

Number 53, October 2009

# Cambs & Hunts news

Good results in the EBU's Summer Congress, with Jon Cooke winning the Swiss Pairs, and Chris Jagger runner-up. The Jaggers, Jonathan Mestel and Ian Pagan also collected trophies at the EBU's Spring Bank Holiday Congress in Bournemouth.

Mike Seaver and Peter Morgan were the national winners of the Worldwide Bridge Contest simultaneous pairs, and finished 20th worldwide.

Cambridge D (David Harrison, Peter Bhagat, Alex Green, John Liebeschuetz, Mike Seaver, Iain Watson) reached the semi-finals of the NICKO.

Last chance to enter the **County Knockout Teams** Entries to Chris Jagger by 12th October. Paul Bond is investigating running a local Club Directors course. If you might be interested, email him at bridge@systems.co.uk

## In this issue...

Chris Jagger recounts hands from the final of Crockfords; we chat to Dave Harrison; Aunt Agony is on fine form; and Sheila Parker pays tribute to her mother Eileen Manning.

Jonathan Mestel finds himself inspired at the bridge table ... to rewrite song lyrics. And don't miss the usual round-up of results from club and county events, plus an **entry form for the Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams** and the **County Calendar** at the end of this issue.

Visit the county's website at

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

- information on bridge clubs
- this and previous newsletters
- details of competitions and results

Please send items for the website to **David Allen** on <u>david@djallen.org.uk</u> The next newsletter will be published in January.

Please send in news, letters and hands no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December. All contributions welcome!

Editors: Chris & Catherine Jagger

2 Wycliffe Road, Cambridge, CB1 3JD Tel: 01223 526586 Email: <u>chjagger@deloitte.co.uk</u> or <u>catherine@circaworld.com</u>

### **Profile – Dave Harrison**

Dave Harrison is retiring to the Lake District soon, so has stepped down from running several of the county competitions, after over 30 years involvement with the county including as Vice-President and County Captain. He has also been heavily involved in the Cambridge Club as TD and Chairman, and scorer since 1976.

In that time he has won the Nicko, Garden Cities, ECL (as captain, which was the first time Cambs & Hunts had won it), and 3rd in the Tolle and Pachabo. He has also won almost every County Competition - just the County Individual has eluded him.

His remaining ambition is to reach Grand Master.

Dave – how did you end up in Cambridge?

My present job is only my third since leaving University. I was at Durham University (Computer Officer in Theoretical Physics) reaching Club Master just before leaving there in Oct 1971 to come to Cambridge.

# Your wife Alison is a regular at the Cambridge Club. How did you meet?

Our departmental secretary suggested to me that I got together with Alison. I knew she liked jazz in general and Oscar Peterson in particular, so I asked her out to a couple of gigs and the rest is history, as they say. We subsequently saw OP in concert in London on two occasions.

Dave, you are well known for your bridge software - I believe you wrote one of the earliest scoring programs?

The program is still the club and county mainstay, although scorebridge may well take over soon. It was certainly have been one of the first. It began as an Assembler program on a IBM mainframe computer. The main feature is its versatility, as it could run on almost any computer system (Windows, Mac, Unix etc), as far as I know the only one that can do so. The downside is that it (intentionally) doesn't have a graphical user interface.

When you are not playing bridge, I believe you have a number of other serious interests?

I am a regular at table tennis, being involved in the Cambridge League and Cambs Table Tennis Committee.

I am also an exceptionally keen walker, especially fell walking in the Lakes, Dales and Peaks. I am also on the committee of the Ramblers Association (Cambridge Group).My current project is the South West Coast Long Distance Path, which is around 615 miles long. I started around 1990 and been chipping away at it ever since. I hope to finish in next year.

My other obsessions are jazz, crosswords, suduko (and related games). I was about 14 when I became a instant jazz convert while listening to the Modern Jazz Quartet playing "God rest ye merry gentlemen".

County tournament organisers have a habit of migrating to the Lake District – what are your plans for the future?

We intend to move to Kendal, housing market permitting, and will no doubt help Philip Wraight expand Kendal BC, which used to be a very good club, but nearly died before Philip rescued it. He is populating it with alumni of his bridge teaching classes.

