

Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 47, September 2007

News

Catherine Jagger's team won the National Women's Teams, with Nadia Stelmashenko and Sue Oakford's team also reaching the last four.

Trevor & Marion King won the consolation teams event at the Yorkshire Congress, while two other EBU consolation teams events were narrowly lost by county players: Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Jonathan Mestel and Catherine Jagger in the Spring Foursomes' Punchbowl and Catherine Jagger's team in the Brighton Bowl. In the latter event, the two leading teams were tied on Victory Points, hadn't played one another, had won the same number of matches, and were even tied on IMPs! So the tie was split on Swiss Points – comparing the final results of all opponents played.

Partnership Problems

Rumour has reached our ears of some rather unusual partnership problems at the Cambridge Club. Surely there could be nothing unusual about married couples Rod and Sue playing against Victor and Nadia half way through the weekly duplicate? Certainly not – or not at least until half way through the first board, when Rod suddenly realised that until that round he had actually been playing with Victor, while Nadia had been partnering Sue!

In this issue...

Chris Jagger illustrates the dangers of safety plays and discusses strong jump shifts. Trevor King relates the story behind Alpine Bridge, which offers ski-and-bridge holidays in the Alps. And watch out for the bidding tip from the Hideous Hog.

Aunt Agony's pen is dry this issue, but she would like to remind all her avid fans not to leave their letters for the next issue so late that they get caught in the Christmas rush!

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
david@djallen.org.uk

The next newsletter will be published in January.

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

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A Safety Play too far? by Chris Jagger

Every once in a while a hand comes up that only an expert can go off in, usually involving some obscure ‘safety play’ which turns out to be anything but safe. Those who believe in taking finesses and getting on with the next hand will be heartened to read on.

Hand 1	♠ 432
4♠	♥ K64
	♦ AK
	♣ KQ1053
♠ J7	♠ AQ10
♥ 953	♥ J1082
♦ 108532	♦ J964
♣ A72	♣ 98
	♠ K9865
	♥ AQ7
	♦ Q7
	♣ J64

South reached a fairly normal 4♠, looking unbeatable on a heart lead. Declarer won with the queen and led a low spade from hand, catering for a singleton ace offside. He was always going to lose at least two spade tricks, and he could lead a spade up to the king next time round.

It was a good play in isolation, but not taking the whole hand into account. East won and returned a club, ducked by his partner. East then won with ♠A, and took a club ruff for one down!

Hand 2	♠ KJ964
6♥	♥ K83
	♦ A7
	♣ AK6
♠ 87532	♠ —
♥ 5	♥ Q1096
♦ J982	♦ KQ1043
♣ QJ5	♣ 10732
	♠ AQ10
	♥ AJ742
	♦ 65
	♣ 984

Hand 2 was harder. 6♥ on the ♣Q lead – can you spot a way to go off?

Many would have cashed the ♥K and taken a heart finesse. However, if West had a doubleton ♥Q and five spades or six clubs, he could then have given his partner a ruff. So declarer played the ♥AK, and then led up to the ♥J. East won with the queen and returned a club. Declarer then tried to cross to hand with the ♠A to draw the last trump, at which point he found the error of his ways! Unlucky!

Hand 3	♠ A5
6♣	♥ A9864
	♦ AJ
	♣ A975
♠ KQJ98762	♠ 103
♥ 7	♥ 1032
♦ 8	♦ 1097642
♣ 1063	♣ Q8
	♠ 4
	♥ KQJ5
	♦ KQ53
	♣ KJ42

Hand 3 was played in 6♣ on the ♠K lead. Can you spot the standard safety play in the trump suit?

To ensure at most one loser, you cash the ♣K and lead low to the nine. If West shows out you can then rise and lead up to the jack. However, this does not work on this occasion, as if East has ♣Q10xx, he can then play back a spade forcing South to ruff, and promoting a second trump trick.

Declarer, aware of this, found another safety play. He cashed the ♣K, crossed to the ♦A, and led a low club up to the jack. A surprised East won the doubleton queen, and gave partner a diamond ruff for one down.

How many declarers do you think would have gone down in this one!

Alpine Bridge

by Trevor King

Almost 12 years ago in January 1996, I was happily ski-ing along in a French Mountain resort with our group of ‘Fathers and Sons’ when we stopped for a rest at a signpost where the piste forked into three alternatives. You could turn right to various villages, straight on for a ski lift or turn left to....

As someone who has always enjoyed many card games over the years, I was bemused to see this third option on the post was labelled ‘Bridge’.



