mike, South, opened 1♥. Giorgio Duboin on his left passed and David Gold bid 3♦ showing a 4-card heart raise. Denis Bilde, on Mike's right, bid 3♥, clearly a two-suiter including spades. Now Mike thought of bidding a natural 4♦, to help his partner later in the auction, but he realised this would also help his opponents. So he was on the verge of just bidding 4♥ when he realised he could do better. He bid 4♣ and, sure enough, Duboin thought his partner had spades and diamonds. He bid 4♦, David bid 4♥ and Bilde doubled. Mike passed but Duboin was still convinced and he went on to 5♦. This went six off vulnerable, when NS could not even make game!

The second hand was from the Premier League:

♠ —
♥ J32
♦ K87
♣ Q1087652

♠ J1053
♥ 6
♦ Q842
♣ AK94

♠ K987642
♥ K
♦ A105
♣ J3

♠ AQ
♥ AQ1097543
♦ J63
♣ —

This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Gold</i>		<i>Bell</i>
Pass	3♣	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
Double	All Pass		

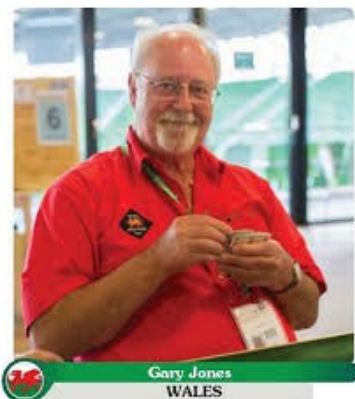
West led a trump to the king and ace, and Mike cashed the ♠A, throwing a diamond from dummy and ruffed the ♠Q. A club was ruffed to hand and now Mike had to lose only one diamond to make his contract.

He was pretty sure the ♦A was on his right from a combination of the vulnerable 3♠ bid, the trump lead from West (suggesting stoppers in dummy's suit) and the fact that East had played low in tempo on the first round of clubs (suggesting West held ♣AJ at minimum). So he led ♦J from his hand. West did not cover, assuming declarer held ♦J10 and needed to guess correctly. Now Mike played low from dummy, the ♦A appeared, and the slam was made!

Down Under

by Paul Lamford

This year Australia hosted the quadrennial Commonwealth Teams Championship in the Gold Coast, south of Brisbane. Wales were the defending champions in this event, which is very much the baby of Paul Hackett.



Gary Jones and Tim Rees of Wales have both played in the four previous events, Manchester 2002 (Canada), Murrumbena 2006 (India), Delhi 2010 (Australia) and Glasgow 2014 (Wales) with the winners in brackets. West London resident Gary Jones uses an underground station that has all five vowels once and once only. Which is it?



Test yourself on three play problems before reading on.

NS Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 86
♥ 1098642
♦ Q95
♣ A9

♠ AK107532
♥ Q5
♦ K83
♣ 10

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	3♣	4♠
All Pass			

West leads the seven of clubs. Trumps will split 2-2, which helps quite a lot, but you still need to manage to avoid four red losers.

♣♦♥♠

This was the bidding on the following hand:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Love All. Dealer West.

♠ AQ75
♥ Q9
♦ 652
♣ 10975

♠ K10986
♥ A43
♦ AQ43
♣ J

West leads a small trump. Over to you.

♣♦♥♠

And one other hand from the qualifiers

EW Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 2
♥ J843
♦ AK1054
♣ Q94

♠ A5
♥ 7
♦ Q98762
♣ A853

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦
4♠	5♦	All Pass	

West leads the king of spades. You win and duck a heart but East wins with the king and plays a trump, West following. Plan the play.

♣♦♥♠

The first of the above was tough.

NS Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 86	
♥ 1098642	
♦ Q95	
♣ A9	
♠ 94	♠ QJ
♥ AKJ	♥ 73
♦ A764	♦ J102
♣ 8754	♣ KQJ632
♠ AK107532	
♥ Q5	
♦ K83	
♣ 10	

Some pairs reached the thin Four Spades here and most went off.

