

Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 58, May 2011

Cambs & Hunts news

Congratulations to Catherine Curtis on becoming a grand master. County players enjoyed great success at this year's Ranked Pairs events: Dominic Clark and Tanawan Watts won the Regional Masters, Henry Lockwood and Matthew Johnson won the Masters, and Chris Jagger won the Premier Grand Masters. Chris and Catherine Jagger also won the National Pairs, and Jon Cooke reached the semi-finals at the Spring Foursomes.

In county competitions, Zona Lacy won the Individual, Chris Jagger & Jon Cooke won the Pairs, Trevor & Marion King won the Swiss Pairs (with Colin Holehouse & David Mansell the leading pair ranked 1* Master or below), and Maureen Cahill & Jean Murray won the Novice Pairs. The Jaggers, Jonathan Mestel & Julian Wightwick won the Teams, while Matt May, Niel Pimblett, Trevor Martin & Tristan Williams won the Plate.

County AGM: Monday 23rd May at 7pm at Balsham Bridge Club

In this issue...

We wish the English Bridge Union a Happy 75th Birthday this month – but do you know which bridge-themed book was also written that year? Turn to page 4 to find out – we hope the illustrious authoress will forgive us the liberties that we have taken with her characters! Elsewhere, Chris Jagger relives the highs and lows of the Ranked Pairs and the Tolle Final, and there is the usual round-up of results from national and county competitions and news from around the clubs.

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 October.

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

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Cambs & Hunts Conquers the Ranks

Cambs & Hunts players excelled at this year's Ranked Pairs, with Tanawan Watts and Dominic Clark winning the Regional Masters Pairs, and Henry Lockwood and Matthew Johnson winning the Masters Pairs (all four pictured below), and Chris Jagger winning the Premier Grand Masters Pairs with his partner Ian Pagan.



Here is Chris Jagger's account of his emotional roller-coaster to first place:

I have always hated the Ranked Pairs, principally because it uses the worst of all scoring methods – Butler Pairs – which combines the weakness of having no teammates and thus being dependent on the rest of the field for your scores with the weakness of the teams scoring system that puts unequal weight to the boards. The averaging effect of Butler scores adds to making the system thoroughly unreliable!

My wife will tell you that usually by half way through Board 1 I am already muttering about the scoring system. By the end of Board 3 I am moaning out loud about the scoring system. And by the end of the first match I am lamenting the fact that my healthy card has turned into a 1 imp loss. By the end of the second match I am explaining to anyone who will still listen to me “how can I do well when

every time they bid a flat game against me I lose 4imps”. By the end of the third match I am bewailing the fact that I have just lost 13imps because X and Y have just bid a 6% slam that happened to be making. In the fourth match I start to get depressed...

This year as we drove along my dear lady asked me how many boards it would be before I started moaning about the scoring system. I surprised her by announcing it would be none. Relenting slightly, I said I would only moan once.

Sure enough, throughout the first match I kept my composure. I had a healthy card which, scoring up with Cath for fun, yielded the 23 imp win I expected. Then came the bad news – a 1 imp loss on the Butlers. I only had one moan available, so I agonised for a while before deciding to use it up all at once. “Minus 1 imp?!!!” I exclaimed.

In the second set we started bidding some flat games – gaining, do you know, 4imps per time. Overnight we were lying second – the leaders (Waterlow and Hackett) having just gained 14imps when their opponents played in a cuebid – with a will of iron I steadfastly refused to moan.

Next day we started against the leaders. A key board was this one:

EW Vul Dealer S	♠ AJ62 ♥ K765 ♦ AJ52 ♣ 4			
♠ Q1043 ♥ 109 ♦ K87 ♣ 10953	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
	♠ K75 ♥ 83 ♦ Q93 ♣ AK762			
	♠ 98 ♥ AQJ42 ♦ 1064 ♣ QJ8			

A club was led to the king against 4♥, and a club back. My queen won the trick, but what to discard from dummy? You can play on spades and hope for a fortunate lie such as the one here (leading the nine to the ten, jack and king, then the eight to the queen and ace, and then ruff down the seven), or play to get a second trick from diamonds.

If playing on diamonds, the key play is to trump the club (so you don't have to pitch either suit), cross to hand, and lead a diamond to the jack. Now if they return a spade to the queen, you can ruff down ♠K and pitch the other diamond on ♠J. If they don't attack spades, you simple set up the fourth diamond to pitch your spade loser.

