

# Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 59, October 2011

## Cambs & Hunts news

The highlight of a fairly quiet summer for Cambs & Hunts players was David Kendrick's victory in the Swiss Teams at the Summer Senior's Congress.

The new season of county competitions is kicking off, with the County Knockout Teams draw due out any day, the County Swiss Teams at the end of this month, and a new competition lined up for 2012:

### Cambs and Hunts Rubber Bridge Knock Out

New social-but-serious knock out – all you need is a partner and a bit of luck! Competition to start in the new year with matches played in people's homes. Entry is free, just contact the editors.

### Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams

Saturday 29th October 2011, 1pm  
Peterborough Bridge Club, PE1 2PE

Prizes for the top three teams and an Ascenders' prize  
Entries: £14 per player, entry form on p8 of this newsletter

## In this issue...

Aunt Agony is delighted to hear from a new nephew (John Liebeschuetz), though you might not know it from her scathing reply! Cath Jagger reports on some recent bad breaks while Chris helps us bid after partner has overcalled. There's also a lead problem posed by Jonathan Mestel and the usual round-up of results from national and county competitions and news from around the clubs. Plus the **County Swiss Teams entry form** and **County Calendar** at the end.

Visit the county's website at

[www.cambsbridge.org.uk](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](mailto:david@djallen.org.uk)

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!

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## Aunt Agony

Dear Aunt,

I must tell you a sad story. I think even you will admit that for once my analysis and play were exemplary and I was only undone by the capriciousness of Lady Luck.

Love All	♠ J65		
Dealer S	♥ 97		
	♦ A863		
	♣ A954		
♠ KQ7		N	♠ 9
♥ AKJ2		W E	♥ 1054
♦ J10		S	♦ 9542
♣ K872			♣ QJ1032
			♠ A108432
			♥ Q863
			♦ KQ7
			♣ —

N	E	S	W
		1♠	1NT
X	2♣	2♥	P
2♠	P	4♠	X
All Pass			

My 4♠ was I admit brave considering the 1NT overcall on my left. On the other hand I hoped for more from partner. When West doubled and then banged down ♥AK it was clear to me he must also have ♠KQ to three or more. Could there be a way to make the hand?

I saw in a flash that if W had precisely ♠KQ7 then there was a chance of a trump endplay but that other suits would also have to behave. I needed first to ruff three times in hand to reduce my trump length. At trick three West led ♦J. I won with the A, crossed to the ♦K and cashed ♣A. I had to discard my ♦Q winner as I needed to ruff two hearts in dummy for entries. I ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed another club, all following. I led the

♥Q and breathed a sigh of relief when West was not able to ruff in high, but of course I then had to ruff with the ♠J. East discarded a club on this trick.

Now I had to ruff back to hand without West over-ruffing and I was in a quandary. Should I lead diamonds or clubs? This was the situation:

Love All	♠ 6		
Dealer S	♥ —		
	♦ 86		
	♣ 9		
♠ KQ7		N	♠ 9
♥ —		W E	♥ —
♦ x?		S	♦ x x?
♣ x?			♣ x x?
			♠ A1084
			♥ —
			♦ —
			♣ —

My plan was to ruff with the ♠4 and then bang down the ♠10 pinning East's ♠9 and forcing West to win and lead round to my ♠A8. I didn't read much into the fact West had led ♦J and turned up with the 10. Why shouldn't he have a third diamond? Eventually I decided to ruff a diamond. But West had no more diamonds and was able to over-ruff this and safely exit with a club. What terrible bad luck!! A masterpiece ruined by fate.

With affection,

Your faithful nephew

My poor deluded nephew,

A sad story indeed. I grudgingly accept that your analysis found the only way to retrieve the situation from your grossly optimistic bidding. But don't blame Lady Luck for failing, blame instead your lamentable card reading!

I surmise from the amount of your allowance that pays your bills at the Club that you are still playing out of your league. So I assume East is a reasonable player. If so he cannot possibly have only one remaining diamond at trick nine. He would have seen that it was essential to discard it on the heart at trick eight. Then you would have been doomed. If you try to ruff a diamond he nips in sharply with the ♠9. You can over-ruff but the endplay has gone.