Aside from that we will probably keep up most of our interests, with the exception of table tennis.

Thank you for talking to us, Dave, and best wishes for the future.

### **Crockfords Cup** by Chris Jagger

In Crockfords, a year-long knockout reduces the field down to eight teams, that do an all-play-all final weekend. Our team of Cath, Jonathan, Julian, Ian and myself, as usual struggled through the qualifying rounds. Indeed Jonathan has never won in the round of 16 teams, so our strategy in that match was to play him for the first 32 boards (25 IMPs down), and then send him home while the rest of us did the business. The match started at 4.45, involved a 40-minute wait while opponents' SatNav gave them a tour of Cambridge, and the 48 boards were complete by about 1.20 in the morning. Sadly seven of the last eight had been played the same way in both rooms, so there was another set to go! But we managed to stay awake and win.

So who should play in the final? Ian plays bridge full time, so he was in. Cath and I had a rare free weekend – parents coming to stay but nothing aside from that, so we were in, and Jonathan and Julian were both pleading family commitments, but it was Jonathan's first Crocks final, so they had to let him play.

The good news was that though we were still recovering from the previous round, we had taken it very gently in the Spring Fours to allow us to be fresh and ready, and the field didn't appear to be the toughest ever.

First a quiz – send us your views on these two – remarkably similar hands in the same match:

1.  $AJxxx \forall x Axx KQ10x$ .

Unfav.  $4 \mathbf{\Psi}$ -?

2. ▲AJ107x ♥x ♦KQJ9 ♣Axx

Love all.  $4 \mathbf{\Psi}$ -P-P-?

I think most people would take an action, but is double or 4. the better option?

Then a feel-good overtrick:



East was dealer with the auction  $1 \checkmark -2 \And -3 \lor -4 \And$ . At the other table a heart lead defeated the contract. At my table West thought a heart lead 'couldn't be right', and tried a diamond.

After drawing trumps and eliminating the diamonds, a low heart away from the queen left East with a difficult decision. Knowing the contract was going to make if he rose, since he would be end-played to lead away from the spade, he ducked, so the jack held, and then he got end-played anyway for an overtrick.

Two wins in the bag, and the next was against a Welsh team, who got an early lead – they blithely bid two slams, one of them simply bad, the other good, but after a pre-empt it needed a 3-2 trump split otherwise it would have been 2 down. That is one way of saying that Ian and I missed them!

The turning point of the match came when we bid the following slam, which Jonathan and Cath saved over for -500. Sitting West, plan the play in 6.4 on a heart lead, bearing in mind that there was no lightner double:



Later in that set our opponents carelessly bid to  $7 \bullet$  – with 13 top tricks, and 17 if the diamonds came in, they went one off when the diamonds were 4-0, while our teammates brought in the safe 7NT contract: +20 IMPs partially compensating for the two earlier slam swings.

Back to the 6.4 contract. Did you get my hint? You can make a safety play against the 4-0 club split by playing a low one and covering South's four of clubs with the five. I did this, only to find the clubs were 2-2 and the diamonds 4-0! Still our luck held when they failed to find the diamond switch. (Can you imagine teammates coming back having conceded 7C and you having to admit to going one down in six?!)

By the end of Day 1 we were looking 'unstoppable' – we'd won all our matches, and there was only one problem. We were still 5 adrift the Rosen team who had had some big wins.

The crucial match was first thing Sunday morning, against the Rosen team – Ian playing against the Tredinnick twins is always worth a watch – not only are the three of them battling it out for the Robson Slow Player of the Year trophy, but Ian, who asks more questions than any player I know, is faced down with a barrage of 'no partnership agreement's.

After a Precision sequence that would lend weight to my article on whether Precision or Acol is the better method (quick plug for Dec EBU magazine!), they missed the following grand slam. Could Cath and Jonathan better it?