The winning line is to draw trumps in two rounds and then play four more rounds of trumps. West has to come down to ♥AKJ ♦Axx but now declarer leads a heart. West is caught in an unusual stepping-stone trump squeeze. If he plays two more rounds of hearts, then declarer had an entry for the hearts. If he plays a diamond, then declarer runs it round to his king.

♣♦♥♠

On the second deal above, the full hand was:

Love All. Dealer West.

♠ AQ75	
♥ Q9	
♦ 652	
♣ 10975	
♠ J42	♠ 3
♥ K62	♥ J10875
♦ KJ7	♦ 1098
♣ Q432	♣ AK86
♠ K10986	
♥ A43	
♦ AQ43	
♣ J	

Playing in 4♠, after winning the queen of spades, Lamford played a diamond to the queen. West won and switched to a small club and East played the king.

Now East naturally enough played a heart, and West won with the king. Now declarer was home as he could discard a diamond on the third round of hearts, and ruff a diamond.

The winning defence was for either West or East to play a second diamond before the heart is established. Declarer can set up the long diamond for a heart discard, but needs a 2-2 trump break or there is a slow heart loser. Lamford could have made the contract without the mis-defence by playing a heart towards dummy at trick two (or after drawing a second trump), but did not think East would have opened without either red king.

♣♦♥♠

There were quite a lot of Londoners in the Gold Coast and certainly plenty of Brits and it seemed at times a bit like the London Super League.

Wales played an Australian state team early on when the third problem hand given above came up.

EW Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 2	
♥ J843	
♦ AK1054	
♣ Q94	
♠ KQ1063	♠ J9874
♥ Q952	♥ AK106
♦ J	♦ 3
♣ J76	♣ KT2
♠ A5	
♥ 7	
♦ Q98762	
♣ A853	

Several declarers including Kieran Dyke (*right*) and Brian Callaghan (*below*) made Five Diamonds here.



After the normal king of spades lead, both ruffed a spade and led a heart, East playing the ace and exiting with a trump. Now declarer ruffed a

heart crossed to a diamond, ruffed a heart crossed to a diamond and ruffed the last heart. When South led a club towards dummy, the defence was dead. If West put in the jack, declarer would rise and duck the club return and when West did not, Binkie and Kieran both put in the nine of clubs end-playing East.

Kieran, relating the ending, asked me which three plays are named after a

person. The answer is at the end of the article.

The English team of Hyett, Eginton, Callaghan, Duckworth and Hirst reached the last eight with a very steady performance throughout. They led the “The Auld Enemy”, the perfidious Scots (according to the monarchs) by 11 IMPS with 4 boards to play, but then Victor Silverstone made a game that could have been defeated to close the margin to one. A dramatic last board saw Derek Diamond make a 3NT contract that could also have been defeated and the Scots were through. It seemed that England tired a little at the end but the Scots, who had apparently found the local restaurant serving haggis, clapsnot and whisky sauce, bid lots of thin games and played well under pressure.



The England A team

Try this play problem after the following auction:

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

Game All. Dealer South

♠ KJ5	
♥ K98	
♦ AJ53	
♣ 1054	
♠ 4	♠ Q102
♥ J43	♥ 1075
♦ 1098	♦ KQ642
♣ J87632	♣ K9
♠ A98763	
♥ AQ62	
♦ 7	
♣ AQ	

West leads the ten of diamonds and your ace holds. How do you play?

This was the penultimate board of the England v Scotland match and all the spectators could see it would be flat in 6♠, but it could have been critical. The

fourth heart is a bit of a mirage, and I think the right line is to finesse the club at trick two.

Binkie tried for the extra chance of KQx of diamonds on his right, but then he was not able to safely play the spades by leading the king first. You do have to worry about the fourth heart, but if the club holds you can play the king of spades, a spade to the ace and ruff it if necessary. Here all roads led to Rome and the golfers moved to the final hole where a thin 3NT made and Scotland were through. Binkie admitted that his team had every chance to win two matches but, like England so often in the football, they snatched defeat from the jaws of victory.

