

Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 63, January 2013

Cambs & Hunts news

Cambridge A (Chris Jagger, Jonathan Mestel, Jon Cooke, Julian Wightwick & Catherine Jagger) won the National Inter-Club Knockout Teams. Chris was also in the team that won the Premier League, and therefore has a Camrose match in January.

Interested in websites? The county is looking for a new webmaster. Please let the editors know if you would like to help.

Garden Cities Qualifier Saturday 16th February, 1pm
Green-Pointed Congress 9th-10th March, details below
Novice Pairs Tournament Saturday 23rd March, 10am
County Swiss Pairs Sunday 28th April, 1pm

We are holding a new friendly congress in association with Norfolk and Suffolk.

Green-Pointed Swiss Pairs on Saturday 9th March begins at 1pm;

Green-Pointed Swiss Teams on Sunday 10th March begins at 11am.

Both events will be held at the University Campus Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ. There are numerous prize categories, including non-expert, with a prize fund totalling at least £1500. Need a partner for the Pairs, or another Pair for the Teams? The Congress Secretary may be able to help.

Closing date for entries: 28th February

EABW Secretary, Olivers Barn, Olivers Lane, Colchester, CO2 0HH, 01206 861729 (Jeff) or 01206 331599 (Chris) eabw@suffolkbridge.co.uk

In this issue...

There are reports on the Premier League from Chris Jagger and the NICKO Final from Jon Cooke. Simon Barb unveils his Little Stock of Horrors with a tale of woe that has to be read to be believed. And there is the usual round-up of results from national and county competitions, news from the clubs and the **County Calendar**.

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 May.

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

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Round up of the Premier League

by Chris Jagger

You are lying about average after five rounds (out of seven) of the all-play-all Premier League. To win the league, would you prefer to still have to play the two weakest teams or the two strongest teams?

Sounds obvious, and if your aim is simply to get a high score, then it is clearly right to want to have the two weakest teams left. However, to win then simply beating the two weakest teams heavily may not be enough – one of the top two teams could score reasonably and end up still ahead. To have things in your control, it is perhaps better to have the strongest two teams left – a heavy win against them could well leapfrog you into the lead.

1♥, to take away space and show the pre-emptive nature of the hand. The X of 4♥ merely helped us have a controlled auction to slam. 5♠ confirmed all the key cards to give partner the chance to bid the grand. Partner could see it was essentially 50% so declined to bid it – a sensible decision when many people had missed slam. In fact we made 13 tricks.

This board felt unlucky:

NS Vul	♠ KJ65		
Dealer W	♥ KJ98542		
	♦ -		
	♣ 87		
♠ Q98		♠ A43	
♥ A106		♥ 7	
♦ A5		♦ KJ1093	
♣ KQ1063		♣ AJ52	
	♠ 1072		
	♥ Q3		
	♦ Q87642		
	♣ 94		

Game all	♠ K54		
Dealer W	♥ KQ653		
	♦ A1083		
	♣ A		
♠ 2		♠ A109876	
♥ A7		♥ J	
♦ KQJ42		♦ 5	
♣ KJ643		♣ Q10875	
	♠ QJ3		
	♥ 109842		
	♦ 976		
	♣ 92		

N	E	S	W
1♥	1♠	3♥	1♦
4♥	All pass		P

I passed 3♥, and North made a lucky raise to 4♥, making it too hard for either hand to do anything. This drifted two off, but in fact 5♣ is making.

The winning action is to bid 4♣ over 3♥ – but with a singleton in partner's suit, a doubleton heart and missing quick tricks in the minors, it is very unlikely that 4♣ is going to be right – of course a 6115 shape opposite with the ♠A and ♣Q is the time when it is! Several others including our opponents did bid 4♣, but apart from the most inveterate overbidders, most decided in the cold light of day it was too much.