So you can therefore conclude that East has both remaining diamonds and has made the discard that tries to keep you in the dark.

It pains me to point out that not only are the cards lying perfectly, but the defenders helped you too. Try making the contract if West switches to ♠K at trick 2 and continues attacking trumps! Bad luck indeed!

Your ever-loving aunt

## Tricky Jxxxxs... by Cath Jagger

Julian Wightwick and I bid the following hand to the “top spot” of 7♠ in a recent Hubert Philips match:

Dealer E											
♠ KQ	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A1097532
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A654	♥ K2										
♦ AKQ73	♦ 5										
♣ 64	♣ A98										

N	E	S	W
	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	2♥
P	3♠	P	5♠ <sup>1</sup>
P	6♣ <sup>2</sup>	P	6♦ <sup>3</sup>
P	6♥ <sup>4</sup>	P	7♠

1. I'm interested in slam if you have first- or second-round control in the unbid suit (clubs) – we have all the other first-round controls.
2. In fact I have first-round control in clubs – are you interested in seven now?
3. Yes I am – I have the ♦K too
4. I also have the ♥K

South led a club, and surveying dummy there appeared to be a fairly safe 13 tricks – but South showed out on the first round of trumps....

Now – could I elope with my trumps? For that to even begin to work, North would need to follow to at least three diamonds and two hearts and hold at least six red cards in total: Cash ♦AKQ, ruff a diamond, ♥K, cross to ♥A, ruff a diamond, cross to ♠Q, ruff a heart – that brings me down to ♠A10 but I'd be in the wrong hand for the trump coup. I needed one more entry to dummy. In fact the only chance at trick 3 is to play that line but hope North misdefends by ruffing in on the fourth or fifth diamonds or third heart. But sadly North was too much on the ball and just sat back and waited for her trump trick at the end.

So should I have played less hastily at trick two, where I used up my ♠K entry? Or would cashing/ruffing outside suits before drawing trumps (thereby risking ruffs or overruffs when trumps were in fact 2–2 or 3–1) reduce the odds of me making the contract by more than the small increased chance of making in the odd cases when trumps are 4–0?

After much thought and consultation of team-mates possibly the best chance is ♦A at trick two and diamond ruff with the ♠10. This loses when either

defender is void in diamonds or when South has one diamond AND ♠J – but gains when North has all four spades plus at least three diamonds and two hearts and one further red card, as now we are set up for the elopement and trump coup. Very close odds either way!

The following weekend this hand came up in the Premier League – generating many different auctions:

EW Vul	♠ 5											
Dealer N	♥ 2											
	♦ Q74											
	♣ AKQ86542											
♠ J1043		<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q872
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ KQ10			♥ J8753									
♦ K3			♦ J1098									
♣ J973			♣ —									
	♠ AK96											
	♥ A964											
	♦ A652											
	♣ 10											

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♦	P
3♣	P	3NT	P
?			

South is really worth a natural 4NT bid, over which North would remove to 5♣ which South would raise. Some Norths opened 3NT, which should lead to the much easier auction, South bidding 4NT (asking for an eighth club), North 5NT (to rightside the contract) and South 6♣. There were also some who opened 5♣, which was raised to 6♣. Someone even played in the grand slam – don't ask me how. The grand slam has no play unless trumps are 3-1 or better. The small slam received ♦J lead: should declarer cater for a 4-0 trump break by running the diamond at trick 1? This would only help if West had led from ♦KJ10x and trumps turned out to be 4-0 – and would fail on pretty much any trump break if West had led from

♦J singleton and could now get a ruff. The odds clearly favour just bashing down ♦A and ♣A, hoping trumps aren't 4-0 – unlucky this time!

The more interesting play problem is for those in 3NT by South on the ♠J lead. Declarer won and played a club to the ace finding out the bad news. If he now ducks a club he has the ♦Q as an entry back to the clubs, and the two major suit nines are enough to stop opponents cashing too many tricks – albeit relying on the favourable heart position that prevents opponents taking more than two heart tricks. If however he cashes his three club winners first, he has to make too many pitches from hand, and now the defence can attack whichever suit he has thrown.