Not certain of what we might find, we decided to follow the mysterious direction and we slowly meandered down to the main resort centre, the trail taking us through a small pine forest and across a small bridge over a frozen river on the way. It was a beautiful day, with a deep blue sky and the trees were covered in a mass of powdery snow. It was a scene reminiscent of an old fashioned Christmas card and the air was so pure and clear that we all agreed it was great to be alive and a real privilege to be out and about in such stunning scenery on such a glorious Alpine day.

Later on that evening, we enjoyed a lovely dinner together in our ski chalet, cooked to perfection by our host and served with a fine wine, followed by coffee and liqueurs around a log fire. “Anyone play Bridge?” I enquired hopefully. “No” came the various replies, “Only Whist” said one... “How about Solo” came another... “Let’s get the chalet girls in, and play strip poker” suggested one of the more outspoken fathers. “Not with all the sons here,” I remarked, “They might tell their mothers when we get home!” In the end, with no consensus, we all drifted down to the pub for a few beers and some table football with the locals.

A couple of weeks later, as I was lying in a warm bath one night, pleased to be safely back home, the memories of that fateful ski trip came flooding back to me. We had already decided that the ‘Fathers and Sons’ trip had probably had its day, as the boys were all growing up fast, and some were already at university. It had been a good five years of family fun with various friends but now it was time to move on. Ski-ing was an incredible winter treat for me and my two sons, but my wife and young daughter had also tried it and expressed a wish to join us in the future, so it would only be fair to invite everyone next year... yes, ski-ing... and good food... and fine wine... and log fires... and... and... of course...

BRIDGE!

It suddenly came to me! That signpost had pointed the way... Ski Holidays with Bridge! Why had no one thought of it before! What a combination! And so Alpine Bridge was conceived and born in just two minutes. I excitedly jumped out of the bath and rushed to tell Marion, my long suffering wife

and Bridge partner, of my wonderful idea. She happily agreed.

And so, the following January, after extensive canvassing amongst friends and contacts, the first Alpine Bridge Holiday took place with a party numbering around 35. We stayed in a small hotel and were blessed with ideal conditions, resulting in the group skiing all day, every day, in fabulous snow and sunshine, and after a sumptuous four-course dinner with wine, playing duplicate Bridge each evening until late. Everyone went home absolutely shattered, but vowing they would all be back the next year!

Marion and I even found the Bridge piste again and stopped for a picture by the marker, some 400 metres from the village! A most apt sign we thought for those who play the wonderful game.



Since those early days, we have certainly moved on, and have discovered some wonderful Alpine villages and comfortable hotels, such that we now run at least four weeks of Ski and Bridge each winter, with lots of fun both on and off the piste. Our

regular guests number about 200, with many returning year after year to the Alps for their Bridge holidays. Newcomers who come along for their first time seem to love the friendly and happy ambience that is created by the sociable and like-minded people we take with us, both during the day on the ski slopes, and in the evenings over dinner and at the Bridge table.

The standard of Bridge played is variable, but we strive to always make it friendly and a lot of fun. We are helped in our endeavours by the generous hotel owner offering unlimited free house wine each evening with dinner, which often makes for some interesting bidding afterwards! However, the more experienced and the more sober players tend to offer constructive advice to those of lesser experience or more inebriation and the blend usually works well! We are lucky to have Paul Spencer from Essex as our resident Bridge expert and he holds informal sessions and discussions most days after the ski-ing has finished. These have become jokingly known as 'Bar Bridge', although Paul also runs more formal seminars on three of the evenings in the card room. As a qualified Tournament Director, I organise and direct the more formal duplicate sessions held each evening, usually after dinner although on occasions the Bridge is played earlier, which tends to give the wine drinkers a more level playing field on which to compete! Marion is a wizard at computer scoring and she usually gets the results of the duplicate sessions ready almost as soon as the last board has been played.

Here is a hand which caused much amusement on a recent trip, and several suggestions from all quarters as to how it should be bid!

Game all	♠ Q954
Dealer S	♥ Q98
	♦ QJ75
	♣ 84
♠ —	♠ 876
♥ AKJ752	W N E S
♦ K	♥ 106
♣ AKQ1075	♦ A983
	♣ J962
	♠ AKJ1032
	♥ 43
	♦ 10642
	♣ 3

From the lie of the cards, E/W can easily make 6♥ or 7♣, but even without any bidding from N/S it is possible to only end up in a contract of 5♣. In practice, many Souths will open a weak 2♠, and after a double, overcall or a two-suited bid from West, adventurous Norths will raise to 4♠, giving East a ‘minor’ problem. After several glasses of wine, 7♥ was reached at some tables, only to be overcalled at one by South’s phantom sacrifice of 7♠! (A very good sacrifice if the opponents had found the 7♣ slam!) Much discussion of this hand followed in the bar afterwards, and the traveller was very amusing. The scores varied from +100 (7♥-1) and a -200 (4♠-2), through a more normal -640 (5♣+2), -1390 (6♣+1) and a -1400 (the 7♠X-5). No one had got the obvious top of 2140 for the grand. Try bidding this hand yourself and see where you end up!

