

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2002.

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RESULTS
Manchester lost our match against Cumbria.
FUTURE EVENTS
The Ben Franks Trophy (Pairs) is at M.B.C. on Dec 8th.

The Santa Claus Pairs is at M.B.C. on Dec 15th.
Manchester Congress
By Irena Grugulis

To complete your enjoyment of the festive season there are entry forms for the fourth Manchester Congress in this copy of the *County Newsletter*. We started running this competition (after a 37 year break) to celebrate the Millennium and it proved so popular that it has now become an annual event. The venue is again the Renaissance hotel, which means that players can take advantage of the breathtakingly wide range of restaurants and bars that the city centre boasts as well as sneaking off to the January sales (remember that Selfridges is now open). This congress aims to be a friendly one, and its success in this direction is largely thanks to the support and goodwill of all of the participants. We are also trying to encourage people who are new to tournament bridge and there will be four separate competitions for inexperienced players. Anyone who is learning the game, enjoys cards round the kitchen table or has just started to make their mark in the lower divisions of the league should be able to try their hand at competitive play without either committing themselves to an entire day of bridge or being rushed from table to table by unfeeling experts. Those players who did enter the novices' events last year enjoyed themselves very much – and most came back for more later in the congress. There are also some extremely generous prizes, both for the inexperienced players and in the main event. This year, as well as open, intermediate, men's, women's and mixed pairs awards on Saturday, there will be an additional prize category for players ranked Tournament Master or below as well as both section and main prizes in the teams event on Sunday. In addition to this, various sponsors have generously donated further prizes. At the time of going to press these include a meal for two at the Renaissance and a bridge holiday for two from Bridge Holidays abroad as well as champagne for a prize draw. This congress has been a great success over the last few years – please help us to keep up the momentum by spreading the word and coming along.

EDITORIAL
This will be the last issue for some time distributed via the E.B.U. magazine. Provided players send me hands from league matches etc., I am willing to use this format on our Manchester CBA Website to help spread the word of what is going on in the area. In the mean time may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ANECDOTES
Michelle Brunner.
At the start of the second half of a league match where one of the opposition had been particularly slow in the first half:
'He only has 2 rates of play, slow and stop.'

John Rudolph
John and his partner had just bid 2 hands to 5♠ and 5♦ making 11 and 9 tricks:
'This illustrates the Law of Total Bids. It took us 20 bids to bid these hands and we only had 20 tricks.'

I'll cross that BRIDGE even if it kills me..
By Michelle Brunner.
Knock Knock
(Dr=Doctor MB=Michelle)
Dr: "Come in please." *Adjusts hearing aid.*

MB:"Good morning doctor. It's about my Bridge."
Dr:"I think you need to see the dentist over the road."

MB:"Sorry, I mean it's about my work. Doctor, I've been teaching Bridge now for 7 years. Together with my friends Kevin Comrie & John Holland we established

Michelle's School of Bridge – a mobile teaching service at various venues in Manchester. We offer high-quality teaching for £4 a lesson and delight hundreds of would-be stars – and they would be if only they listened – 2 mornings, 3 afternoons and 1 evening a week. Sorry Doctor you must think I'm on a recruiting drive."

Dr:"Oh you're organising a Bridge drive? Yes I'd love to come but my wife doesn't play."

MB:"You misheard I think."
Dr:"Damn these wretched hearing aids – only useful for switching off the wife."

MB:"Actually we run duplicates too with prizes and we can always find you a partner."
Dr:"Michelle, you obviously haven't met Maisie. Believe me, one partner is enough, 'though I must say it would be rather fun if I could get Maisie to learn the game as we have few common interests."

MB:"Then we have just the ticket. The three of us teach both beginners AND improvers at the same time at EVERY venue. It means that loved ones and friends can be with each other and enjoy a social activity at the same time whilst at different learning stages. There's no course fee – just pay as you play, so if she doesn't enjoy it you haven't wasted much money. I'll send you all our bump in the post or you can call me on **0161-483-1796**."

Dr:"Thanks, that sounds brilliant. Michelle, have I missed something? You haven't told me why you are here."

MB:"Sorry. It's just that things are going so well for us at the moment I've hardly got time to squeeze everything in. I shuffle from one lesson to another, I wear my diamonds, I visit clubs, my heart's in the right place and if I may call a spade a spade I think I'm even beginning to think I am a pack of cards."