<ul> <li>▲ A8</li> <li>♥ K1097</li> <li>◆ A973</li> <li>▲ A7</li> </ul>	4 w s		
Ν	Ε	S	W
		3D	3NT
Р	4♦	Р	4♥
Р	4NT	Р	5♦
Р	5♥	Р	6♥
Р	7♥		

We narrowly won that match, but were still slightly behind. Then in the second last match Ian made a good move on a borderline slam hand:

<ul> <li>▲ J76</li> <li>♥ A97</li> <li>◆ AJ4</li> <li>♣ KJ85</li> </ul>	W E S	<ul> <li>▲ A10932</li> <li>♥ KJ2</li> <li>◆ 9</li> <li>♣ AQ76</li> </ul>
W	Ε	
1NT	2♥	
2	3*	
4*	4♦	
4♥	4♠	
6*		

After a weak no trump and a transfer sequence, the 4. bid was showing a fit for both suits. With only a 14 count Ian envisaged the slam, and with excellent cards that was all I needed to bid it. Indeed even with the trumps 4-1 he had no problem bringing the contract home. This put us in the lead, but could we hang on in the last match? The first half was quite boring. +5 IMPs looked like a big set, and indeed was the margin of both us and the Rosen team.

The last set was a nervous affair – we played 3NT on a hand some people were making 6NT in spite of 5 cashers. We missed a game on a hand that requires a bit of help from the defence, which was forthcoming at our table. And finally my partner butchered a defensive triple squeeze to take 1NT three off (instead of four) at vulnerable, after declarer had been unduly greedy. Teammates came back grumbling – 'How can I be so bad – I just let a part score make having been memorysqueezed'. My blood began to boil – memories of a 1 IMP defeat many years ago when that same teammate idly revoked on the last board of a match came flooding back to mind!

But no worry needed – they had failed to comment on their good boards: Our worries respectively received +2 (3NT comparing to  $5 \blacklozenge$ ), +13 (for bidding game the other way and making it!), and +5 (they got out for one off). And another +10 came for a no play game.

### **Eileen Manning**

Eileen Manning, who died of cancer on the 8th June 2009 at the age of 81, was a life-long enthusiast for bridge. She learnt the game from her parents initially and found in her husband, John Manning, a fellow games enthusiast. They married in 1949 and in 1955 moved to Kettering with their young family. The nearest bridge club to Kettering was in Wellingborough, but, to Eileen's outrage, that was men only (attached to the golf club). The solution was obvious and Kettering Bridge club was started with John as its first secretary. John and Eileen were also involved in the start of Northants County Bridge Association.

For the next 30 years Eileen was a considerable presence in Northants bridge. Eileen's disciplined and consistent bridge style was at odds with John's maverick flair and so they usually played with different partners. Eileen was a fine player, a steady member of the county team for more than 20 years and county secretary for 10 years. Eileen was always her own woman: for some years both Eileen and John were on the county

#### by Sheila Parker

committee and to the amusement of the rest of the committee would cheerfully vote against each other when they disagreed. Eileen and John were keen to promote county activities and made a point of visiting all the smaller clubs in the county to play and to promote county events.

Eileen also wrote a weekly bridge column for the local paper. Each column discussed a hand, gave results and announced forthcoming events.

Eileen taught all three of her children, Toby, Sheila and Lorna to play. Sheila and Lorna continued to play, but Toby moved to the game of Go where he is ranked one of England's top players.

When John retired, Eileen and John moved to Seaford on the south coast and soon became well known in Sussex bridge. They also went round the world, playing bridge in local clubs in New Zealand. After John's death, Eileen moved to Cambridge with Lorna, and played at Cambridge Bridge Club until increasing ill health forced her to give up the game.

### Aunt Agony's column

Dear Auntie,

I recently heard you were looking for a new partner. After the following hand I would like to put my own on the transfer list, if you're not too proud to accept a cast-off. Why is it that Men can't see the wood for the trees?



Our unopposed auction was  $1 \blacklozenge - 1 \heartsuit$ ;  $1 \blacklozenge - 3 \diamondsuit$ ;  $4 \blacklozenge$ .

North led A Q which was ducked all round, with South showing an odd number. A J was continued and then 10 covered by the K, A and ruffed.

After some thought partner led a spade to the 10 which held, and a spade back to his Q and North's ace. North exited with  $\mathbf{v}$ 10 to partner's K, and then a trump was led to the J and K, on which South threw a diamond after a pause.

