

Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 45, January 2007

News

Congratulations to Mike Seaver and Iain Watson for their victory in the Satellite Pairs at Bournemouth, and to Myra and Peter Burrows who won two events at the EBU Overseas Congress in Turkey.

The county is back on form at the Tollemache, qualifying for the final despite its draw in a tough group which also included Staffs & Shrops (who also qualified), London, Merseyside & Cheshire and Hampshire.

The England Ladies team including Cath Jagger finished third in an Invitation Event in China, behind China and the Netherlands.

Chris Larlham, David Kendrick, Rod Oakford and Sue Oakford retained their title at the Newmarket Swiss Teams, and there were plenty of good results for county players in this season's simultaneous pairs, including third place nationally for John Pearce and Darren Cotterell in the Children in Need event.

In this issue...

We have the True Story of Orpheus and Eurydice (according to Jonathan Mestel) and Aunt Agony makes an appearance, midway through her round-the-world cruise.

For those of you who have been scratching your heads since the last issue, we have the results of Ken Riley's cryptic clues, plus the usual round-up of results and a bumper collection of photos of successful county members.

Please note a correction to the calendar: Penny Riley's email address is penny.riley@ntlworld.com

Visit the county's website at

<http://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 david@djallen.org.uk

The next newsletter will be published in May.

Please send in news, letters and hands no later than 15th April. All contributions welcome!

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The true story of Orpheus & Eurydice

by Jonathan Mestel

Though remembered as one of the early Acolnauts, Orpheus was not in fact much of a bridge player. Yet his wife Eurydice held quite a passion for the game and might have gone on to great things had she not been bitten by a snake, possibly an asptro. Smitten with tragedy, Orpheus travelled to the underworld in an attempt to bring her back.

Now it will not surprise you, gentle reader, to learn that our game was popular in the nether realms at that time. This was due to a misunderstanding about the introduction of a bridge over the river Styx.

Some authors claim that it was Orpheus' music that charmed the lord of the underworld. But the truth of the matter is that Hades was tone-deaf and was delighted when a fourth player arrived to while away the hellishly dull evenings. He agreed to consider Eurydice's future over a few rubbers. So it was, that Hades and his Plutonic love Persephone sat E/W with Eurydice North and Orpheus South on this fateful club slam:

N	E	S	W
			1♥
P	1♠	5♣	5♦
P	5♠	6♣	P
P	X	All Pass	

Slightly disgruntled at being outbid on his red two-suiter, Hades led ♥A on which Persephone threw a spade. Orpheus ruffed with ♣9, played off the ♣AKQJ10 and then the ♠AK and the ♣2. He reached for the ♠Q and then gasped, staring at his card, before throwing another heart.

It was clear to Eurydice what had happened. In the Stygian gloom her beloved had mistaken ♣2 for ♠2, although he must have realised he had seven clubs during the auction. Still, all was not lost. Persephone won this trick with ♣8 and perforce led a spade to dummy's queen. Hades was helpless, having to discard from ♥QJ ♦KJ, caught between declarer's ♦AQ and dummy's ♥K10.

Hades wasn't famed for his good humour, but he roared appreciatively.

"Magnificent! That's the only way to make the contract. Did you plan it that way from the start?"

"Er, more or less," replied Orpheus, who always had the touch of a lyre about him.

In a rare fit of generosity Hades agreed to allow the couple to leave together.

"But," he warned, "Do not look back!"

Triumphantly, Orpheus led the way out of the abyss. But something was bothering Eurydice. Was there nothing the defence could do after the opening lead? And suddenly she saw it!

Dealer W	♠ Q532		
	♥ K107532		
	♦ 742		
	♣ —		
♠ —		♠ J1098764	
♥ AQJ9864		♥ —	
♦ KJ10983		♦ —	
♣ —		♣ 876543	
	♠ AK		
	♥ —		
	♦ AQ65		
	♣ AKQJ1092		

Suppose Persephone's eyesight had also been poor, and she'd had ♣3 mixed up in her spades. She might have discarded ♣3 at trick 1, only to find she'd ruffed her partner's ace. This would set the slam! Orpheus could overruff, but if he now tried to throw East in with a club the suicide squeeze wouldn't function, because

declarer would have a club winner in hand still!

"Hey Orphee", she called out. "I've just had a hilarious thought!"

"What's that?" asked Orpheus, turning round. But Eurydice vanished, before she could explain.

Anyway, as I say, that's what really happened.

Answers to the C&H Cryptic Clues by Ken Riley

Here are the answers to the quiz that appeared in the previous newsletter.