Telephone rings
Dr:"Excuse me, I'll deal with you in a minute."

MB:"Look buster, I'm the joker 'round here!"
Dr:"Didn't know you played Bridge with jokers?"

MB:"You've obviously not been to any tournaments lately. Now where was I. The mornings, afternoons and evenings I am not working for **MSB** I offer Bridge lessons privately. In my spare time when I'm not teaching or preparing work I try to enjoy a game of competitive bridge. I'm also writing a sequel to my book **Bridge with Brunner – Acol bidding for Improvers**. What I really want is some advice on how to relax!"

Dr:"Perhaps you should go on a bridge holiday!"

MB:"Thanks a bunch doc but we organise those too. We had a sell-out in Ashbourne this November and plans for more next year are already afoot. While we always offer a truly luxury package for the discerning, including full board and leisure facilities it's certainly never a picnic for us 'workers'."

Dr:"Michelle, you are a real card for sure and obviously a woman with many talents. You must take the time to rank your priorities and suit yourself."

MB:"Now, that's just what I wanted to hear."
Dr:"I wish I could."

SELECTIONS
Tollemache.
Michelle Brunner & John Holland
Michael Byrne & Alexander Morris
Mike Goldsmith & Adrian Kenworthy
Boris Ewart & Gary Hyett
John Hasset & Bill Hirst
N.P.C. Jeffrey Smith.

Anyone for an Advert?

Rhodes Racing Cup 2002- at M.B.C. by Boris Ewart

Grand slams helped the Hackett team to win the event. When my team played them we gained 6 IMP on this hand:

Brd	♠A6			
Dir	♥J1062			
Vul	♦A83			
	♣A872			
♠94		N		♠72
♥98543		W	E	♥KQ7
♦J1096			S	♦7542
♣53				♣KJ109
	♠KQJ10853			
	♥A			
	♦KQ			
	♣Q64			

W	N	E	S
No	2♣	No	1♠
No	4♦	No	3♠
No	5♣*	No	4NT*
No	6♣*	No	5NT*
No	No	X	7♠
			End

Adrian Kenworthy was S. He won ♣A. ♠6 to ♠10. Cashed ♦KQ, ♠A and ♦A discarding ♣Q then ♥J to ♥Q and ♥A. The ♠ were then run and E miscounted to keep the ♥K so the ♠6 was the 13th trick for 2460.

In the other room Jason Hackett was in 7NT from the N hand on the ♥K lead. The ♥J was discarded on the ♠ and once again E miscounted and discarded the ♥Q to keep the ♠K so the ♥10 was the 13th trick - 2220.

Note - W has to find a ♣ or ♥ lead to beat 7♠ or 7NT by S otherwise E is caught in a criss-cross squeeze. If Jason had not made 7NT we would have won the competition. In the last round they bid to 7♠ on this hand against Tracy Capal's team:

Brd	♠AJ10982			
Dir	♥43			
Vul	♦KJ52			
	♣8			
♠765		N		♠-
♥10762		W	E	♥KQ985
♦108			S	♦Q943
♣10953				♣Q764
	♠KQ43			
	♥AJ			
	♦A76			
	♣AKJ2			

Paul Hackett got the ♥2 to ♥Q and ♥A. 5 ♠ were run - E discarded ♥985, ♦3 and ♣4.

♣AK & ♣2 ruffed dropped ♣Q. Crossed to ♦A and cash ♠J to squeeze E in ♥ and ♦.

A well played hand - Tracy bid to 6♠. This gain helped towards a 20-0 win to overtake us.

1. Paul Hackett, Mike Alexander, Jason Hackett, Tom Middleton, Brian Cornelius and Sandra Fenton - 124.

2. Pete Foster, Phil Callow, Boris Ewart and Adrian Kenworthy - 121.

3. David Adelman, Jeffrey Smith, Alan Purdey and Roger Alison - 106.

Report on Huggill Trophy - October 12th 2002 at Merseyside BC by Jeffrey Smith

The Manchester team was represented by:

2. Howard Kay	Bob Cooke
Jeff Smith	Maurice Super
5. Irving Blakey	Joy Blakey
Peter Hishmurch	Joyce Hishmurch
8. Mary Costagliola	Peter Hodgson
Dan Daji	Howard Stubbings
11. Alan Jones	David Barton
Ray Semp	Eve Lighthill.