Dealer S	♠ K654		
	♥ Q965		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ 653		
♠ Q73		N	♠ J8
♥ 1074		W	♥ K2
♦ J432		E	♦ 108765
♣ Q97		S	♣ 10842
	♠ A1092		
	♥ AJ83		
	♦ AK		
	♣ AKJ		

Having beaten the leaders and so taken the lead, I knew we were going to win once we managed to make a 6% slam:

$$2\clubsuit-2\diamonds-2NT-3\clubsuit-3\diamonds-4\clubsuit-6\heartsuit$$

2NT showed 23-24, 3♦ showed one or both majors, and 4♣ was a slam try with both majors. There were only three reasons why the contract was so lousy – we had duplication in the minors, partner didn't have his 4♣ slam try, and I didn't have my 6♥ bid.

There was nothing for it. Win the diamond lead, cross to ♠K, confidently finesse ♥K and nod approvingly when

it comes down doubleton. Draw the remaining trump, cash my diamonds and a top club, then cash ♠A and throw LHO in with ♠Q. He was endplayed to lead away from his ♣Q. You've made it by now – but one thing left – do apologise to opponents!

Dealer N	♠ J872		
	♥ KQ54		
	♦ AK105		
	♣ K		
♠ K943		N	♠ A1065
♥ J6		W	♥ 982
♦ J64		E	♦ Q83
♣ 10976		S	♣ AQ8
	♠ Q		
	♥ A1073		
	♦ 972		
	♣ J5432		

Come the last match it looked like we were home and dry, and perhaps a safe 3♥ would have been better. Instead, we bid 1♦-1♥-3♥-4♥. No mirror distribution this time – but two problems with this contract. Partner overbid with 3♥ and I did with 4♥. To be honest, I have sympathy with both, but the contract looks to have little play.

They lead a club to the ace and then two rounds of spades, which you ruff. The key now is simply to keep your wits – it is a fairly thin chance, but take the double diamond finesse. If this holds you are in much better shape. It doesn't and they return a trump. You win with the ace, cross to ♦A, ruff another spade, and across to ♦K to ruff the last spade. With the diamonds and spades breaking, you simply ruff a club to dummy, draw trumps, and the last diamond is good.

Good scoring system this Butler Pairs – I love it!

Cards on the Table

by Jagatha Christie

“My dear M. Parrot!”

Herless Parrot (with a silent h and t) swung around and bowed.

“My dear Mr Sultana,” he said.

They surveyed each other with a mixture of emotion tinged with envy, Parrot assessing the bald head before him – a very fine bald head – the only bald head in London, perhaps, that could compete with that of M. Herless Parrot.

“But,” he murmured to himself, “it is decidedly inferior in every respect. All the same, it does have a certain *Je ne sais quoi*.”

Another eye-catching feature of Mr Sultana was his bridge. Whether he played Forcing Pass, Polish Club, or simply Acol, nobody could readily tell from his convention card, nor from his bidding, but he certainly played with flair, and his results couldn't be disputed.

While his bridge methods might be of dubious merit, nobody doubted that he gave fine parties – large parties, small parties, respectable parties and even bridge parties.

His eyes twinkled as he thought of a way to taunt Parrot. “You may be the finest bridge player in Belgium, and indeed, nobody doubts your ability to point out when someone has murdered a contract, but I could show you some real *causes célèbres*.”

Parrot's lip twitched – in fact his whole bald head twitched. “*May* be the finest,” he thought in outrage. Nevertheless, his curiosity was piqued.

“Oh yes,” Mr Sultana went on. “I have no interest in people who merely murder contracts – that is absurd

childishness. I am after those who murder contracts and *get away with it!*”

“Ah. The perfect murder, so to speak,” replied Parrot. “That certainly is interesting.”

“An idea!” exclaimed Mr Sultana. “A little bridge party! A party to meet my perfect murderers! Really, what an amusing thought.”

And so it was, that at exactly 7.30 the next day the door of Mr Sultana's house opened noiselessly, and a grey-haired butler ushered Parrot in. He started in surprise – there was his old friend, Andrew Battle, a stolid bridge pro, who, while lacking imagination, played extraordinarily slowly and never made a mistake.

Across the room was Mrs Briony Oliver, the extremely well-known bridge author, also a fine player, who had a dry (not to say positively arid) sense of humour, a lugubrious expression and could always be relied upon for a brutally honest and cutting analysis of partner's play. And finally one that Parrot had not seen for some time, the larger-than-life Colonel John Race, always first to finish the hand, and immensely popular with the ladies.

Whisky glass in hand, Mr Sultana came forward to meet Parrot, but then had a sudden thought, and turning instead to the whole room announced, “Come, we must go to the vugraph room. The play has already started!”