My view is that it totally depends on whether East feels his hand is worth a positive reply to West’s strong bids. This probably depends on how much wine East himself had at dinner!

An exciting new development to Alpine Bridge took place this July, in that we tried our first summer holiday to the Alps. It was a fantastic week, as the hotel we now use for most of our holidays is situated in the famous

Vanoise National Park in France. It offers a plethora of walks in stunning snow-topped mountains, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. In addition, the hotel restaurant has recently won an award for its high-quality local cuisine, and we were treated to some outstanding gastronomy as well as tastings of the local cheeses and wines. When coupled with the relaxation of a heated swimming pool on a delightful sun terrace, and duplicate Bridge each evening... what could be a better summer destination!

We are returning to the Alps in the summer of 2008 for at least two weeks, and hope more of our friends and contacts will join us for a refreshing and memorable holiday experience. Alpine hospitality is truly remarkable, and the locals love to show their beautiful village to new visitors, and make them feel very welcome.

I am so pleased that the signpost I spotted 12 years ago said “Bridge”, and not just simply “Pont”. It has become the shrine of Alpine Bridge, and now everyone who comes with us on holiday likes to have their photograph taken there. As you can see, with a touch of digital magic it has now been embellished in a most appropriate way!!



If you would like further details of what Alpine Bridge can do to help you with your next holiday, either winter or summer, call Trevor or Marion King on 01733 572457, or log on to www.AlpineBridge.co.uk where there are full details and many more pictures.

Strong Jump Shifts by Chris Jagger

This article looks at what hands should use a strong jump shift, and how to continue after a strong jump shift.

The purpose of a strong jump shift is to make life easy on hands that otherwise might be difficult. For example, consider how you might bid a 17 count with six clubs after partner opens 1♥. You can easily bid 2♣, safe in the knowledge that partner will not pass, but what if he rebids 2♥. There is now nothing that fits the bill. You could easily have slam on, or 3NT could be the limit of the hand, but what sensible way is there to find out?

It is with this thought in mind that people play strong jump shifts. You jump shift with a six-card suit (or only five if you prefer), and at least 16 points. They should also not contain any other suit – if you are going to take up a lot of space in the auction, you do not want to take away a chance to find a fit in a third suit. Many people also have requirements about suit quality, but it is better to keep some flexibility – if the hand is going to be a problem later on it is better off to be able to show it straight away and not worry too much about the quality of the suit.

The bidding will then go as follows:

1♥-3♣-3♥

Over this, a good idea is to allow yourself to have three hand types. A hand that definitely wants to play in clubs (though does not need to have a no loser suit), will rebid 4♣, over which partner should cue, and not worry about whether he has good club support. A hand that has around 16-18 points with 6 clubs and poor heart support, should bid 3NT, and anything else should be a cue for hearts.

If you are deciding whether your hand is suitable for a strong jump shift, assume that the auction starts in this way, and see whether your hand fits into one of these types. If it doesn't, then don't bid 3♣.

What about partner – how should he bid after a 3♣ response? The simplest way is to bid as you would to a 2♣ response, but a level up, and being happier to raise partner's suit. Thus you can rebid 3♦ with 5-4 in the reds and any strength of hand, but to rebid 3♠ (a reverse) or 3NT, you will need at least 15 points. Rebidding 3♥ is unlimited, as there is no danger that partner will pass the bid.

It is also useful to think about the auction 1♠-3♥-3♠. In this case you have a problem – if you bid 4 of a minor now, this could be a cue for spades, or it could be a self-supporting heart suit. To solve this problem, many people agree that they will never bid 3♥ with spade support. After all, if you have perhaps 3-6 in the majors, and the auction starts 1♠-2♥-2♠, you can easily jump to four of a minor to agree spades, so you are unlikely to be faced with a difficult bid.

Bidding tip by H Hog

If you are playing with a much weaker partner, then go out of your way to raise partner's suit. Not only will it lead to great happiness and a feeling of being respected by your partner, but it will also go some way to offset your natural inclination to play as many contracts as possible. Generally speaking a weaker declarer will get a better score in the right contract than a good declarer will get in a bad one!

Results round-up

National competitions

Catherine Jagger won the National Women's Teams, while Sue Oakford and Nadia Stelmashenko reached the semi-final stage.