Perhaps a better line can be found at trick two. Declarer could play up a diamond, making the contract when either the clubs are coming in or diamonds are 3-3 with the king onside. This does not require the favourable heart position to make. However, on the actual lie of the cards, this goes down, provided that West has the presence of mind to duck the diamond!

## Ski & Bridge in the Alps

January & March 2012

One or two week holidays available

- 1<sup>st</sup>-class rail travel on Eurostar, from London direct to the Alps.
- A very comfortable hotel, with award-winning restaurant, in a delightful mountain village.
- Escorted Ski-ing each day (your choice of group) in one of France's largest Ski areas.
- Plus full programme of Duplicate Bridge included.

For further details, contact Marion and Trevor King on 01733 572457 or visit [www.AlpineBridge.co.uk](http://www.AlpineBridge.co.uk)

## Responding to Overcalls by Chris Jagger

People are far too keen to pass their partner's overcall with three-card support. Whether this is because they don't like playing the dummy and would much rather let opponents declare so they have something to do defending, or whether from bitter experience it is because they know that three-card support might just be enough to stop their partner going for a large penalty – provided they don't raise – I don't know.

But there are several good reasons to raise your partner's suit when you have three-card support. The whole of modern bidding is based on the idea of the size of the fit, and if your partner shows a five-card suit by overcalling at the one level, then three-card support is enough to raise to the two level – eight trumps between you should ensure that if you go down it will be more than made up by what opponents can make.

Not only is that the case, but raising takes valuable space away from opponents, making their life difficult. A one-level overcall is slightly pre-emptive, but it has far more effect when it is then raised to the two level.

If partner has a good hand then the knowledge of a fit can be a key part to assessing the hand's game potential.

So how does it work? Let us suppose the auction has started 1♦-1♥-P, and you hold the following hands:

1. xxxx xxx xxx xxx
2. Kxxx Qxx xx xxxx
3. xxxx Qxx Ax Kxxx

1. Pass. You have three card support, and should be keen to show this, but are so weak that this is taking a good principle

too far – partner may well bid game or compete at the three level and he is going to be somewhat disappointed with your trickless hand.

2. Bid 2♥. This may only be five points but it is actually a fine hand, and if partner is good, you may even have game on. For example, AQxx AKxxx xxx x or AQxx AKxxxx xx x may be enough for game.
3. Bid 2♦, an 'unassuming cue bid'. This primarily shows a hand with a smattering of points – say 9+ with three-card support. It can also be used on a very strong hand with any shape, which will take control of the auction later.

### Bidding tip of the month:

Don't give false preference at the four level. A couple of hands from the Premier League saw even good players not knowing this basic principle. E.g. 1♦-3♣-3♠-P, 3NT-P-4♥ shows at least 5-5 in the majors – a good time for partner to pass as soon as possible!

### What's the right lead?

(Sitting West) ♠KQ10  
♥KQ9  
♦KQ32  
♣KJ10

N	E	S	W
4♠	P	4NT	P
5♦	P	6NT	X

All pass

5♦ showed one ace. What lead guarantees setting the contract? Answer in the next issue.

## Results round-up

### National competitions

David Kendrick won the Swiss Teams at the Summer Senior's Congress, while in the Pairs, Peter Morgan & Mike Seaver finished equal fourth in the 'A' final and Joanne Caldwell & Ian McDonald finished equal fourth in the 'B' final.

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Chris Jagger came 3rd in the Championship Pairs, and Joanne Caldwell & Ian McDonald also qualified for the A final. Jon Cooke & Cath Jagger played on the team that finished 3rd in the Swiss Teams.

At the Scarborough Summer Congress, Victor Milman & Nadia Stelmashenko finished 4th equal in the Swiss Pairs.

At the Felixstowe Congress, Rod & Sue Oakford were 4th in the Main Pairs; Roger Timmins & Mike Bradley were 2nd in the Open Pairs; and Tanawan Watts, David Man, Robert Wright & Rosanne Mattick finished equal 6th in the teams.

