



### Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of Club Focus, our new electronic EBU club newsletter!

Behind the scenes, first issues are seen as the test run – what works, what doesn't, are the colours all wrong, etc; and so we are very grateful to everyone for their feedback! As such, issue two has been tweaked in a number of ways, enabling some good space increase to make room for all the excellent articles we have received.

Please do keep sending us items and letting us know your comments and suggestions, which are always gratefully received. Please see page four for details of our deadline.

Until next time,

Matt Betts and Krys Kazmierczak

### Focal point

The Strategy Proposal for the Future of the EBU and Duplicate Bridge in England will be available on our website and by post at the end of March. Each affiliated club, county and shareholder will be sent a copy. Please read this proposal along with the pull out section in the April issue of English Bridge. Please contact your county to make your views known. A vote on whether to accept the proposal will be taken at the EBU Shareholders meeting on 4 June 2008.

### Best Limerick Competition

The winner of our first limerick competition is John Slater from Headington, Oxfordshire, with the following excellent rhyme:

*A famous grand master from Twerton  
redoubled and went for a Burton.  
You don't have to guess  
that he meant SOS:  
but his partner was rather less certain.*

John receives a copy of the book *Really Easy Mistakes*.



Limericks for this issue's competition should have a bridge theme and include the name of a place in the (Bridge) County of Bedfordshire. Entries should be sent to the address on page 4 by **15 April**. Please mention where you are from.

The winner will receive a copy of *The Wei of Good Bridge* by Kathie Wei-Sender & Martin Hoffman with David Burns.

### Down our Club

Clifton Bridge Club is a thriving go-ahead Bridge Club based in Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire. For many years the Club had been saving towards buying its own premises but had then decided that the financial risk was too great and agreed instead that the money would be better spent on refurbishing its premises at the Ansdell Institute and Social Club.

Having first obtained some security of tenure in the form of a lease, the committee worked very hard for many months, meeting on a weekly basis, to plan and supervise extensive renovations. Inevitably, there were some difficulties and setbacks as it was discovered that an uneven floor had to be evened out and drainage problems in the old building had to be solved. A generous portion of the club's savings was spent, and now the club is the proud owner of some of the finest bridge-playing facilities in England with a large, comfortably carpeted playing area that can be partitioned off into two separate sections, an overhead projector for teaching and seminars, the Club's own computer, duplimat machine and bridgemates.



Last year the Club then asked the EBU to run a special teacher-training course which was attended by 13 Club Members. Following an advertising programme in the local press, the autumn beginners' classes were launched with 57 new students attending.

Club Secretary Dave Johnston believes that any bridge club with a sensible financial strategy and a good development plan can achieve what Clifton has done.

If you are ever on holiday in Lancashire, you can be assured a warm and friendly welcome for a game of bridge at Clifton. Duplicate sessions are held every weekday evening. For more information, visit the Club's website at:

[www.cliftonbridgeclub.org.uk](http://www.cliftonbridgeclub.org.uk)



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### Focal point

If you are experiencing delays in receiving your issue of Club Focus, you may wish to be added to our mailing list and be sent a copy directly on publication. If so, please write with your email address to the address on page 4. We are sorry, but we cannot send out hard copies.

## Bidding Tools: Directional Asking Bids

In the last issue of Club Focus we covered the use of the bid of the fourth suit in an uncontested auction as a forcing asking bid to find out more about partner's hand. In this article we are going to look at another kind of asking bid.

It is quite common to be in a situation where our side has bid two or three suits and it looks like No Trumps might be our best final resting place, but the opponents have also bid a suit. Obviously, it would be foolish to play in NT if we do not have any stops in the opponents' suit. Even one stop might not be enough. How do we find out if partner has a stop in the suit? The answer is to use a Cue Bid, which is a bid of the opponents' suit. This particular kind of Cue Bid is known as a Directional Asking Bid (DAB). It is forcing and specifically asks partner to bid NT with a stop in the opponents' suit, or otherwise bid something else which best describes his hand.

Let's look at an example. As North you are opener and hold  
 ♠A43 ♥A8 ♦KQJ2 ♣KJ52.

The bidding has gone 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♣ – Pass and has come back to you. You have 18 points and partner has shown at least 9 points by bidding clubs at the 2 level, so you have at least 27 points between you which should be plenty enough for game in NT if you can stop East running his long heart suit.

It looks quite likely that partner has 5 clubs headed by the AQ, which would give you five tricks in clubs, the ace of spades and the ace of hearts, but you would still need two tricks in diamonds.