Jonathan Mestel, Catherine Jagger, Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis lost in the final of the Punchbowl at the Spring Foursomes. Jonathan and Catherine also finished 6th in the Two Stars Pairs at the Bournemouth Spring Bank Holiday Congress, one place ahead of Chris Jagger and Tony Waterlow.

Trevor & Maron King won the John Colley trophy (teams consolation final) at the Yorkshire Congress.

Mike Seaver and Peter Morgan finished 3rd in the B Final of the Championship Pairs at the Summer Seniors' Congress.

There were good results for county members at Brighton: In the Pairs, Chris Jagger and Ian Pagan finished 10th, Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis finished 39th and Rod & Sue Oakford finished 41st. The following weekend Catherine Jagger's team finished equal 1st in the Brighton Bowl consolation event.

Alex Green and Iain Watson finished 6th in the Northants Green Point Swiss Pairs. Rod & Sue Oakford, Nadia Stelmashenko and Victor Milman finished 2nd in the Suffolk One-day Swiss Teams.

The Cambridge Club finished 2nd in the regional final of the Garden Cities, and went on to finish 7th in the National Final.

Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty finished 7th in the Corwen Trophy. Catherine & Chris Jagger, Jonathan

Mestel and Julian Wightwick were 5th in the Pachabo.

The County C team finished equal 2nd in the National County League finals, having led at the halfway stage.

In the NICKO, Ely A reached the fifth round and Cambridge A reached the semi-finals.

Cambs & Hunts Bridge League

Final standings of the 2006/07 season:

#	Division 1	P	W	L	D	VPs
1	Ely 1	6	6	0	0	103
2	Cambridge 1	6	4	2	0	75
3	University 1	6	3	2	1	72
4	Cambridge 2	6	1	5	0	50
5	Cambridge 4	6	2	3	1	45
6	Saffron Walden 1	6	3	3	0	43
7	North Cambridge 1	6	1	5	0	32

Congratulations to Ely 1: Peter & Myra Burrows, John & Julie Aspinall, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis.

#	Division 2	P	W	L	D	VPs
1	Thursday 1	6	5	1	0	84
2	Thursday 2	6	5	1	0	79
3	Huntingdon 1	6	3	2	1	66
4	University 2	6	3	3	0	61
5	Cambridge 3	6	2	4	0	53
6	Huntingdon 2	6	2	3	1	48
7	Balsham 1	6	0	6	0	24

Congratulations to Thursday 1: Joanne Caldwell, Kevin Smith, Gladys Gittins, David Carmichael, Ian McDonald.

#	Division 3	P	W	L	D	VPs
1	Royston 1	6	6	0	0	99
2	Crafts Hill	6	4	2	0	75
3	University 3	6	4	2	0	69
4	North Cambridge 2	6	2	4	0	53
5	Huntingdon 3	6	2	3	1	50
6	Balsham 2	6	1	4	1	39
7	North Cambridge 3	6	1	5	0	35

Congratulations to Royston 1: Martin Leach, B. Symes, M. Thrower, D. Fogg, E. Blackman.

**Jubilee Swiss Pairs**

1. Rod Oakford & Sue Oakford
2. Nadia Stelmashenko & Victor Milman

3. John Liebeschuetz & Peter Bhagat
4. Lorna Manning & Eileen Manning
5. Joanne Caldwell & Ian McDonald
6. John Haslegrave & Liz Roberts
7. John Pearce & D Cotterell
8. Matthew May & Niel Pimblett
9. T. Crawley & Fred Langford
10. Cynthia & Nick Bull

Leading pair below 5,000 Master Points: Andre Kueh & Jonathan Cains

Ascender's Prize: Joanne Caldwell & Ian McDonald

CHCBA SWISS TEAMS SUNDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2007

The CHCBA Swiss Teams event will be held this year at the Peterborough Bridge Club on Sunday 28th October starting at 2pm. Location is New England Complex, Lincoln Road, Peterborough. PE1 2PE – about 1 mile from Peterborough city centre. This event replaces the Open Swiss teams which has been held at The Bedford Lodge Hotel, Newmarket for some years.

The cost will be £48 per team. A sandwich and cake tea will be provided and there will also be unlimited tea/coffee available during the event. There is a licensed bar on the premises providing a selection of drinks at reasonable prices.

The event will be limited to 18 teams. EBU Members only.
Permitted systems/conventions will be Level 3.

For the MARGARET HYDE TROPHY

Prizes will be awarded also to the leading 3 teams and an Ascender's prize.
The winning team will be invited to represent the County in the Telegraph Cup.