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

Many pairs missed slam, but our match was flat in 6♣. Our opponents gave us too easy a ride: 3♥ looks preferable to

To get some IMPs back my partner took an aggressive action on this hand (given that partner hasn't made a UCB):

NS Vul	♠ 1084		
Dealer W	♥ A10		
	♦ J1095		
	♣ Q1097		
♠ A5		N	♠ 763
♥ QJ2		W	♥ 87653
♦ Q72		E	♦ 863
♣ A6542		S	♣ KJ
			♠ KQJ92
			♥ K94
			♦ AK4
			♣ 83

N	E	S	W
			1♣
P	1♥	1♠	X
2♠	P	2NT	P
3NT	All pass		

It is a good contract, but that is because dummy is pretty suitable, unusually with stops in all three outside suits!

A club was led to the jack (bad news for declarer, who could have expected the jack to be onside) and a diamond returned. Declarer won and played the ♠K to the ace. Another club went to the king, and a second diamond through. Declarer won and now had five losers and only eight winners. He cashed the spade suit and West was caught in a triple squeeze – he had to keep the ♣A and ♦Q, so when the last spade was played he had to pitch a heart. West was disappointed that his partner did not have the ♥9!

In the last set we were playing the leaders, and needed a good win to secure victory. This hand helped the cause:

N	E	S	W
			P
P	1♥	1NT	2♦
3NT	P	P	X

Love all	♠ QJ4		
Dealer W	♥ Q7653		
	♦ K93		
	♣ 65		
♠ AK83		N	♠ 1075
♥ -		W	♥ AJ984
♦ Q1087654		E	♦ 2
♣ 72		S	♣ KJ84
			♠ 962
			♥ K102
			♦ AJ
			♣ AQ1093

West passed first in (not a call I like – it is going to be hard to get across both suits and the power of this hand later), as did North. East opened a light third-in-hand 1♥_X and South made an aggressive no-trump overcall. West bid a NF 2♦, with plenty to spare – easy to imagine that game has been missed. North stretched to bid 3NT, and West, with two entries, had a clear double.

Declarer won the diamond lead and surveyed a fairly hopeless dummy. Guessing right you can get out for one off. He led a spade to the queen which held, and then a club to the ten, which also held. Things were looking better, but still like one off. Another spade was taken by West, who cashed three rounds of the suit (dummy and East throwing hearts, declarer throwing a club), before exiting with a diamond to the ace. Declarer by this stage is playing the hand double dummy, and will get out for one off, as he can keep endplaying East. He played a heart to the queen, which after a long think, East decided to duck. This was fatal. Declarer cashed the ♦K, squeezing East. If he pitched a club then declarer would have a spade, heart, three diamonds and four clubs. If he pitched a heart, declarer could take the club finesse, and duck out the (by now bared) ♥A. Nine tricks made, to go with 3♦ making in the other room.

Cambridge A win the National Inter-Club Knockout

by Jonathan Cooke

After what seemed like several hundred knockout matches, Cambridge A: Chris Jagger, Jonathan Mestel, Jonathan Cooke, Julian Wightwick and Cath Jagger qualified for the final of the EBU's inter-club teams of four competition. Our opponents, Cheltenham, had beaten a fellow Cambridge team, David Kendrick, Victor Milman, Chris Larlham, Nadia Stelmashenko and Simon Barb in the semi-final, so we needed to exact revenge: an all-Cambridge final would have been a special achievement for the City club.

Chris got out his map of the UK and his compass and discovered that if you go to the exact midpoint between the two teams' home postcodes, you arrive at Aylesbury. Aylesbury is the home of the EBU, so after a few phone calls, EBU headquarters, Aylesbury, was decided upon as the location for the match.

Ian Mitchell kindly met us on December 1st, unlocking the building on his way to watch a rugby match, and we settled down for 48 boards.

The first set was very high-scoring, and Cheltenham took a 27-25 lead. Cambridge picked up 17 imps in the second eight thanks mostly to two nice slams bid by Julian and Chris.

In set three, Jonathan Cooke could have made a tricky 4♥ despite Cheltenham finding the most challenging lead. In set four, Cooke-Mestel bid a nice slam which offset a lucky vulnerable game from Cheltenham, so things were very close going into the last 16 boards.