The opponents are almost certain to lead hearts, knocking out your ace. If you then lead a diamond to set up two tricks in the suit, the opponents are likely to win their ace and run off their hearts finishing up with 5 or more tricks, unless partner has another stop in the suit. In this situation you should bid 2♥. This is a DAB asking partner to bid 2NT if he has a stop in the opponents' heart suit. If partner has, say, Kx or Qxx, that is sufficient, and he can happily bid 2NT, which you can then raise to 3NT.

On this particular occasion the full deal is

	North		East
	♠ A43		♠ K62
	♥ A8		♥ KJ1076
	♦ KQJ2		♦ A3
	♣ KJ52		♣ 743
West		East	
♠ 10985		♠ K62	
♥ 943		♥ KJ1076	
♦ 8654		♦ A3	
♣ 108		♣ 743	
	South		
	♠ QJ7		
	♥ Q52		
	♦ 1097		
	♣ AQ96		

With the required half stop in hearts and a good 11 points, South goes straight to 3NT. When West dutifully leads his partner's heart suit, declarer plays low from dummy, and East wins with the king. East can lead another heart back, but with two stops in the suit there is no way declarer can be prevented from knocking out the diamond ace and making at least ten tricks.

If South held, ♠QJ7 ♥52 ♦10974 ♣AQ96 over his partner's 2♥ DAB, not having the required stop in hearts, he should bid 3♦, a bid which North can happily pass as a safe making contract. Note that with the latter hand South could initially have simply raised North's 1♦ bid to 3♦, but the 2♣ bid is more constructive, allowing the side to explore for the possibility of a game in NT.



## What can Matt do for you?

At the EBU Matt Betts is our Communications Officer, who publicises everything to do with bridge. He is the one who feeds material to the media, organises press releases, organises publicity for bridge, helps look after the EBU Website and co-edits this newsletter, amongst other things. He is steadily building up contacts in the media and bridge world and is good at getting news items into local newspapers.

Do you have a special local event you want to publicise? Is your club, or one of its members, celebrating a special anniversary? Has one of your members achieved something special in a bridge event, or even something completely unrelated to bridge? Would you be interested in materials to help with any open days you'll be holding? Why not get in touch with Matt, and see if he can help you publicise this and your bridge club at the same time.

## What the Director said

Second in hand at a Congress, I picked up a balanced twelve count with four hearts. RH opponent opened 1NT, I passed, and LHO bid a Stayman 2♣. My partner passed, and RHO bid 2♦ denying a four-card major. At favourable vulnerability, I doubled, and after a pass, Partner jumped to 3♥, which I raised to four. LHO, almost in tears, called the Director and complained bitterly that we had got into game after both passing on the first round. The Director smiled and quietly said, 'Well, they don't have to make it, do they?'

For the record, we did.

**Len Armstrong**

### Did you know?

...that the Soviet Union tried to replace the kings, queens and jacks of court cards with heroes of the revolution.



## National Lottery Award for Whitley Bay Bridge Club

The committee and members of Whitley Bay Bridge Club were delighted to have been informed by Awards for All (part of the National Lottery) that they have been awarded a grant of £10,000.

The Club which celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2005, has occupied the same premises on Whitley Road for over 40 years. It is acknowledged as having some of the best playing facilities in the region, and this grant will enable work to commence on bringing the rest of the premises to a similarly high standard.

The club, which offers both lessons and playing sessions on most days of the week, has in excess of 160 members and is always pleased to welcome visitors and new members.

The premises are also used each week by both Tynemouth and the YMCA Bridge Clubs, and throughout the season Whitley Bay BC hosts regional competitions.

Awards for All is the small grants scheme administered by the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of Lottery good cause funders, Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. The scheme makes awards of between £300 and £10,000 to grass-roots

community groups and voluntary organisations.

Club Officers Neville Davies and Pam Gladwin advise any clubs thinking of applying for a grant that you have to read and follow the instructions extremely carefully, respond to each and every detail and then have a lot of perseverance. Their application was returned twice before it was finally accepted. Points to note:

Application forms and guidance notes are at [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)

You must have a specific, fully-costed project.

The club must be able to present itself as a community organisation accessible to all, e.g. the club constitution must not permit the committee to determine who can be a member and who cannot. The constitution must also contain explicit rules for control of club finances.

Seek guidance from your local Voluntary Advice organisation, contact details from [www.nacvs.org.uk/cvsdir/](http://www.nacvs.org.uk/cvsdir/). The advice given is invaluable.

Be prepared to spend a good deal of time dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's (of which there are many!)

Do you want to let us know about your local bridge club? Have you achieved something interesting recently? Let us know by writing to us at our address on page 4.



## Learning bridge and unique multi-tasking

In 1977 I joined a new duplicate bridge club, having played whist and a few games of contract bridge as a teenager. With no knowledge of bidding systems, I was advised to study a slim booklet entitled Basic Acol by Ben Cohen and Rhoda Lederer. Quite by chance I had to spray my potato crop against the ravages of the larvae of the turnip moth, a voracious caterpillar known as a cutworm. As this lived inside the potato baulk, the chemical to be used had to be applied in a large volume of water to be effective.