Please send entries not later than 14th October 2007 to

David Man, 31 Radegund Road, Cambridge CB1 3RH
david.man@ntlworld.com Tel: 01223-411952

Entry Form: CHCBA Swiss Teams

Captain: Name.....	EBU Number
Name.....	EBU Number.....
Name.....	EBU Number.....
Name	EBU Number.....

Must be accompanied by cheques, payable to **Cambs & Hunts CBA**, totalling £48.

County Knockout

In the Final

JAGGER beat MAY

County Knockout Plate

In the Final

OAKFORD beat OWEN

Congratulations to Sue Oakford, Nadia Stelmashenko, Eryl Howard and Eric Campbell.

Eastern Counties League

The county scored 0-20, 20-0 and 13-7 against Norfolk, 2-18 and 0-20 against Suffolk, and 2-18, 6-14 and 4-16 against Hertfordshire.

ECL Dates

21st October v Essex (H)
3rd February v Beds (H)
24th February v Northants (A)
TBA v University (A)

Around the Clubs

Cambridge

The Abdelmoneim Trophy was won by Rod & Sue Oakford.

The Autumn Equinox Handicap Pairs was won by Brenda & Philip Jones.

Cottenham

The Club Teams was won by Penny Seely, Myriam Warburton, Michael Lewis and Doreen Rapley.

Huntingdon

The Club Teams was won by Bill Stevenson, Ken Firth, Ian Hill, David Williams.

Peterborough

The Peterborough Pairs was won by Bill & Sheila Evans-Evans.

The Invitational Pairs was won by Brian Wynne and Peter Watson.

The Charity Evening raised £420 for the Huntingdon's Disease Association.

Thursday

The Orchard Pairs was won by Joanne Caldwell and Kevin Smith.

The June Unusual Partner Pairs was won by Joanne Caldwell and Tapan Pal.

The September Unusual Partner Pairs was won by Julie Robinson and John Bissett.

University

Paul Gilbert finished top of the club leaderboard.

Peterborough Bridge Club

- **Selected Mondays, 7pm:** New competition for less-experienced players
- **Wednesdays, 7pm:** Main club night. Honorary membership until end of year for Cambs & Hunts members
- **Thursdays, 10am:** Lessons for beginners and improvers, followed by a Gentle Duplicate at 1.15pm

24th October: County Pairs qualifier

19th December: Christmas Party

Private lessons also available at club or home.

Further information:

Trevor & Marion King 01733 572457

Cambs & Hunts CBA County Calendar 2007–2008

Central events start at 2pm (except County Pairs and Jubilee Pairs – 1pm) and some include afternoon tea. Except for the New Players Tournament and County Individual qualifying round, all competitors must be members of the EBU. For all other events except Garden Cities Trophy and Newmarket 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.

- Saturday 13th October 2007 **County Teams Knockout.** The major green-pointed teams-of-four championship with matches played privately. The winners will represent the county in the Pachabo. There is also a Plate event for first round losers, so no excuse for not entering this one!
(Organised by Dave Harrison*)
- Sunday 28th October 2007 Peterborough **Newmarket Open Swiss Teams**
The County's prestige teams-of-four competition, run simultaneously with a newcomers' event.
(Organised by David Man: david.man@ntlworld.com)
- Sunday 4th November 2007 **Garden Cities Qualifier**
Closing date for entries to this knockout competition for club teams of eight. (Clubs may enter more than one team). The winner will represent the County in the Regional Final.
(Organised by Chris Jagger: chjagger@deloitte.co.uk)
- Sunday 20th January 2008 Trumpington **County Individual Final**
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.
(Organised by Dave Harrison*)
- Sunday 17th February 2008 Trumpington 1pm **County Pairs Final**
The green-pointed final of the County's premier pairs event. The leading three pairs will represent the county in the Corwen. Qualifying heats held in clubs by 24 January.
(Organised by Dave Harrison*)
- Saturday 15th March 2008 **Novice Pairs Tournament**
For inexperienced players and players new to tournament bridge.
(Organised by Gladys Gittins email: gladys.g40@ntlworld.com, and David Carmichael)
- Sunday 27th April 2008 1pm **Jubilee Swiss Pairs**
A popular pairs competition in Swiss format with six 8 board matches.
(Organised by Penny Riley**)

*Dave Harrison 61 Harlestons Rd, Cottenham, Cambs, CB4 8TR
Tel: 01954 250332 Email: djh1@cam.ac.uk

**Penny Riley 55 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 8NZ
Tel: 01223 246908 Email: penny.riley@ntlworld.com

Dates of Eastern Counties League matches, organised by Chris Larham
Email: clar1365164@aol.com – are publicized separately.