Now a child could make this contract. But partner looked troubled and then laid down DAK and ruffed a diamond, on which South threw a club. Only now did it seem to occur to him that hearts were blocked. I ask you! We were lucky North had to give dummy the last heart trick for only one down.

Yours, exasperatedly,

Frances Hinden

My dear Frances,

How nice to from you again, and thank you indeed for this tip for a new partner, which I shall certainly follow up.

I'd give your partner another chance if I were you. He realised that a 3-3 heart break was against the odds. He knew South had either 3 or 5 clubs initially, and as he'd forsworn the easy club discard, declarer placed him with a 2-4-4-3 shape. The position when trumps were drawn with South still having to discard would then be:



Now as you can see, South is caught in a trump squeeze. If he throws a heart, dummy is high after a heart to the Q. Whereas if he throws a diamond, West's hand can be established by ruffing the 3rd diamond.

So no, your partner didn't play so very badly. Maybe even correctly. I'd keep him for the moment.

But could you let me have South's phone number? When most people would give up he found an imaginative way to set a cold contract. He could be just what I'm looking for.

Your sincerely,

Auntie

### Name that Tune

Discussing a hand with Alan Mould one day, I opined that it was completely normal to make a slam try on my cards. he responded by quoting The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah band:

"If this is normal then I want to be freak for the rest of my life."

*He should have known better than to get me started:* 

I'm the urban slam-man baby, I bid high with speed I've everything I need.

I don't need your side-kings; I just need an ace.

My natural exuberance spills out all over the place.

I'm the urban slam-man – an overbidder, second to none – It's a lot of fun.

I get great pleasure from bidding with no brain

Every time I go three down I just bid up again.

I'm the urban slam-man, I'm intelligent and clean

You ne'er know what I mean!

I never let my partner down whene'er he makes a try

I may have lousy judgement but I'm a supersonic guy!

I'm the urban slam-man baby - here comes the twist I actually exist!

Chatting with Brian Callaghan at the Brighton Swiss Pairs he referred to someone "...with whom I used to play at the Young Chelsea". This rang a bell, with the following result:

#### by Jonathan Mestel

What good is sitting alone in your room?

Right at the close of day.

Bridge is the game to play, old chum, Come to the club and play.

Come count your points, come bid thin games,

Come press for slams, start celebrating;

Not too slow – your table's waiting.

No use permitting some prophet of doom

To wipe every smile away.

Suits sometimes break 3-3, old chum, Go down the club and play!

I used to have a girlfriend known as Elsie

With whom I used to play at the Young Chelsea;

She wasn't what you'd call a blushing flower;

As a matter of fact she'd bid three slams an hour.

When dummy went down the kibbitzers would snicker:

"Declarer's much too high – on pills and liquor."

But when I saw her drop the missing Queen

She was the happiest hog I'd ever seen.

And as for me, and as for me

I made my mind up at the Young Chelsea,

When I bid, I'll bid like Elsie.

Start by admitting that 24 boards Isn't that long a stay Life is a Cabaret, old chum, Come to the club and play.

Any more budding song writers out there? If you're feeling inspired, then drop us a song for the next newsletter!

## **Results round-up**

#### **National competitions**

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Chris Jagger & Ian Pagan won the Pairs 'A' Final, while Cath Jagger & Jonathan Mestel won the consolation Swiss; then all four won the Teams.

Mike Seaver & Peter Morgan finished first nationally and 20th overall in the World Wide Bridge Contest.

Cambridge D (David Harrison, Peter Bhagat, John Liebeschuetz, Alex Green, Mike Seaver, Iain Watson) reached the semi-finals of the NICKO.

Victor Milman & Rod Oakford led from the start at the Corwen, but were pipped at the post in the final set. The Jaggers, Mestel & Wightwick were second in the Pachabo. The Cambridge Club finished second in the Garden Cities National Final.

Victor Milman & Nadia Stelmashenko finished 14th in the 'B' Final of the European Mixed Pairs in San Remo.

In the Swiss Pairs at Brighton, Jon Cooke was first, Chris Jagger second. Catherine Jagger & Jonathan Mestel and Peter & Brian Last also finished in the top 40. The next weekend, Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty finished 13th in the Swiss Teams.