Mr Sultana showed them the way, but then left to watch the play in the flesh. The four professionals settled down to watch the game. It was an unusual format – an online simultaneous high-stake rubber bridge game, with four players seated at computers, each

playing the same hands against unknown opponents.

Colonel Race kept up a running commentary about the bridge or anything else that took his fancy, and busied himself getting drinks. Mrs Oliver had soon dozed off, while Mr Battle was making the occasional well-considered remark about the game. M. Herless Parrot sat there musing, from time to time stroking his bald head, and pronouncing "Very interesting" with a twinkle in the eye.

Several hours later there were mumbles of discontent.

"Not my idea of a party this," observed Mrs Oliver. "It's getting late and we still need to post mortem the hands. Shall we go and bring the game to an end?"

They all assented, and made their way into the next room.

Mr Sultana was in his chair by the fire. The bridge players were absorbed in their game.

Mrs Oliver came up to the bridge computers, followed by Battle.

"Double five clubs" Mrs Lorrimer was typing in her cool, incisive manner.

"Five No Trumps."

"Double five No Trumps."

Colonel Race went towards Mr Sultana, Parrot behind him. Mr Sultana's head had fallen forward, and he seemed to be asleep.

"We'd better wake him up," said Race. "He won't want to miss the post ..."

His voice trailed off, and he stood staring. Parrot realised what had so upset the colonel – a dagger hilt was protruding from Mr Sultana's shirt.

"*Mon Dieu!*" he murmured.

The normally stolid Battle was there in a flash, instantly taking in the situation. He straightened up.

"Just a minute, please," he said. His official raised voice would have been enough in ordinary circumstances, but the four bridge players kept on at their game, as if mesmerized. M. Parrot had to tap each one on the shoulder to get their attention.

Battle continued. "I'm sorry to tell you all that our host, Mr Sultana, is dead."

The four bridge players leapt up from their computers. The young Anne Meredith, who was already shaking from the bridge, started sobbing, gallantly attended to by Major Despard, the famous explorer. Dr Roberts muttered "My God!" before darting forward to examine the victim, and Mrs Lorrimer froze as if caught between a bridge hand and a dead body.

"To cut a long story short," Battle resumed, "I am sure it will transpire that any one of you in this room could have done it. We will find that every one of you left your seat several times to stoke the fire and pour drinks. Each of you will have a motive, and one or two to spare. What is more, it was a safe crime, for even if Mr Sultana had cried out, would any self-respecting bridge player have noticed when he was absorbed in the game? A quite baffling case. Have you any ideas, Parrot?"

"It is exceptionally interesting," said M. Parrot, "and I must compliment you on your astute and remarkably precise précis of the facts. As you say, everyone had the opportunity, and everyone had the motive. What makes this a particularly difficult case is that there is not even a least likely candidate to have committed the murder."

Parrot paused, and looked round the room. A deathly silence had fallen, with everyone rooted to the spot, staring at Parrot, waiting for the next move.

“*Bien sur*, this case is all about the psychology of the murderer, and for this we must examine the clues from the bridge. There was one hand that was the highlight of the evening, a hand *nonpareil*, when every table played in 7♦ doubled.”

Dealer E	♠ KQJ5		
EW Vul	♥ 10754		
	♦ J652		
	♣ 2		
♠ A1082		N	♠ 63
♥ 8		W	♥ AKQJ9
♦ 104		E	♦ AKQ873
♣ 987643		S	♣ —
			♠ 974
			♥ 632
			♦ 9
			♣ AKQJ105

“Remarkably everybody had the same auction.”

N	E	S	W
	2♣	5♣	X
P	6♣	P	6♠
X	7♦	X	All Pass

“Miss Meredith. Would you care to talk us through what happened to you?”

The timid Anne Meredith came forward.

“Oh, this hand was too, too awful. I lost a lot of money on this one.” She burst out sobbing again, and had to be comforted by Mrs Oliver, who looked decidedly uncomfortable in her role as a caring person.

“The bidding I can scarcely recall. But I remember that they led a club. After that I thought my only chance was to play eleven red-suit cards and hope

that south had the clubs as well as the ♠KQJ, and would be caught in a squeeze. With the bad trump break I went two down.”

“Very good try,” said Parrot. “Nobody could fault you for your line. You may go now.”

No sooner than Anne had shuffled out, Mrs Oliver expostulated, “But that was a terrible line. After north has doubled 6♠ there is no way that south is going to have all the spade honours.”

“*Mais oui*,” said Parrot, “but no need to upset the poor young thing.”