Game all	♠ A9		
Dealer S	♥ KJ53		
	♦ J4		
	♣ AQJ95		
♠ 1073		N	♠ QJ82
♥ 10876		W	♥ 92
♦ K3		E	♦ 10875
♣ 8742		S	♣ K106
			♠ K654
			♥ AQ4
			♦ AQ962
			♣ 3

Jagger-Wightwick bid these cards to 4NT, which seems fine if you count the points rather than the tricks. In fact, though, 4NT is not cold.

Opponents led the ♠7. Chris won the ace and tried the ♦J (not clear this is right – he could try low to the jack instead, but he didn't know at this stage that East had the longer spades, and he thought it was percentage to play that hand for short spades and therefore also the ♦K – he only needed two quick tricks in diamonds).

That lost to the king and the ♠10 came back, overtaken by the jack – now it looked like a mud lead from 1073, so Chris ducked and won the queen continuation. He then cashed four hearts pitching a diamond. When Chris cashed ♦AQ he pretty much got a count of the hand – it looked like RHO started with 4243 shape. RHO had thrown 2 clubs away on the hearts, so now Chris knew that either RHO had bared the ♣K, or, since LHO had only clubs left, a club to the Ace and the ♣Q would safely build his 10th trick in clubs. On the given hand, RHO did bare the ♣K and had therefore been triple squeezed in three suits, so Chris

made 11 tricks in spectacular fashion by dropping the ♣K offside. Cheltenham overbid these cards to 6NT, so this was 13 imps to Cambridge.

Also in the set, Cooke-Mestel bid a cold 6♦ on distributional values which was missed by Cheltenham, so Cambridge led by 25 with eight to play.

Cooke got a chance to redeem himself for going off in 4♥ earlier when he played the following hand in 3NT after a 2♠ weak jump overcall from his RHO:

Game all	♠ 2		
Dealer N	♥ 85		
	♦ AQJ84		
	♣ AQJ42		
♠ 84		N	♠ QJ10976
♥ AQ93		W	♥ J1062
♦ 963		E	♦ K
♣ K873		S	♣ 96
	♠ AK53		
	♥ K74		
	♦ 10752		
	♣ 105		

West led ♠8. If either of the minor suit kings are wrong, the ♥A will be wrong too or East would be too heavy for a weak jump overcall. Since a heart switch through the king will be fatal, it

looks like you need both minor-suit finesses; even then you have to be a bit careful with your entries. The Cheltenham declarer ran the ♦10, intending to play a club to the 10 if it won. Unfortunately for him, RHO won the ♦K, switched to a heart and beat the contract by two tricks, as declarer had to lead away from the clubs.

Cooke spotted a small extra chance. He ran the ♣10 at trick 2. When that held, he repeated the club finesse and played ♦A and ♦Q. When the ♦K was singleton offside he crossed to the ♦10, cashed his other spade, cashed the diamonds, and threw West in with the 4th club to lead away from the ♥A for eleven tricks. Had the ♦K been onside, the contract would still have made, since declarer can afford to lose a diamond and still make 9 tricks.

The last 8 saw Cambridge add on a further 20 imps winning by 46 imps.



A Little Stock of Horrors, part 1

by Simon Barb

Are you a good enough defender to concede 5♦X+1 on the hand that follows?

I forget the vulnerability, but I think it was both sides vulnerable. I was playing rubber with an unknown partner who was billed as a “solid” player, albeit 80 years old!

I held: ♠x ♥Axx ♦Jxx ♣AKQJ108

Partner opens first in hand with 3♠ and RHO intervenes with a double. I think that there is a case for a choice of bids here but I wanted to avoid misunderstandings, so passed. LHO bids 4♦, partner passes, RHO bids 5♦ and it is back to you.

I probably should have passed here but I did not believe that RHO was holding

some massive 11 playing-trick hand (his partner having shown no values for his bidding so far) and essayed a double. Where were the tricks coming from? I had three trumps which would be a nuisance at least, they were not going to make any tricks in clubs, hearts had not been mentioned and surely they were not going to be romping off spade tricks.

Partner led the ♠K, and I saw that my rationale was at least partially justified.