In the Pachabo, Cambs & Hunts (Chris & Cath Jagger, Julian Wightwick, Jonathan Mestel) came 3rd. In the Corwen Trophy, Chris Jagger & Jon Cooke came 15th, Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty 20th. In the Garden Cities final, Cambridge finished 3rd.

One-Day Green Point Events: Dominic Clark, Roger Courtney, Wendy Pollard and Eric Campbell finished second in the Bedfordshire Swiss Teams, while Trevor & Marion King finished 4th equal in the Nottinghamshire Swiss Teams.

In the EBU Spring Simultaneous Pairs, Fred Allen & Tapan Pal from the Thursday Club were 5th in the Thursday event while Mark Tilley & Ufuk Cotuk from Peterborough finished 17th in the Wednesday event.

In the BGB Summer Simultaneous Pairs, on Tuesday Sue Oakford & Abdel Abdelmoneim from Cambridge were 7th ahead of Marion & Trevor King from Peterborough in 19th place. In the Monday event, Roger & Margaret Chaplin from Huntingdon finished 20th. In the EBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs (Tuesday), Myra & Peter Burrows from Ely finished 8th just ahead of Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty in 10th.

Congratulations to Ufuk Cotuk and Henry Lockwood who won the Regional Master and Master categories in the Tournament Focus VI Play Quiz.

### Eastern Counties League

In the opening matches of the 2011/12 season, the county scored 0-20, 0-20 and 3-17 against Northants; 15-5, 0-20 and 14-6 against Essex; and 9-11, 17-3 and 7-13 against Norfolk.

### ECL Dates

11 December v Beds (H)  
15 January 2012 v Herts (H)  
5 February 2012 v Suffolk (A)  
11 March 2012 v University (A)

### Changes to EBU competitions:

**Autumn Congress:** now held in Stratford-upon-Avon (21-23 October). Saturday evening will finish around 7pm to let players enjoy the location.

**National Pairs:** entry fees will be reduced at club heats. At the National Final, there will also be a "B" Final for the top 50 pairs with at most one Life Master and no person in the top 60 of the Gold Point ranking list.

**Ranked Masters:** the competitions for Premier Masters and below will be played at regional venues (4 March).

## **Around the Clubs**

### **Blinco**

The Doric Cup was won by Fred Allen & Vera Donert.

### **Cambridge**

The Summer Ladder for the Abdelmoneim Trophy was won by David Collier & Paul Walter.

The Autumn Equinox Handicap Pairs for the Zakrzewska Trophy was won by Peter Jackson & Carole Parker.

### **Cottenham**

The Club Teams Championship was won by Vin Vachher, Simon Wood, Margaret & Alan Macfarlane.

### **Ely**

From the beginning of October we move to the City of Ely Golf Club, which has kindly agreed to accommodate the club until the end of March, when we move back to Witcham Village Hall for the summer. The move to the golf club is really a homecoming because the club was founded there by bridge-playing golfers in 1967; even then, however, they had to move out in the summer.

We are again running a beginners' class on a Monday at the Ely Beet Sports Club. The class has been moved to the morning so that a supervised session can run alongside the growing afternoon duplicate bridge session.

The Handicap Cup was won by Geraldine & Jack Warren.

### **Huntingdon**

The Stuart Morton Random Teams Trophy was won by Roger & Margaret Chaplin, Peter Ladlow & Colin Payne.

The Club Individual for the Alan Nott Trophy was won by Stephen Goodwin, while runner-up Roger Bishop received the McCann Plate.

### **North Cambridge**

The monthly Prize Pairs have been won by Andrew Gregory & Ed Graham (May); Lorraine Waters & Alan Edwards (June); Margaret Mitchley & Andrew Wilkinson (July); Alison Lloyd & Peter Cowley (August); Ann Aplin & Derek Sayers (September).

The Club Teams Championship was won by John Pearce, Chris Dickman, Vin Vachher & Richard Lyons.