Mrs Lorrimer stepped forward.

“6♣ was clearly showing a red two-suiter, as with spades and a red suit I would have bid 5NT. But the opponent sitting opposite wasn’t having any of it, and he chose spades, so I had to retreat to 7♦. I could see that I had it made if the ♦9 was singleton. So I crossed to the ♠A and led the ♦10. This held the trick, and I now returned to hand with a heart, playing four rounds of the suit, pitching the spades. I ruffed a spade, and still had enough trumps left to ruff back to hand and draw trumps, before enjoying my last heart.”

“*Formidable*,” murmured Parrot.

Major Despard then gave his account.

“I was hoping that 6♣ was going to show any two suits, but I guess partner thought I had the majors. Can’t say I blame him. Anyway, the play was interesting. It looked like I was going to need a fair amount of luck, but fortunately I am used to being in the odd tight spot or two. I could see that I was going to need to ruff the second spade, and for that I needed the diamonds to be 4-1, with the singleton jack onside. So I cashed the ♦A. If the jack had fallen I would have played the hearts hoping for south to have the

doubleton 10. That allows me to play all five. I then cross to the ace of spades, ruff a club, ruff my second spade, and play another club from dummy. At this point I would have been left with KQ8 of trumps, sitting over 965 from north, so by a trump coup would have made the rest."

"*Quelle imagination,*" exclaimed Parrot. "I presume that when the jack of trumps did not appear, you still ruffed the spade and ended up one down?"

"Yes indeed. Worth a shot though, don't you think?"

Finally it was Dr Roberts' turn.

"I bid 6♣ because I wanted to give us a shot at a grand. Some say that I overcall my hand, but I have found that aggressive bidding works in the long run. Despard's play was on the right lines, but he needed the jack of trumps coming down singleton and the doubleton 10 of hearts with south. Realising this, I saw I could combine my chances, and started by cashing the two top hearts. When the 10 didn't drop, I could revert to playing for the singleton ♦9. So I crossed to the ♠A, and led the ♦10 from dummy. North covered, so I won and cashed another two hearts, pitching the remaining spades. Now I ruffed the spade, ruffed the club back to hand, and could draw trumps and enjoy the thirteenth heart. Lot of points riding on this one, you know."

"*Magnifique!*" said Parrot. "So, *mes amis*, did anyone notice anything of interest?"

"Well I didn't think much of Miss Meredith's attempt," said Battle. "Despard had clearly got his line planned but it was somewhat exotic. The other two seemed to be guessing whether there was a singleton 9 or jack, though I did admire the way

Roberts combined his chances – started off playing for the singleton jack of trumps by cashing two hearts, and then reverted to playing for the singleton 9 of trumps when the ♥10 hadn't appeared."

"*Eh bien* – but I think you have overlooked one thing, and that is the key to the solution of this matter," announced Parrot. "For did you not consider what would have happened if north had not covered the ♦10 with the jack. Declarer had already played two rounds of hearts, so his only way back to hand is to ruff a second club. He next cashes two more diamonds and ruffs the spade. Now he has to ruff a third club back to hand. However, north has one more trump left than declarer, so declarer must go one down."

"So the player who committed the perfect murder is..." He paused and looked around the room. "...Dr Roberts. He played off the contract by cashing two hearts, and then only recovered because north misdefended by covering the ♦10. That is, he murdered the contract and got away with it!"

"And are you seriously suggesting that that means he murdered Mr Sultana?" demanded Mrs Oliver with heavy sarcasm.

"*Pas du tout*, my dear lady," replied M Parrot. "I don't want to lay all my Cards on the Table. That murder is the subject of another book..."

**Agatha Christie's
Cards on the Table was
published in 1936. That
year also saw the founding
of the English Bridge Union,
which is now celebrating
its 75th anniversary.**

Life and death at the Tolle final by Chris Jagger

After breezing through the qualifier, hopes were high for this year's final. Kendrick/Cooke, Wightwick/Woodruff, Barden/Mestel, Jagger/Jagger embarked on seven matches to try to win a trophy that has eluded the county for 40 years or so. A flying start was tempered by a 19-1 loss to what looked like one of the weaker teams – the North East. A series of reasonable results left us second overnight and looking very much in contention, though it was all very tight. The Sunday was more lively:

Dealer N	♠ AJ5432		
Game all	♥ 543		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A107		
♠ 6		♠ K	
♥ A9		♥ KQJ10862	
♦ KJ104		♦ AQ8	
♣ QJ9642		♣ 85	
	♠ Q10987		
	♥ 7		
	♦ 97653		
	♣ K3		

A tough 5♥ contract was reached in every room after N/S bid up to 4♠. After a spade to the ace, everyone cashed the ♣A. What now? Against us, the ♣3 looked discouraging and they switched to a diamond. Giles suggest the key to the hand was the lead – how about the ♠7, suit preference?!