Cath & Chris Jagger won the Herts One-day Swiss Teams. Grzegorz Konopko and Roman Gembicki were second in the Northants One-Day Swiss Pairs, with Bob Vajda and Brian Hope in sixth place. Marion & Trevor King were fifth in the teams at the Isle of Man Congress.

#### **Eastern Counties League**

The county scored 12-8, 16-4, 10-10 against Hertfordshire; 20-0, 7-13, 0-20 against Essex; and 11-9, 0-20, 13-7 against Suffolk.

## **ECL Dates**

18th October v University (A)15th November v Northants (A)10th January v Beds (H)31st January v Norfolk (A)

#### **Cambs & Hunts League**

Fin	al standings for t	he	200	)8/9	9 se	eason:	
#	Division 1	Р	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Ely 1	4	3	1	0	58	14.5
2	Cambridge 2	4	4	0	0	57	14.3
3	University 1	4	2	2	0	42	10.5
4	Peterborough 2	4	1	3	0	25	6.3
5	Peterborough 1	4	0	4	0	18	4.5
#	Division 2	Р	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Cambridge 4	5	3	1	1	57	11.4
2	Crafts Hill	5	2	1	2	56	11.2
3	Huntingdon 2	5	3	2	0	51	10.2
3	Thursday 1	5	1	2	2	51	10.2
5	Saffron Walden 1	5	1	3	1	43	8.6
6	Thursday 2	5	1	4	0	38	7.6
#	Division 3	Р	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Huntingdon 3	5	4	1	0	65	13.0
2	Peterborough 3	5	3	2	0	54	10.8
3	Huntingdon 1	5	2	3	0	48	9.6
3	Peterborough 4	5	2	3	0	48	9.6
5	Cambridge 3	5	2	3	0	44	8.8
6	University 2	5	2	3	0	41	8.2
#	Division 4	Р	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	University 3	4	3	0	1	57	14.3
2	Ely 2	4	2	2	0	39	9.8
2	Peterborough 5	4	2	2	0	39	9.8
4	North Cambridge 2	4	1	2	1	35	8.8
5	Balsham	4	1	3	0	30	7.5

In Division 1, congratulations to Ely 1 (Catherine Curtis, Paul Fegarty, John & Julie Aspinall, Peter & Myra Burrows) for their third win in a row.

#### **County Plate**

In the Semi-finals ANDERSON beat RILEY STEVENSON beat MAN In the Final STEVENSON beat ANDERSON

### **Around the Clubs**

#### New club websites at Bridgewebs:

www.bridgewebs.com/huntingdon

www.bridgewebs.com/northcambridge

www.bridgewebs.com/saffronwalden

#### Blinco

The Doric Cup was won by John Fairclough & Mervyn Rogers.

#### Cambridge

The Abdelmoneim Trophy for the summer ladder was won by Rod & Sue Oakford.

The Autumn Equinox Handicap Pairs was won by Carole Parker & Peter Jackson.

#### Huntingdon

The Alan Knott Individual trophy was won by Ian Hill.

The Stuart Morton Teams was won by Peter Somerfield, Derek Oxbrow, Pauline Baily & Mike Neverton.

#### North Cambridge

The Club Teams of Four was won by Susan Mealing, Peter Last, Tanawan Watts & Simon Stokes.

The Nalgo Trophy was won by John Pearce, Chris Dickman, Mary Raven & John Evans.

The Club Pairs was won by Pat Atkin & Graham Clarke.

The Handicap Pairs was won by Alison Lloyd & Peter Cowley.

The monthly Prize Pairs have been won by Doreen Rapley & Myriam Warburton (April); Vin Vachher & Roy Newman (May); Richard Lyons & Sandy Cuthbert (June); Peter Last & Susan Mealing (July); Lorraine Waters & Alan Edwards (August); David Larman & Sazan Dickens (September).

#### Peterborough

The Men's Pairs was won by Ben Martin & Bill Evans-Evans. The Ladies' Pairs was won by Mary Knights & Rona Stewart.

#### Thursday

The Fry Trophies were won by Wendy Pollard, Neil Trentham, Betty Knight & Rosanne Mattick.