### **Peterborough**

The Men's Pairs was won by Trevor King partnering Brian Hope, while the Ladies' Pairs was won by Marion King partnering Marian Freeman.

The Charity Event raised £200 for the local branch of the Blind/Deaf Association. The winning team was Marianne & Graham Robinson, Marian & Robin Freeman.

### **Thursday**

The Fry Trophy was won by Alan MacFarlane, John Phelps, Susan Hilken & Alan Edwards

The Orchard Pairs was won by Rosanne Mattick & Simon Stokes.

The unusual Partner Pairs were won by Sue Paine & Fred Allen (June) and Verity Joubert & Alan Edwards (Sept.).

The Dennis Marrian Teams Ladder was won by Joanne Caldwell & Kevin Smith, while the Doric Cup Pairs Ladder was won by Fred Allen.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

at 1.00 pm.

**Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams**  
at Peterborough Bridge Club, PE1 2PE  
(Corner of Lincoln Rd. and York Rd.)

**Competition for the Margaret Hyde Trophy**

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

Two sessions of play	Entry fee £14.00 per player
Includes plated afternoon tea	Free Tea and Coffee all day
Licensed by the EBU	Master Points to EBU Scale

Tournament Director: Ian Clarke

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Entry Form (please detach)  
Cambs & Hunts Open Swiss Teams

Team Names and EBU numbers:-  
Team Members

EBU Numbers

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Preferred contact address:.....

Telephone No:.....Email .....

Please send cheque for £56 (payable to “Cambs & Hunts C.B.A.”) to:  
Trevor King 27 Barnes Way, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6QD  
Tel. 01733 572457 email Trevor@AlpineBridge.co.uk



## **Cambs & Hunts CBA**

### **County Calendar 2011–2012**

*Except for the Novice Pairs and Teams tournaments all competitors must be members of the EBU (either directly or as a member of a club). Full details of events and entry forms are available from clubs, the event organiser, or on [www.cambsbridge.org.uk](http://www.cambsbridge.org.uk). All events start at 1pm except where otherwise stated.*

- Monday 10th  
October 2011      **Closing date for entries to the County Teams Knockout.** 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](mailto:chjagger@deloitte.co.uk), 14 St Barnabas Court, St Barnabas Road, CB1 2BZ. Tel 01223 259524)
- Saturday 29th  
October 2011  
Peterborough      **Cambs and Hunts Open Swiss Teams**  
The County's prestige teams-of-four competition.  
(Organised by Trevor King: [Trevor@alpinebridge.co.uk](mailto:Trevor@alpinebridge.co.uk)      Tel: 01733 572457)
- Sunday 19th  
February 2012  
Trumpington      **County Individual Final**  
This is what bridge is all about! All partner all and only a simple system is permitted. Qualifying heats to be held in clubs by 16 December.  
Pester your club to hold a heat. Entry £1.50 per person.  
Clubs: to register your heats please email [CountyIndividual@systems.co.uk](mailto:CountyIndividual@systems.co.uk)
- Saturday 25th  
February 2012  
Peterborough      **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: [Trevor@alpinebridge.co.uk](mailto:Trevor@alpinebridge.co.uk)      Tel: 01733 572457)
- Saturday 10th  
March 2012  
Trumpington  
10am      **Novice Pairs Tournament**  
For inexperienced players and players new to tournament bridge.  
(Organisers: Gladys Gittins email: [gladys.g40@ntlworld.com](mailto:gladys.g40@ntlworld.com), and David Carmichael)
- Sunday 25th  
March 2012  
Trumpington      **County Pairs Final**  
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 31 January.  
Entry fee £2.50 per person.  
(Organiser: Peter Grice [pg10003@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg10003@cam.ac.uk))
- Sunday 29th  
April 2012  
Trumpington      **County Swiss Pairs**  
A popular pairs competition in Swiss format with six 8 board matches.  
(Organiser: Penny Riley [penny.riley@ntlworld.com](mailto:penny.riley@ntlworld.com))

Eastern Counties League dates are published separately, by Chris Larlham, [CLar365164@aol.com](mailto:CLar365164@aol.com).