EW Vul	♠ 109542		
Dealer N	♥ 10963		
	♦ KJ64		
	♣ —		
♠ J87		♠ AKQ63	
♥ J842		♥ K5	
♦ A9872		♦ Q	
♣ 9		♣ J10753	
	♠ —		
	♥ AQ7		
	♦ 1053		
	♣ AKQ8642		

Another board with a variety of results. The auction at our table was:

N	E	S	W
P	1♠	2♣	2♠
P	P	3♠	P
4♦	All Pass		

North's 4♦ bid looks really curious to me – it is surely obvious partner has lots of clubs, so why try to play in diamonds? Cath didn't feel like doubling with five diamonds as she could see it was a silly contract and didn't know whether I could take care of 5♣ – in fact I would have been delighted. But 4♦ drifted a few off for a small plus score.

At Julian's table the auction started the same, but the east hand ventured a 3♣ game try – a poor bid as it is pretty likely that partner is 3-1 in the blacks, and North will be overruffing when he tries to ruff clubs in dummy. He got punished when it continued 3♠ from the club hand, 4♠ from partner, and a firm double from our pair, which netted +500.

By this time Kent, always one of the favourites, had been suitably despatched.

Surrey, another favourite, were hitting it lucky until they lost 68 imps on one board – a rare occasion when a good team went berserk – one room bid a grand slam off an ace, while the other, with KJx sitting under an overcall, used a retransfer to let partner play a contract. Not surprisingly – our team cashed two tricks!

Despite this, Surrey ended up winning the match against us, although the result would probably have gone the other way had our team appealed this board:

EW Vul	♠ 72				
Dealer N	♥ K9863				
	♦ 103				
	♣ AQ97				
♠ KQ65	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A103
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A1054	♥ 7				
♦ J	♦ Q9862				
♣ 5432	♣ J1086				
	♠ J984				
	♥ QJ2				
	♦ AK754				
	♣ K				

N	E	S	W
P	P	1♦	X
1♥ ^A	2♣	3♠	P
3NT	All Pass		

1♥ was alerted as showing spades, and it is remarkable how many people struggle to understand the ethical position here. To know fully how to rule you would need to talk to the pair concerned more to check out the position, but the key here is that when the 1♥ bid is alerted, north remembers the system, and he is not allowed to use that information. Almost invariably people start arguing all sorts of things about north deducing the system and so on, but the fact is that the real reason that north has remembered the system is that his partner has alerted the 1♥ bid.

Next you have to decide what 3♠ would mean on the assumption that 1♥ is natural. Of course they will not have a system agreement covering this, since they play 1♥ as showing spades, so at this point you need to talk to the players concerned and find out what they say.

In practice, in a partnership that is not that regular you resort to say what would people of that standard play. A lot of them would play that 3♠ is a splinter bid for hearts. If this is so then the auction is likely to go off the rails with north bidding for hearts and south

taking all north's heart bids as cuebids for spades. Last time I had an auction like this myself I ended up in 6NT doubled three off – though few people at the table in practice follow it through!

Now an interesting board against Herts that generated four different results.

All Vul	♠ AJ862				
Dealer N	♥ 5				
	♦ J9875				
	♣ AJ				
♠ Q10	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 953
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 7	♥ AQJ9642				
♦ A1043	♦ Q				
♣ K97432	♣ 86				
	♠ K74				
	♥ K1083				
	♦ K62				
	♣ Q105				

At every table it started 1♠-3♥, and two people bid 3NT over this, one making on a heart lead, Cath beating it by leading a club.

At Paul's table he was penalty-doubled for -800 – a good convention these penalty doubles!

Finally David passed hoping for a penalty and Jon passed also – collecting +300. Jon got some stick for this but I certainly have a lot of sympathy since it could easily be right – if partner bids 4♣ over the double you would be regretting it. Here of course you would be licking your lips all the way to the KFC.

We emerged from the match with another win, but at the final analysis this only left us in 4th place – and who won? The North East – just as they had thrashed us it seemed they did that to everyone else too!

Oh well – it always felt like we were in the hunt, which is the main thing for a good weekend.