Dummy: ♠Ax ♥KJ1098 ♦AQxxx ♣x

Well, optimism reigns, I thought, as declarer won with dummy's ace.

I felt less good when declarer turned up with five diamonds (headed by the king), and drew trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy.

He then led the ♥8 and I rose with the ace, declarer following with the queen.

It looked as though partner had four hearts, to go with her seven spades and diamond void, so two clubs.

Declarer superficially still had both a spade and club to lose but I was out of spades, so how to get partner in quickly to cash her winning spade?

Can you see what is coming?

The "answer" is of course to underlead the ♣AKQJ108! Partner can overtake the ♣8 with the ♣9 and cash the setting ♠Q.

Except it didn't happen quite like that. Declarer covered the ♣8 with the ♣9 and much to his surprise held the trick.

His losing spades went away on dummy's hearts, and that was 5♦X+1!

Results round-up

National competitions

Cambridge A won the 2011/2012 NICKO. The team was Jonathan Mestel, Julian Wightwick, Jon Cooke, Chris Jagger and Catherine Jagger.

Chris Jagger was in the winning team in the Premier League, while Paul Fegarty's team (Jonathan Mestel, David Kendrick, Catherine Curtis, Jon Cooke) finished in 5th place.

Paul and Catherine also finished 8th in the Pairs A Final at the Autumn Congress.

Rod and Sue Oakford were 7th in the Pairs at the Felixstowe Congress.

The county has qualified again for the final of the Tollemache. The team was Jon Cooke, David Kendrick, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Julian Wightwick, Giles Woodruff, Jonathan Mestel and Paul Barden.

In the British Autumn Pairs, Jane Woodhouse & Colin Campbell (playing at Balsham) finished 21st in the Monday event. In the Tuesday event Catherine Jagger & Jonathan Mestel (playing at the Cambridge Club) finished 2nd. In the Thursday event Joanne Caldwell & Kevin Smith finished in 9th place and Fred Allen & Mike Seaver finished in 21st place (all playing at Saffron Walden).

In the Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs Clare & Peter Rice finished 14th, playing at Morden Ruffians.

Eastern Counties League

The county scored 13-7 and 20-0 against the University and 0-20, 12-8 and 20-0 against Suffolk.

<p>13 January 2013 v Herts (A) 24 February 2013 v Essex (A)</p>

Around the Clubs

Blinco

John Phelps won the Barker Trophy.

Cambridge

The Handicap Teams Championship for the May Pamplin Shield was won by Brian Copping, Paul Bond, Ed Nevill & Andrew Cummins.

Cottenham

The Club Teams Championship was won by Margaret & Alan Macfarlane, Lorraine Waters and Alan Edwards.

Ely

The Handicap Cup was won by Margaret DasGupta & Peter Watson.

Huntingdon

The Club Pairs Championship was won by David Williams & Ian Hill, while runners-up Yvonne Palfrey & Charles King won the Gardiner Plate. The Consolation Final for the Porter Trophy was won by Anne Theakston & Jill Challinor.

North Cambridge

The monthly Prize Pairs have been won by Roy Newman & Ian Griffiths (November) and Tony Oram & Bryan Last (December).

The Club Pairs Championship was won by Andrew Gregory & Ed Graham.

County Calendar 2012–2013

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 www.cambsbridge.org.uk. Events start at 1pm unless stated otherwise.

Saturday 16th February 2013 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 Tel: 01733 572457)
Sunday 24th February 2013 Trumpington	County Individual Final This is what bridge is all about! All partner all and only a simple system is permitted. Organiser: Paul Bond: CountyIndividual@systems.co.uk
Saturday 9th/ Sunday 10th March 2013 UCS Ipswich	Joint C&H/Norfolk/Suffolk green-point weekend A friendly congress comprising a green-pointed Swiss pairs (Saturday, 1pm) and Swiss teams (Sunday, 11am). Further details now on the county website. (Organised by competitions@suffolkbridge.co.uk)
Saturday 16th March 2013 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)
Saturday 23rd March 2013 Trumpington 10am	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 28th April 2013	County Swiss Pairs A popular pairs competition in Swiss format with six 8-board matches.