- 1) Spring period? (4, 5)
- 2) There's a shortage, Miss (5)
- 3) Upset game fellows play (9)
- 4) Rotten Row (4)
- 5) Card boxes? (9)
- 6) Enclosed a hundred instead of fifty. Gives up in confusion (8)
- 7) $X + 1 = 2$ (6)
- 8) Gives a player a tool to use (7)
- 9) Telling line offered on radio (3)
- 10) Had panic attack at Brighton? Not likely (8)
- 11) Shortage of second-best pictures in the red suits (6)
- 12) Run the diamonds in serial manner, as reported (4)
- 13) Unfortunate red hand (3, 4)
- 14) Sow has been transferred from elephant's back. Restore it! (6)
- 15) Obvious it's about a king (5)
- 16) All pass right away (4)
- 17) Shuffles, employing just one red king initially. What a card! (5)
- 18) Pass following a reverse. What a coup! (8)
- 19) Just pass. Record 500. Easy! (4)
- 20) Refrain from suit-switch – or use top trumps (6)
- 21) Out-stare (4, 4)

- 22) Give away dodge (4)
- 23) Floored by the King of Clubs, indeed! (6)
- 24) Renounce statement that record is poor (8)
- 25) Notice opening lead together (6)
- 26) Fall of card in a suit – not right! (7)
- 27) Support given to reverse procedure (10)
- 28) False start at Newmarket? (6)
- 29) Poor accountant's records show pluses and minuses (5, 5)
- 30) Delays and loses an easy run (6)
- 31) Sign of sympathy for player, heartbroken (6)
- 32) Here the clubs (long) remain hidden (5)

- 1 Jump shift. 2 Avoid. 3 Crossruff.
 4 Rank. 5 Suitcases. 6 Concedes.
 7 Tenace. 8 Handsaw. 9 Cue.
 10 Handicap. 11 Dearth. 12 Rice.
 13 Raw deal. 14 Howdah. 15 Clear.
 16 Each. 17 Joker. 18 Scissors.
 19 Cold. 20 Chorus. 21 Face down.
 22 Duck. 23 Decker. 24 Disclaim.
 25 Adduct. 26 Cascade.
 27 Backhanded. 28 Redeal. 29 Score cards.
 30 Blocks. 31 Wreath.
 32 Cache.

Aunt Agony

Dear Editors,

Have you heard from Aunt Agony at all? The cantankerous curmudgeon was not without her charm, though she used it sparingly.

I wanted to send her the following hand:

♠ KQJ987x	♠ 10x
♥ Jxx	♥ Q10
♦ Ax	♦ Kxxx
♣ x	♣ AQxxx

As West, I went down in 4♠ on a club lead. How should I have played it?

Yours sincerely,

Aunt Agony's Anonymous
Ardent Admirer.

Dear AAAAA,

How sweet of you to think of me! No one's called me anything so alluringly alliterative for a while.

Your hand is not without interest. With such solid trumps, the main danger is a 3rd round heart ruff. I'm sure you wouldn't be so careless as to lead ♠10 from table at trick 2. It is obviously better to lead a small trump. That looks safe, and I might have played it that way myself on an off day.

Ask yourself what could possibly go wrong: Suppose South has ♠Axx ♥Kx ♦Jxxx ♣Kxxx. She will duck the first trump and win the 2nd, on which North will signal for a heart. ♥K, ♥A and a ruff will soon follow.

Can you do anything about this? The best line is a sort of scissors coup. You should lead a heart at trick 2. If they win and duck a trump you win in hand and continue with a second heart, preparing to ruff your winning H with

♠10. If they draw a second round of trumps they will be in the wrong hand to score a heart ruff. You could go down this way if South had ♠Axx ♥K ♦Jxxxx ♣Kxxx say; North could decline to win the 2nd heart, and South ruffs and cashes ♠A, drawing dummy's trump. Or you could fail if diamonds are 6-1. Nevertheless this must be the best line.

As you know. I'm currently on a round-the-world cruise. I stopped off to watch the World Junior championships a few months ago, which was exhausting. For example, I suffered the following auction:

Dealer N	♠ KJ1096		
	♥ K8765		
	♦ AJ8		
	♣ —		
♠ 52		N	♠ AQ873
♥ J4		W	♥ 3
♦ Q7653		E	♦ K42
♣ J952		S	♣ A764
	♠ 4		
	♥ AQ1092		
	♦ 109		
	♣ KQ1083		

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♣	P
3♥	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♦	P
6♥	X	All Pass	

They were playing game-forcing two-over-ones, so North felt no hurry to raise his partner. Nor did he regard his void as a reason not to use RKCB, and would I'm sure have felt unlucky had South held ♣A.

In response to the Lightner double West led ♠5 which went to the 9, Q and 4. East returned ♠8 on which declarer discarded ♦9. Declarer now cross-ruffed everything under the sun until eventually he suffered an overruff. Nevertheless the contract could have been made. And arguably should have been made too – all it needs is trumps 2-1 and East to hold ♣A. Can you see how?