Cambridge University have won the 2011 Varsity Match and Undergraduate Varsity Match



Open team (from left): David Williams, Paul Walter, David Faria, Tom Rainforth, Sarah O'Connor and John Haslegrave. Playing a 96-board match, Cambridge gradually built a lead peaking at 51 IMPs after 80 boards. Oxford then threw caution to the wind and staged a substantial comeback, but not quite enough; final score Cambridge 211–Oxford 198.



Undergraduate team (from left) Jackie Ang, Ong Qunxiang, Peteris Erins, Andrew Clegg, Peter Ford, Sean Eberhard, Peter Dutton (and Sam Canham missing). Another close encounter, this time over 32 boards and playing teams of eight. From almost all square at half time, Cambridge pulled away to finish with a winning margin of 26 IMPs.

Results round-up

National competitions

Jon Cooke's team reached the semi-finals of the Spring Foursomes. The National Pairs Regional Final was headed by two Cambs & Hunts pairs: Chris & Cath Jagger (who went on to win the National Final) and Rod Oakford and Mike Seaver, with Mark Tilley & Ufuk Cotuk in 6th place.

In the Ranked Masters Tournament, Chris Jagger won the Premier Grand Masters, Dominic Clark and Tanawan Watts won the Regional Masters, and Henry Lockwood and Matthew Johnson won the Masters.

The county finished in fourth place at the Tollemache Final. Mark Tilley & Mike Trask came second in the Leicestershire One-Day Swiss Teams.

In knockout competitions, Cambridge A and University B reached the last 32 of the NICKO, while Cambridge B and

E and Thursday A have reached the last 32 of NICKO plate. Chris Jagger's team lost in the penultimate round of the Crockford's Cup, while Catherine Curtis's team similarly lost out in the penultimate round of the Crockford's Plate.

In the BGB Spring Simultaneous Pairs, Fred Allen & Roger Salmon were 4th in the Thursday event while Bill Briscombe & Peter Oxley from Saffron Walden finished 8th in the Wednesday event. Roger Courtney & Wendy Pollard from the North Cambridge Club were 21st in the BGB Winter Simultaneous Pairs (Monday). In the Charity Challenge Pairs, Gilli Haarhoff & Sue Paine finished 19th just ahead of fellow Thursday Club pair Rosanne Mattick & Simon Stokes in 22nd.

In the EBU University Pairs, Cambridge University players finished 8th (Andre Kueh & Jackie Ang), 12th

(David Williams & Paul Walter) and 13th (Paul Russell & John Haslegrave). In the EBU Bridge for All Spring Pairs, Michael Du & Robert Cronshaw finished 20th just ahead of fellow Perse School pair Krish Patel & Pietro Miozzo in 23rd.

In the EBU Stratified Pairs events, on Tuesday Peter & Bryan Last from the Cambridge Club finished 9th overall, with Ken & Penny Riley 26th overall, and Richard Earnshaw & Charlie Baylis finished 9th in the 'D' level. On Thursday, Lorraine Waters & Alan Edwards finished 6th overall, Anne Beytell & Susan Hilken finished 13th overall and Verity Joubert & Neil Matthews finished 25th. These pairs were all competing in the 'B' level, so these results earned them 3rd, 5th and 10th places respectively. In the 'C' level, Kaija Hampson & Michael Symons finished 10th and Alan MacFarlane & John Phelps finished 18th. Kaija and Michael's result also earned them 3rd place in 'D', while Rosalind & Norman Hutchinson finished 8th.

Eastern Counties League

In the final matches of the 2010/11 season, the county scored 4-16, 7-13 and 16-4 against Bedfordshire, and 5 - 15, 3 - 17 and 3 - 17 against Suffolk.

Final Standings for 2010/11 season:

A division

1. Hertfordshire with 102 VPs
2. Bedfordshire with 98 VPs
8. Cambs & Hunts with 39 VPs

B division

1. Northants with 94 VPs
2. Essex with 83 VPs
8. Cambs & Hunts with 37 VPs

C division

1. Hertfordshire with 97 VPs
2. Essex with 75 VPs
7. Cambs & Hunts with 47 VPs

Cambs & Hunts League

Standings for the 2010/11 season are listed, with three of the four Divisions decided.

#	Division 1	P	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Ely 1	5	4	1	0	58	11.6
2	Cambridge 2	5	3	2	0	56	11.2
3	North Cambs 1	5	2	2	1	53	10.6
4	Huntingdon 1	4	1	2	1	37	9.3
5	Peterborough 1	4	1	3	0	29	7.3
6	Cambridge 4	3	1	2	0	27	9.0

Congratulations to Ely 1, captained by Peter Burrows, on winning Division 1.