♣♦♥♠

While the Commonwealth Nations Tournament was reaching the knockout stage, the European Winter Games was in the qualifying stage in Monaco. Lots of London players had made the shorter trip to the principality and they met early on when de Botton played Black. Another quiz question is which member of this year's Gold Cup winners, Black, played in the first Commonwealth Teams Championship?

Most beginners routinely pass with three aces and no intermediates but very few strong players do, although I remember

Willie Whittaker (left) telling me it was good bridge to pass even non-vulnerable.



On the following hand it bore unexpected fruit.

Game All Dealer North

♠ A4	
♥ 762	
♦ A8642	
♣ A83	
♠ 8652	♠ KJ7
♥ AKQJ105	♥ 43
♦ 7	♦ J9
♣ 105	♣ KQJ642
♠ Q1093	
♥ 98	
♦ KQ1053	
♣ 97	

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Whittaker	de Botton	Black
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led ace and another diamond and Artur won, drew trumps and played a club. Willie won the first round and underled the Ace of spades. Artur, “knowing” that South had the ace, tried the jack, and that was one down.

There are many ways passing the North hand can gain, but few where it can lose. Any hand that will make game will be opened by partner third in hand, and if one does become a defender or declarer then the opponents will not play you for three aces. The opponents are unlikely to have game, except perhaps in 3NT. Passed out is maybe the worst outcome but in these days of opening garbage third in hand that is not an issue! So the “Bols tip” from this article is to pass three bullets in first or second seat.

The London Underground station with all five vowels is South Ealing. Kieran Dyke also pointed out to me that there was only one Underground station without any of the letters of Underground, but I will leave the reader to find that!

On the names question, I was able to recall two, Morton’s fork and the Deschappeles Coup, but did not know that the backwash squeeze was once known as the Seres squeeze after the legendary great and late Australian Tim Seres (*right*). There were plenty of questions only known to Australians in a quiz we went to during the second week down under, but sadly this one did not occur!

And, on the member of the Black team, it was of course, Willie Whittaker who played for Scotland in the 2002 Commonwealth Team Championship.

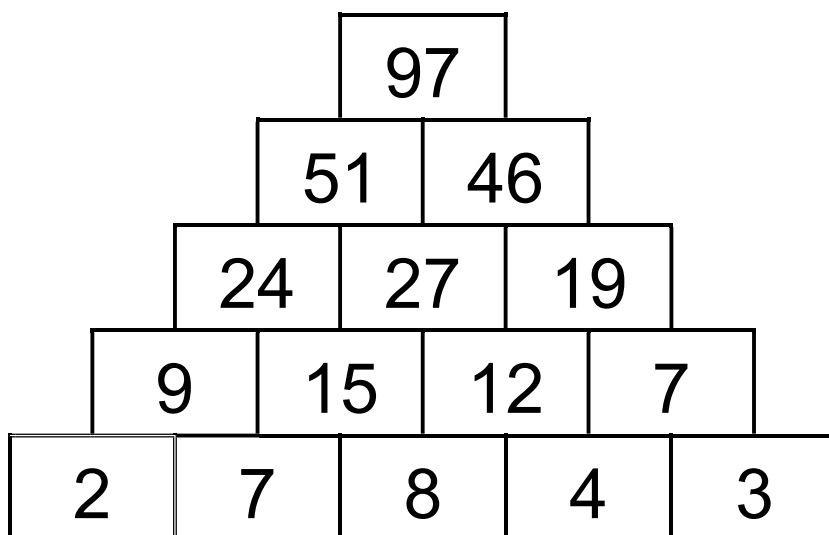


Puzzle Solution

(see page 4)

The answer is 2.

The completed pyramid, right, shows how this is calculated.