Once again the team that played was largely different to the original selection due to the unavailability of most of the pairs. Howard Kay once again managed to put a team together despite problems. I was called in to substitute for Ann Super who was ill on the day. The venue was Merseyside Bridge Club. There were the usual format of 3 teams participating - Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside. Dave Stevenson ran the competition as stanzas of two 6-board sets with scoring after each stanza. In effect, all the pairs played eight 6-board matches with the NS pairs playing all the available EW pairs and vice-versa. The IMP score on the 6 boards was then converted to VPs so an average total score would be 320Ps to each team.. This movement has the disadvantage that you only play half the opposing pairs and only 24 out of 36 boards each session. Nevertheless, it was good in terms of monitoring progress throughout.

Result

1 st	Manchester	349 VPs
2 nd	Lancashire	317 VPs
3 rd	Merseyside	294 VPs

The venue was roomy and the meal was good though rather delayed due to the wrong break time instructions to the catering staff. Manchester lay second and third for most of the event but put together a fine last stanza to finish winners rather surprisingly, especially with Lancashire fielding what looked very nearly their strongest team.

Summary

Team 2	74
Team 5	102
Team 8	81
Team 11	92

Our score of 74 (average of 80) was poor mainly as a result of letting in about 3 games due almost entirely to my poor defence signalling which at times rather confused my partner (Maurice Super). In addition, I took several other poor actions.... e.g. on the very first board, after the opponents bid 1N-P-2♣-P // 2♥-P-P-? holding: ♠AJ9xx ♥Axx ♦J10x ♣xx I protected with 2♠ vulnerable. RHO had a flat 10 count with 4 ♠ and doubled for an easy penalty (although why he Stayman'ed is not clear). According to Skid Simon you should not double a slam holding two Aces but how about three Aces? At favourable vul, you W, hold ♠xx ♥Ax ♦Axx ♣AQ10xxx and after 1♥ from S, you overcall 3♣ (Int). N bids 4♣, S 4♥, N 4♠. At this point partner chips in with 5♣. S passes, 5♦ from N and 6♥ from S.

I couldn't resist a double resulting in -1660 on any lead. The full hands were:

Brd	♠KQxx			
Dir	♥KJxxx			
Vul	♦-			
	♣Kxxx			
♠xx		N		♠xxx
♥Ax		W	E	♥x
♦Axx			S	♦QJ10xxx
♣AQ10xxx				♣Jxx
	♠AJxx			
	♥Q109xx			
	♦Kxxx			
	♣-			

On the best lead of ♥A and another ♥, declarer can ruff out the ♦A to set up his ♦K for his 12th trick. Certainly, an excellently bid hand from Matthews and Stephenson of Merseyside.

I also rather fell from grace on this simple but instructive defensive problem...

N	S
	1♥
3♥	4♥

Maurice led ♣J and dummy appears with:

♠KJxxx				
♥9xxx				
♦Axx				
♣x				
	N		E	♠xxx
W		S		♥Kx
				♦K10xx
				♣Axxx

So what do you play? Of course the winning action is to duck sacrificing your ♣ trick but gaining 2 ♦ tricks in return with declarer holding:

♠AQx
♥A10xx
♦Jxx
♣KQx

I'm ashamed to say I fell from grace putting the ♣A up at Trick 1. Oh well we all have days like that and at least we ended on a winning note.

LEAD PROBLEM.

♠A		N		Brd	9
♥AQ1065		W	E	Dir	N
♦A73			S	Vul	E-W
♣KJ94					
W		N		E	S
	1♦		No		1♥
No	2♣		No		2NT
No	3♦		No		3NT
X	No		No		No

Would you have taken any action earlier on the W hand?

Solution is on Page-3.