#	Division 2	P	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	University 1	6	3	3	0	76	12.7
2	Peterborough 3	6	4	2	0	73	12.2
3	Thursday 1	5	3	2	0	68	13.6
4	Huntingdon 2	6	4	2	0	57	9.5
5	Ely 2	5	2	3	0	42	8.4
6	University 2	5	2	3	0	35	7.0
7	Peterborough 2	3	0	3	0	9	3.0

In Division 2, University 1, captained by David Faria, are leading, though they can still be caught by Thursday 1, captained by Joanne Caldwell, who have one match still to play.

#	Division 3	P	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Huntingdon 3	6	5	1	0	84	14.0
2	Peterborough 4	6	3	3	0	79	13.2
3	Cambridge 3	6	3	3	0	77	12.8
4	North Cambs 2	6	3	3	0	73	12.2
5	Peterborough 5	6	2	4	0	49	8.2
6	Balsham	6	1	5	0	39	6.5
7	University 3	6	1	5	0	19	3.2

Congratulations to Huntingdon 3, captained by Peter Somerfield, on winning Division 3.

#	Division 4	P	W	L	D	VPs	Ave
1	Thursday 4	6	5	1	0	101	16.8
2	Thursday 2	6	3	3	0	54	10.7
3	Thursday 3	6	3	3	0	60	10.0
4	Cambridge 5	4	3	3	0	51	12.8
5	Ely 3	5	2	4	0	42	8.4
6	Saffron Walden 2	5	1	5	0	23	4.6
7	Saffron Walden 1	4	1	5	0	19	4.8

Congratulations to Thursday 4, captained by David Man, for a runaway victory in Division 4.

County Swiss Pairs

- 1 Trevor & Marion King
- 2 Andre Kueh & Jonathan Cairns
- 3 Malcolm Anderson & Stephen Goodwin
- 4 David Mansell & Colin Holehouse
- 5 Peter & Bryan Last
- 6 David Man & Alan Edwards
- 7 Cynthia & Nicholas Bull
- 8 David Carmichael & Gladys Gittins
- = Sheila Ferguson & Jo Patten
- 10 Dorothy White & Yvonne Keech



Pictured right: Overall winners Trevor & Marion King. Pictured left: Leading pair of rank 1* Master or below Colin Holehouse & David Mansell.

Novice Pairs Tournament

- 1 Maureen Cahill & Jean Murray
- 2 Pat Pett & Charles Blackwell
- 3 Graham & Sue Oates
- 4 Bettie Sweet & Liz Bayer
- 5 Patrick Coulson & Nicole Cory-Wright
- 6 Peter Jeffrey & Margaret Czaskowski
- 7 John & Linda Carey
- = Bill & Sue Sutton
- 9 Patricia Fletcher & Pat Bridges
- 10 Margaret Cooper & Dick Ramsey
- = Anne Vidler & Sherry O'Donovan

County Pairs

- 1 Jon Cooke & Chris Jagger
- 2 Joanne Caldwell & Kevin Smith
- 3 Victor Milman & Rod Oakford
- 4 Paul Fegarty & Catherine Curtis
- 5 Peter Morgan & Frank Padgett
- 6 Tanawan Watts & David Man
- = Michael Krause & John Lambden

- 8 Nadia Stelmashenko & Sue Oakford
- 9 Roger Timmins & Kirk Davies
- 10 Carole Parker & Peter Jackson

The top three pairs will represent the county in the Corwen in June.

County Individual

- 1 Zona Lacy
- 2 Simon Stokes
- 3 Mike Clydesdale
- 4 Linda Yeatman
- 5 Peter Beavan
- 6 Mary Doyle
- 7 Verity Joubert
- 8 Peter Jackson
- 9 Jane Woodhouse
- 10 Neil Matthews



From left: David Samuel, Peter Beavan, Michael Clydesdale, Brian Copping (presenting), Zona Lacy (winner), Simon Stokes (runner-up), Don Keiller, Verity Joubert.

County Knockout

In the Quarter-finals
 JAGGER beat STEVENSON
 SEAVER beat COPPING
 CURTIS beat KING
 OAKFORD beat PATTEN

In the Semi-finals
 JAGGER beat SEAVER
 CURTIS beat OAKFORD

In the Final
 JAGGER beat CURTIS

Chris & Cath Jagger, Jonathan Mestel & Julian Wightwick will represent the county in the Pachabo in June.