So at 2 mph I turned my sprayer into the potato rows some 600 yards long, arriving at the far end some 10 minutes later. With no problem with steering, I whiled away the time by studying my new 'bible', and this introduction to bidding served me well for many years.

### Robbie Roberson

*This is an occasional series of learning bridge articles. How did you learn to play bridge? What were your experiences like? Let us know, by writing to us at our address on page 4.*



### Focal point

The English Bridge Union is organising a number of bridge awareness days across the country to help afford a wider audience a great opportunity to experience and learn bridge.

Our first awareness day will be taking place at the York Railway Museum on **Sunday 13 April 2008**.

An exhibition of bridge will be taking place from **10.30am to 4pm** and some of the highlights include...

- the chance to learn bridge
- meet the experts
- meet local bridge clubs
- watch exhibition matches, including some of our best young players, who will be competing later this year in Beijing.

The day in York will give bridge players and non bridge players a chance to see and play. For more information please see: [www.ebu.co.uk/awareness](http://www.ebu.co.uk/awareness)

## Simultaneous Pairs - from Anna Gudge at ECatsBridge

Simultaneous Pairs are great fun – players get the chance to pit their wits not only against the players at their own club, but also against other pairs from all over the country and, in some events, from all over the world.

They are simple to organise – I am always there to help, either by being on the other end of the phone or (better) on the other end of an email link. The club is sent a pack containing everything needed to run the event. The hands can be set up in advance by a willing volunteer, dealt by one of the duplimate machines or even set up by the players on the night. It can then be scored locally using one of the compatible scoring programs, and the results emailed up to the main scoring server, or – if you have no computer or email access – you can send in the travellers, and we will score it for you. The only exceptions to this are the World Wide event in June and the European Sims in November where the scores must be in within 24 hours.

At the end of the event, players get a booklet with the hands and commentary by an expert telling them what they should have done on the hand ... it is quite fun seeing whether the commentators got it right – they don't always! And then they can watch on the web as scores come through to see how they change as more and more results are entered. Of course, once it is finalised, the master points are awarded and – for the EBU and BGB events – even Green Points.

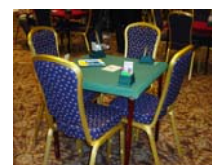
It isn't expensive either – just £2.80 per player for most events at the time of writing. The funds raised are used for different purposes, depending on the event – some are Charity fund raisers of course, and others like the BGB and EBU events raise money, some of which is used for the support of the International Teams, some for Bridge Education, Teacher and TD Training and so forth.

To find out more, just go to [www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com) and click on the link to Sims .

## Bridge Tales

Two inexperienced ladies playing in a tournament moved to a table where N/S were a much more experienced, but somewhat over-excitable, pair of younger players. North pulled out his stop card and opened three hearts. East started to say something, but South immediately butted in to inform her that she had to wait ten seconds before she could ask them anything. Thanking him, she put her cards down and took off her watch to count the seconds. This didn't go down well with the lads, and South called the director. The director kindly asked the lady what she was doing. "Well," she said, "I'm counting to ten seconds as requested, and then I'm going to tell him he's bid out of turn!"

**Drene Brown**



## Write to us

We hope you have enjoyed reading the second issue of Club Focus. Are you interested in writing for the next newsletter? Have you started learning bridge? Have you got any funny stories about bridge? Does your club have any interesting ideas or solutions to common problems which other clubs might benefit from? Would you like to publicise any special events open to non-members and members? Please let us know!

If you would like to contact us or send us your articles, feedback or comments please email: [clubfocus@ebu.co.uk](mailto:clubfocus@ebu.co.uk) or post to: **Club Focus, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ.**

**Deadline for submissions is 10 April 2008.** We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your thoughts.

**Next edition - May 2008**



## Bridge Tails



Magic the cat plays the Ace of Hearts

## New Club...

..in Herefordshire.

The Much Marcle Bridge Club was formed at the end of 2007, and plays duplicate pairs on Friday afternoons. It is affiliated to the EBU, and awards master points, with the results posted on the internet. The meetings are at the Much Marcle Memorial Hall, in a very fine, light and airy room with all the usual facilities. Experienced members and improvers alike are welcomed. A host system allows unaccompanied players to get a game without notice.

Much Marcle is situated in South-East Herefordshire, close to Ledbury, Newent and Ross-on-Wye, and within easy driving distance of Gloucester and Hereford.

Further details: 01531 670239.

## Joke Corner

43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail.

62.7 percent of all bridge players are women.

97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.