How to go minus

by Mike Graham

It is always irritating to end up minus on a deal where you had the potential to go plus. You know the sort of thing: you bid to 2♠, and the opposition bid 3♥, which you can defeat, but you or your partner bid on to 3♠ and go one off yourselves. Quite often, in teams, this ends up as a flat board. OK, flat board, next. But the chance was there to pick up a small swing, and it has been squandered.



Playing pairs, it might not be so simple. Let us say that you bid to 4♠, which you reckon will be an almost-universal action. However, the opponents take what looks like a sacrifice (say, 5♥). Should you bid on to 5♠ or double?

This deal came up recently at the Young Chelsea club in a pairs event with cross-imp scoring (effectively teams). South held:

♠ KQ10953
♥ K7
♦ A8
♣ Q52

East dealt at love all and opened 1♥. South bid the obvious 1♠, and West raised to 2♥. North bid 3♥, showing a good high-card raise to 3♠. East bid a prompt 4♥, and South duly bid 4♠.

On the actual hand, that should have been the end of it, and South would have wrapped up ten easy tricks for +420 and a flat board. However, East refused to go gently into that good night, and bid 5♥. Now what should South do?

At the vulnerability (love all), double looks a stand-out. The hand has no extra distributional features, and all the high cards look defensive in nature. Also, North is known to have a few high cards as well, which will contribute to the defence; and indeed double would have led to a straightforward

+500 for down three, with an outside chance for 800, the full hand being:

Love All. Dealer East

♠ AJ84
♥ A85
♦ Q732
♣ 109

♠ 62	♠ 7
♥ Q102	♥ J9643
♦ K10654	♦ J9
♣ 863	♣ AKJ74

♠ KQ10953
♥ K7
♦ A8
♣ Q52

However, South emerged with a bid of 5♠, a call that looks ludicrous under the scoring method. If we assume that 4♠ is normal, and that 420/450 is normal, then doubling and taking +300 is minus three or four imps – no disaster. But if 5♠ goes down, you stand to lose 10 or 11 imps – a completely different matter. And, really, there is nothing in the South hand that suggests 5♠ will make.

Anyway, 5♠ was passed out (unusual; at the YC these sorts of auction normally end with a double) and West

led a heart. Declarer, regretting his folly, gazed at dummy mournfully – it looked like this was going to cost 10 imps. East played the jack and South won with the king.

Deciding to just get on with it, South crossed to the jack of spades and led a club. East played the king and switched to a cunning ♦9 (cashing the ace of clubs first would have been better). South had no real option other than to play low, hoping East had underled the king, but it was not to be – West won with the king. Presumably hoping the diamond was a singleton, West continued the suit, but now the contract was cold.

South won with the ace, crossed to the ace of spades, and cashed the Queen of Diamonds. When East showed out, South ran all the trumps, which led to this three-card double-squeeze ending:

♠ –	
♥ A8	
♦ 7	
♣ –	
♠ –	♠ –
♥ Q10	♥ J9
♦ 10	♦ –
♣ –	♣ A
♠ 5	
♥ 7	
♦ –	
♣ Q	

On the last trump West had to keep the ♦10, so ♥10 had to go. The ♦7 was discarded from dummy (alas, bye bye beer card) and East was squeezed. Electing to keep the ♣A, he threw a heart, so the ♥8 made the last trick.

So, the net result of all this was 1 imp to North-South, and a Monster Point each for East and South for bidding at

the five-level. East, at least, had some excuse – he was 5521 and could hope that 5♥ would be a 300 save. But South? If 5♠ goes off, you lose 10 imps and partner thinks you are an idiot – and if 5♠ makes, partner still thinks you are an idiot.

♠♥♦♣

In the recent Hong Kong inter-city championship, West held:

♠ 7
♥ K10862
♦ K8
♣ AQJ74

South opened 1♠. West bid 2♠, a Michaels cue-bid (so named after an American, Mike Michaels of Florida), showing at least 5/5 including hearts. North passed, and East bid 3♣. This was not natural – it was a pass-or-correct bid, asking partner to pass if he had clubs and to correct to diamonds if he didn't. South now bid 3♦. What should West do?