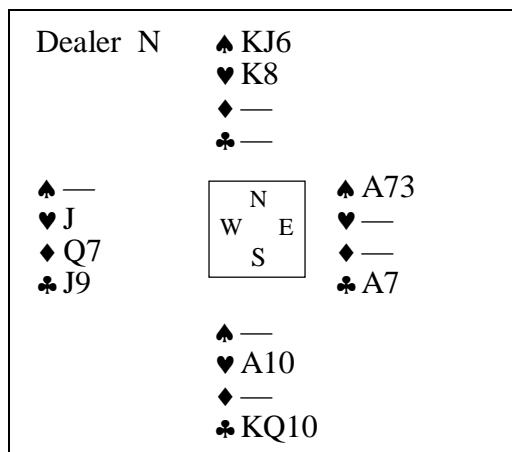
Yours, Auntie

SOLUTION

It is clear East holds five spades, or he wouldn't have underled ♠A at trick 2. This means that dummy's 5th spade is not easy to establish.

It's quite likely East holds two aces for the double, and there's a fair chance ♣A will fall in three rounds. If East holds the thrice guarded ♣A, however, he can be squeezed in the black suits in an unusual manner.

After winning ♠10 at trick 3, declarer should lead a trump to the Q. Then ♦A and a diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff leaving the following layout:



♥K is now led from the table. If East had followed to this he could only have one more club and South would overtake with ♥A and hope to ruff out ♣A.

As the cards lie, East must discard a black card. If he throws a spade, South follows with ♥10, and establishes the spades with the ruffing finesse. Whereas if East throws a club, South overtakes with ♥A and ruffs out the clubs. This is called an 'overtaking squeeze' for obvious reasons. I hadn't seen one before where declarer establishes two tricks with the ruff after the squeeze. I should take more round-the-world cruises.

AA

Presentation of Gladys's Dimmie Fleming Award



Photos taken at the EBU presentation to Gladys Gittins of a Dimmie Fleming Award for her services to bridge.



Results round-up

National competitions

Peter and Myra Burrows ventured to Turkey for the EBU's Overseas Congress at Cesme. Teamed up with Laurie and Stephanie Burt, they won their section of the Pivot Teams and finished 10th in the Swiss Teams, and rounded off the event by winning the Post-Congress Pairs.

Victor Milman and Nadia Stelmashenko finished 10th at the Great Northern Swiss Pairs. At the Middlesex Congress, Rod and Sue Oakford finished 7th in the Swiss Pairs, while Jonathan Mestel, Cath Jagger, Chris Jagger and Nobuko Matsumura finished 6th in the teams.

At the Bournemouth Autumn Congress, David Kendrick (playing with Pat Collins), Chris Jagger

(playing with Ian Pagan) and Victor Milman and Nadia Stelmashenko all qualified for the Two Stars Pairs Final; David Kendrick went on to finish in 3rd place. More success was had by Mike Seaver and Iain Watson who won the Satellite Pairs Final.

The following day Chris Jagger teamed up with Ian Pagan, Catherine Seale and Neil Rosen won the teams event for the Eastbourne Trophy.

Meanwhile, Cath Jagger was representing the England Ladies team at an invitation tournament in Wuxi, China. Qualifying 4th from the round robin, the team met China in the semi-final, losing to them by just 3 IMPs. The Chinese went on to beat the Netherlands in the final while England beat the USA in the play-off for 3rd.



Clockwise from top left: Myra and Peter Burrows (second from left and furthest right) win the 'A' Pivot Teams in Cesme, Turkey; Iain Watson (left) and Mike Seaver win the Satellite Pairs at Bournemouth; Cath Jagger (second from left) and the rest of the England Ladies team finishes third in the International Elite Women's Tournament in Wuxi, China; Chris Jagger (second from right) wins the Multiple Teams at Bournemouth.

Simultaneous Pairs

Charles King and Yvonne Palfrey (playing at Huntingdon) finished 13th in the first event of the EBU Autumn simultaneous pairs, while Simon Cocheme and Stuart Langridge (playing at Cambridge) finished 12th the following day.

David Man and Ken Jackson (playing at the Thursday Club) finished 26th in the Thursday event of the BGB Autumn simultaneous pairs.

John Pearce and Darren Cotterell (playing at Cottenham) finished 3rd in the Children in Need simultaneous pairs, while Carole Parker and Nigel Oakley (playing at Foxton) finished 9th.

Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams

1. Chris Larlham, David Kendrick, Rod Oakford, Sue Oakford
2. Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Iain Watson, Alex Green
3. Nick Bull, Cynthia Bull, Ken Riley, Penny Riley
4. Sheila Parker, John Liebeschultz, Boris Ewart, Peter Foster
5. Celia Jeal, Neil Matthews, Ann Aplin, Fred Allen
6. Roy Newman, Angela Newman, Mike Tedham, Roseanne Mattick
- 7= Wendy Pollard, Dominic Clark, Fred Langford, Tom Crawley
- 7= Ross Midgley, Chris Waites, Tom Eckersley-Waites, Adam Eckersley-Waites
9. Lorraine Waters, Alan Edwards, Jo Patten, Sheila Ferguson
- 10= Charles Parker, Nigel Napier, Rick Waters, Fleur Waters
- 10= David Man, Ken Jackson, Annette Gerloch, Ian Davies

The Ascender's Prize was won by Roy & Angela Newman, Mike Tedham, Roseanne Mattick.

Cambs & Hunts Newcomers Teams

1. Richard Barton, Sherri Barton, Geoff Sanders, Frances Sanders
2. Malcolm Green, Sandra Green, Tony Hewitt, Marilyn Hewitt
3. Peter Bramworth, Pauline Bramworth, Sheila Miers, Shirley Naylor
4. Graham Oates, Sue Oates, Roger Birchenall, Ann Birchenall

Eastern Counties League

The county scored:

17-3, 20-0, and 18-2 v University

15-5, 3-17, and 7-13 v Hertfordshire

10-10, 3-17, and 10-10 v Bedfordshire

13-7, 20-0 and 10-10 v Suffolk

Current standings

(ranked by average VPs):

Posn	Team	Played	VPs	Ave
2	Northants	3	52	17.3
4	Hertfordshire	4	46	11.5
1	Cambs & Hunts	6	68	11.3
3	Bedfordshire	5	51	10.2
6	Norfolk	4	36	9.0
7	Essex	4	35	8.8
5	Suffolk	5	43	8.6
8	University	3	9	3.0

Posn	Team	Played	VPs	Ave
4	Northants	3	52	17.3
5	Hertfordshire	4	50	12.5
2	Bedfordshire	5	61	12.2
2	Suffolk	5	61	12.2
1	Cambs & Hunts	6	63	10.5
6	Essex	4	29	7.3
7	Norfolk	4	22	5.5
8	University	3	4	1.3

Posn	Team	Played	VPs	Ave
2	Essex	4	58	14.5
3	Hertfordshire	4	53	13.3
5	Northants	3	39	13.0
1	Cambs & Hunts	6	76	12.7
4	Bedfordshire	4	42	10.5
6	Norfolk	4	34	8.5
7	Suffolk	4	16	4.0
8	University	3	2	0.7

Tollemache Qualifier

The county was drawn in a tough qualifying group facing the likes of London, Merseyside/Cheshire and Hampshire, but the team played well and finished second in its qualifying group just behind Staffs and Shrops, therefore qualifying for the Final in February.

The team was J Wightwick, V Milman, P Fegarty, C Curtis, R Oakford, D MacFarlane, J Mestel and P Barden.

County Knockout

In Round 1

JAGGER beat OAKFORD
RILEY beat COPPING
SEAVAR beat LAWRENCE

In Round 2

LARLHAM beat JACOBSBERG
MAN beat CLARK
MAY beat RICHER
HASLEGRAVE beat OWEN
WATTS beat DE VRIES
(3 matches still to be played)

In Round 3

HASLEGRAVE beat WATTS

Around the Clubs

Cambridge

The May Pamplin Swiss Teams was won by Jenny Jacobsberg, Joanne Caldwell, Henry Lockwood and Michelle Dawson.

Cottenham

Margaret Allen and Margaret Springer won the Evans Handicap Cup.

North Cambridge

The Club Pairs was won for the second year running by Ian McDonald and Joanne Caldwell, after winning on a split tie from Peter Morgan and Frank Padgett.

In the semi-finals of the Teams of Four Championship, Larman plays Clarke and Stokes plays Waters.

Thursday

The 2005–06 Ladder for the Doric Cup was won by Wendy Lefort.

University

The Club Individual was won by Paul Hunter.

Diary Dates

21st January: **County Individual Final**
2pm, Trumpington Village Hall
Organized by Dave Harrison,
01954 250332, djh1@cam.ac.uk

4th February: **County Pairs Final**
1pm, Trumpington Village Hall
Organized by Dave Harrison,
01954 250332, djh1@cam.ac.uk

17th March: **New Players Tournament**
2pm, Shire Hall
Organized by Gladys Gittins
& David Carmichael
gladys.g40@ntlworld.com

29th April: **Jubilee Swiss Pairs**
1pm, Trumpington Village Hall
Organized by Penny Riley
01223 246908,
penny.riley@ntlworld.com