County Plate

In the Preliminary Round
JACOBSBERG beat JONES

In the Quarter-finals
MAY beat RILEY
KUEH beat ANDERSON
JACOBSBERG beat EBERHARD
POLLARD beat FARIA (w/o)

In the Semi-finals
MAY beat KUEH (w/o)
POLLARD beat JACOBSBERG

In the Final
MAY beat POLLARD

Congratulations to Matt May, Niel Pimblett, Trevor Martin & Tristan Williams.

ECL Dates

15 May v Essex (H)
19 June v Northants (A)
18 September v Norfolk (A)
11 December v Beds (H)
15 January 2012 v Herts (H)
5 February 2012 v Suffolk (A)
11 March 2012 v University (A)

Garden Cities Qualifier

1	Cambridge	88
2	Peterborough A	77
3	Peterborough B	47
4	Balsham	41
5	Huntingdon	33
6	Thursday	14

Cambridge (Rod & Sue Oakford, Mike Seaver, Julian Wightwick, Victor Milman, Nadia Stelmashenko, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis) will represent the county in the Regional Final of the Garden Cities in May.

Alpine Bridge Holidays

Bridge, Walking and Golf in the Cotswolds: 13th-19th June

Bridge and Wine Tasting in Champagne and the Alsace: 19th-24th September

Bridge, Gentle Walking and Golf Day in Dorset: 8th-13th October

For more details, go to
www.AlpineBridge.co.uk

Around the Clubs**Blinco**

The Club Individual for the Barker Trophy was won by Alan Macfarlane.

Lydia Stow & Jane Hewer won the Frank Weatherhead Cup.

Cambridge

The Club Individual Championship for the Cradock Trophy was won by Rod Oakford.

The Club Teams Championship was won by Sue & Rod Oakford, Mike Seaver & Julian Wightwick.

Victor Milman & Nadia Stelmashenko won the Club Pairs Championship.

The March 2011 Equinox Handicap Pairs was won by Tony Oram & Peter Grice.

Mike Seaver & John Liebeschuetz won the Club Butler Pairs Championship for the Jacobs Shield.

Eryl Howard & Eric Campbell won the Club Mixed Pairs Championship.

The Mad Hatter's Speed Ball Pairs was won by David Faria & David Williams.

The Teams League for the Collis Plate was won by Julian Wightwick, John Liebeschuetz, Clive Stops & Dave Harrison.

Cottenham

The Winter Handicap Pairs for the Alan Ashment Handicap Cup was won by Derek & Margaret Sayers.

Peter Morgan & Mike Seaver again won the ladder for the Championship Pairs.

Darren Cotterell won the David Haddock Trophy for bidding and making the most slams in the year.

Huntingdon

Derek Oxbrow won the ladder for the President's Rose Bowl, while Charles King, runner-up for the second year in a row, received the Joe Ward Salver.

The Club Teams Championship was won by Mike Neverton, Pauline Baily, Enid Emanuel & Bill Stevenson.

David Williams won the Slam Trophy.

North Cambridge

The monthly Prize Pairs have been won by Zona Lacy & Margaret Allen (January); Sandy Cuthbert & Richard Lyons (February); Roy Newman & Wendy Pollard (March); Margaret Mitchley & Andrew Wilkinson (April).

The Handicap Teams of Four was won by Angela Newman, Joan Grayer, Chris Murray & Andrew Gregory.

The Club Pairs Championship was won by Susan Mealing & Peter Last.

The Winter Pairs was won by John Pearce & Chris Dickman.

The Handicap Pairs was won by Tanawan Watts & Vin Vachher.

Peterborough

The Peterborough Pairs was won by Martin Garfield & Tricia Pengelly.

The Committee Cup was won by Karl Farquhar & Mark Tilley.

The Pivot Teams was won by Trevor Thrower, Tim Durdin, Karl Farquhar, Mark Tilley.

The Gentle Pairs was won by Robin & Marian Freeman.

The Handicap Trophy was won by Brian Hope.

The Improver's Cup was won by Julius Dooman.

The Club Teams Championship was retained by Trevor Thrower, Brian Hope, Karl Farquhar & Rob Miller.

The Club Championship was retained by Mark Tilley & Trevor Thrower.

Trevor King has retired as Chairman of Peterborough Bridge Club after a lengthy spell of 9 years. He has handed over to Brian Hope, but will remain on the Committee as Vice Chairman and County Representative.

Peterborough's Charity Evening

- Wednesday 22nd June, 7pm
 - Raising funds for the Blind/Deaf Association
- Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday

Roy Newman won the President's Shield.

Fred Allen & Roger Salmon won both the St Johns Championship and the Swan Shields.

Tanawan Watts & David Man won the Mackenzie Plate.