If you passed, take 10 points and go on to the next question. Partner's 3♣ did not show anything specific, and certainly not any degree of club length, or indeed any high cards. It denied heart preference, as otherwise East could have bid 3♥.

Presumably it was open to East to jump with both minors – playing Michaels, it would be normal to jump to 4♣ or 5♣ if you have both minors, as you know that you have a fit. But 3♣ carries no such inference. It follows that the bid West made, 4♣, was a drastic overbid, and it was duly punished to the tune of 500. The actual deal, not particularly relevant, gives East-West a chance for 300 if West allows East to double North's preference bid of 3♠, but that was an

unlikely outcome. At least defending would have resulted in a plus score.

Another deal from the same event. South picked up:

♠ 10864
♥ 7
♦ J765
♣ AQ84

You are dealer and the opponents are vulnerable. The auction takes this course:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	?

2NT shows 11-12 balanced. What is going on? South presumably thought that this double was for take-out, and bid 4♠. But how can it be? How can North be doubling for take-out at the four-level if he could not double at the one-level? Poor South had to struggle in 4♠x with his four to the ten facing 93 doubleton; it didn't play well. Partner's hearts (QJ1086) withered on the vine. It was a 14-imp swing out instead of a 7-imp swing in.

♠♥♦♣

Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 3	
♥ AQ82	
♦ J7652	
♣ J87	
♠ AKJ642	♠ Q9875
♥ K3	♥ J76
♦ 83	♦ 1094
♣ K53	♣ Q6
♠ 10	
♥ 10954	
♦ AKQ	
♣ A10942	

This deal, from the recent Turkish club championships, featured a number of close decisions:

The auction started the same at both tables; East passed, South opened 1♣, West overcalled 1♠, and North doubled. Now the paths diverged

One East raised to 2♠, the other to 3♠. Indeed, the Law of Total Tricks suggests bidding 4♠ on the East hand (ten trumps, and all that), but with a sterile 5332 shape and a jack and two queens, that might be overdoing it at the vulnerability. South now bid hearts at the necessary level; 3♥ in one case, 4♥ in the other.

At the table where West saw his partner bid 2♠ only, he went quietly (although the aforementioned Law suggests 3♠ - nine trumps). This seems slightly conservative with the rounded kings over the opening bidder. North raised to 4♥, and that was that. Declarer led an early heart to the queen, cashed the ace, and went about his business for 420.

Where West saw a raise to 3♠, he bid 4♠ over 4♥. Maybe the lie of the cards was a little unfortunate, but a double would have netted 500 and a couple of imps in. However, North went on to 5♥.

You have to wonder why, as the hand had no extra features that had not been shown earlier with the original double. South, who would likely have doubled 4♠, had to lose three tricks, so a potential 2-imp gain became a 10-imp loss.

Congratulations

to the following LMBA members who have done well in national and international events over the last few months.



Many congratulations to those London members who have earned international honours and have represented England this year.

In the Lady Milne trials, **Heather Dhondy** was first, **Alexandra Birchall** and **Qian Li** were second and **Heather Bakhshi** was third. All three pairs were selected for the Lady Milne, in which they were runners-up to Scotland.

In the Open trials **David Bakhshi** was second and **Keiran Dyke** was third. **David Bakhshi** was selected along with **Andrew Robson** to represent England in the European Championships. Following trials, **Heather Dhondy** was selected for the Women's European team. In Senior trials the team including **David Muller** beat the Hackett team, including **Gunnar Hallberg**, in a play-off, also earning selection for the Europeans. All three teams played well in the Europeans and qualified to go to the World Championships in China next year,

England won both the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer this year. The Peggy Bayer team included **Theo Gillis** (on left in picture, right) and the Junior Camrose team included **Alexandra Birchall** and **Toby Nonnenmacher** (bottom left and top right respectively in picture below).