The June Unusual Partner Pairs was won by Fred Allen & Verity Joubert.

The Orchard Pairs was won by Fred Allen & Roger Salmon.

The September Unusual Partner Pairs was won by Tanawan Watts & David Man.

The Teams Ladder for 2008-09 was won by Joanne Caldwell & Kevin Smith.

The Individual Ladder for 2008-09 was won by Fred Allen.

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### Sunday 1st November 2009

## **Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams**

at Peterborough Bridge Club, Peterborough commencing 1pm

## **Competition for the Margaret Hyde Trophy**

Prizes also awarded to: the Top Three Teams and an Ascenders Prize

Two sessions of play Licenced by the EBU EBU members only Master Points to EBU Scale Entry fee £13.50 per player Includes afternoon tea Non-smoking playing area

### Tournament Director: Andrew Wilkinson

### Entry Form

(please detach)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams

Team Names and EBU numbers:-

Team Members	EBU numbers
	••••••••••
Preferred contact address:	
telephone number: email	

Please send cheque for £54 (payable to "Cambs & Hunts C.B.A.") to: Andrew Wilkinson, 44 Field View, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8SY Tel: (01954) 200350 email: <u>andrew.wilkinson23@ntlworld.com</u>

## County Calendar 2009-2010

Except for the Novice Pairs and Teams tournaments and County Individual qualifying round, all competitors must be members of the EBU. For all other events except Garden Cities Trophy and Cambs and Hunts Open Swiss Teams, competitors must also be members of the Cambs & Hunts CBA. Full details of events and entry forms are available from clubs, direct from the event organiser, or on the county website www.cambsbridge.org.uk.

Monday 12th October 2009	Closing date for entries to the <b>County Teams Knockout.</b> The major green-pointed teams-of-four championship with matches played privately. The winners represent the County in the Pachabo. There is also a Plate event for first round losers, so no excuse for not entering this one! £10 per team. (Organised by Chris Jagger. chjagger@deloitte.co.uk, 2 Wycliffe Road, CB1 3JD. Tel 01223 259524)
Sunday 1st November 2009 Peterborough 1pm	<b>Cambs and Hunts Open Swiss Teams</b> The County's prestige teams-of-four competition. (Organised by Andrew Wilkinson*)
Saturday 14th November 2009 Trumpington 1pm	Novice Teams Tournament For inexperienced players and players new to tournament bridge. (Organised by Gladys Gittins email: <u>gladys.g40@ntlworld.com</u> , and David Carmichael)
Sunday 24th January 2010 Trumpington 1pm	<b>County Individual Final</b> This is what bridge is all about! All partner all and only a simple system is permitted. Qualifying heats (open to non-EBU members) to be held in clubs by 27 December. Pester your club to hold a heat. Entry £1.50 per person. (Organiser: TBC)
Sunday 7th February 2010 Trumpington 1pm	<b>County Pairs Final</b> The green-pointed final of the County's premier pairs event. The leading three pairs represent the county in the Corwen. Qualifying heats held in clubs by 24 January. Entry fee £2.50 per person. One pair may play without standing to make a full table. (Organiser: Peter Grice pg10003@cam.ac.uk)
Sunday 7th March 2010 Peterborough 1pm	Garden Cities Qualifier One Day club teams of eight (clubs may enter more than one team). The winning club represents the County in the Regional Final. (Organiser: Trevor King: <u>Trevor@alpinebridge.co.uk</u> )
Saturday 13th March 2010 Trumpington 10am	Novice Pairs Tournament For inexperienced players and players new to tournament bridge. (Organised by Gladys Gittins email: <u>gladys.g40@ntlworld.com</u> , and David Carmichael)
Sunday 25th April 2009 Trumpington 1pm	Jubilee Swiss Pairs A popular pairs competition in Swiss format with six 8 board matches. (Organised by Andrew Wilkinson*)
*Andrew Wilkin	son 44 Field View, Bar Hill, Cambs, CB23 8SY Tel: 01954 200350 Email: Andrew.wilkinson23@ntlworld.com

Eastern Counties League dates are published separately, by Chris Larlham, CLar365164@aol.com.