London has players in all three of the junior teams going to China shortly for the 17th World Youth Bridge Team Championships – **Toby Nonnenmacher** in the Under26 team, **Liam Sanderson** in the U21s and **Jasmine Bakhshi** and **Oscar Selby** in the U16s.



In the Funbridge Online games, **John Pemberton** won in February and was second in all of March, April and May!

The 2018 Hubert Phillips was won by a team including **David Gold** and **Susanna Gross** (second and fourth from left respectively).

♣♦♥♠



In the January Point-a-Board Teams, **Tom Townsend** was victorious (*on right in picture. left*). **Mike Bell** was in the second placed team and **Ben Green** was third.

In the Consolation teams at the same event, the second-placed team was **Simon Gillis, David Gold, Theo Gillis** and **Liam Sanderson**.

♣♦♥♠

At the Budapest Overseas Congress, **David Wing** was second in the Pairs.

At the Harrogate Spring Congress, **Stefanie Rohan** and **Kiril Delev** were third in the Swiss Pairs.

At the Young Bridge Challenge weekend, the runners-up in the Schools Cup were a team from Westminster School including **Liam Sanderson, Theo Gillis** and **Oscar Selby**. The Harry Scully was won by a team including **Alex Pemberton**, while **Nick Heymann** was in the third-placed team.

At the Ranked Masters, **Richard Creamer** was third in the Life Masters and the National Masters was won by **Heather Bakhshi** and Claire Robinson (*right*).

In the South-East heat of the National Pairs Regional Finals, **Andrew Bannock** was second and **Kevin Robins** was third. **Ben Green** was third in the Midlands heat and came second overall in the Final.



In the Swiss Teams at the Riviera Congress, the team of **Tim Chanter**, **Helen Wildsmith**, **Graham Pollack** and **Andrew Whittome** were third.

At the London heat of the Portland Pairs, **Peter Taylor** and **Susanna Gross** were second and **Kitty Teltscher** and **Steve Eginton** were third. In the Richmond heat, **Nick Sandqvist** and **Nathalie Shashoua** won and **David Gold** was second. When all the results were amalgamated, **Nick & Nathalie** and **David** dropped a place to second and third overall respectively.

At the Summer Seniors Congress, **Lorne Anderson** was third in the Swiss Pairs.



♣♦♥♠

At the Easter Festival, **Francois Picard** was second in the Swiss Teams, with **Simon Gillis** and **Paul Lamford** third.

The Swiss Pairs was won by **Peter Taylor**, playing with Richard Hillman (*left*).

In the Jack High Pairs, **Kyoko Hashizume** and **Noriko Horsley** were second.

In the Under 21 Pairs, **Oscar Selby** was second.

In the Northern Easter Festival Swiss Teams **Helen Wildsmith** and **Tim Chanter** were second.

♣♦♥♠

At the Lambourne Jersey Festival, two London players did well. **Paul Martin** won the consolation mid-week teams and was second in the Swiss Teams. **Mike Bull** came second in the Pre-Congress Pairs, third in the Mid-week teams, and won both the Swiss Teams (*see picture right – Mike is second from right*) and the Seniors Teams.



♣♦♥♠

The National Swiss Teams Congress was won by **Ben Green** (*on left in picture*).



The Schapiro Spring Foursomes was won by the team including **Andrew Robson, David Gold and Mike Bell** (*right*). **Simon Gillis** and **Glyn Liggins** were runners-up.

The Punchbowl was won by **Janet de Botton, Thor Erik Hoftaniska and David Bakhshi**, (*see below*) with **Brian Callaghan and Heather Dhondy** in second place.



♣♦♥♠

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress, the Championship pairs was won by **David Bakhshi** playing with Shahzaad Natt (*left below*).

The Championship Pairs B final was won by **Marusa Basa** playing with Diana Nettleton (*right below*)

The Swiss Teams was won by **Nick Sandqvist and Nathalie Shashou** (*centre below*).



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