QUIZ 2 SCORES				DECLARER PLAY.				BRIDGE DEAL DUPLIMATOR			
♠A753	♠J94	No - 10	1	Brd 14	♠A973			By Boris Ewart. MCBA council have discussed the possibility of purchasing a Bridge Deal Duplimator machine. This could go ahead as a joint venture with other counties if there is sufficient interest. The advantages of such a machine are:			
♥A96	♥10742	2♥ - 5		Dlr E	♥A62			1. All local county events would have pre-dealt hands duplicated across the whole event.			
♦Q8	♦A1096			Vul Nil	♦AQ			2. Hand records would be produced to aid discussion after the event.			
♣KQ106	♣74				♣A764	N		3. Local clubs could use the facility for their duplicate events.			
♠AK52	♠Q	4♥ - 10	2			S		4. Possibility of county level Simultaneous Pairs events.			
♥K9762	♥J54	4NT - 8			♠KQ6			5. As an aid to bridge tutors to prepare hands. (Text for the Bidding, Play or Defence could be also printed).			
♦KJ84	♦AQ976	4♠ - 6			♥4			6. Duplimating our own boards should be cheaper than using the E.B.U. Deal facility.			
♣-	♣AKJ7	5♣ - 5			♦KJ10965			Disadvantages are:			
		5♦ - 4		W	♣1083			1. The initial cost – some £2000.			
		5♥ - 3						(It is hoped that the charge for duplimating would return this capital outlay over a period of 2-3 years).			
♠J7653	♠K9	3NT - 10	3	No		E	S	2. Running costs – the machine has to be based somewhere and needs either one dedicated person or a small team of helpers to complete the required duplimating.			
♥98	♥AQJ1074	3♣ - 7		No	X	No	5♦	3. Repairs – current machine comes from Sweden and would have to be sent back there for repairs.			
♦A3	♦QJ108	4♥ - 5		No	6♦	End		4. The boards have to be transported to and from the venue to the machine.			
♣KQJ4	♣6	3♥ - 3						5. Special boards and cards. MCBA already has 16 sets of boards (32) and cards. Clubs would have to replace existing stocks with the new types as the old stock wears out.			
♠KQ83	♠J	5♣ - 10	4	W leads ♣K. Given the premise that W has the ♣KQJ how do you play to make the contract under the following circumstances:				If your club would be interested in using such a facility would you please contact the editor.			
♥AJ82	♥64	3♠ - 7		W shape				Swiss Teams Problem Solution.			
♦-	♦Q7654	4♣ - 5		3.2.4.4 *				Brd 17			
♣KQ1094	♣AJ862			3.2.3.5 *				Dlr N			
♠87653	♠A	X - 10	5	4.2.4.3				Vul Nil			
♥A1074	♥KJ82	3♥ - 7		4.2.3.4				♠86			
♦3	♦AJ9852	3♦ - 5		4.2.2.5				♥KJ2			
♣K54	♣63	No - 3		5.2.2.4				♦AK108532			
				5.2.1.5				♣3			
♠Q86	♠AKJ5	5♣ - 10	6	* I know that when ♠ are 3-3 the play is trivial but is it possible to read the discards to deduce a 3-3 ♠ split?				N			
♥A832	♥-	4NT - 7		Answers must take into account any of the above shapes occurring.				S			
♦-	♦KJ9863	No - 5		Entries to my email address or by post. The solution will be posted on the website.				♠Q73			
♣J109853	♣KQ6	5♥ - 4		COMPETITIVE BIDDING.				♥9753			
♠AQ543	♠8	5♣ - 10	7	Brd 1 Dlr N Vul Nil.				♦4			
♥A864	♥J10753	5♦ - 7		♠K85				♠KJ42			
♦Q	♦AK952	5♥ - 5		♥A10				W			
♣KQ8	♣A3	4NT - 4		♦K2				E			
		4♥ - 2		♠A109763				♠9532			
♠10543	♠AQJ2	4♦ - 10	8	W				N			
♥QJ84	♥AK62	X - 7		N				E			
♦K964	♦A10	No - 3		No				S			
♣8	♣943			4♣				3♦			
♠AJ98	♠K1076	4NT - 10	9	The first point on this hand is that W must bid 4♣. The hand is rich in controls with a partial ♠ fit and a 6 suit – too good for 3NT. If N bids 4♥ (♥ values + ♦ fit) then E must bid onto 5♣. W can then bid 5♥. E then has to trust W to bid 7♣. If N-S have the ♦ values then W should have ♠K, ♥A and at least 6 ♣ headed by ♣A to justify 5♥.							
♥J87	♥AK3	No - 8		If N bounces to 5♦ then I think E has to bid 6♣. It is more difficult for W to then bid 7♣.							
♦K62	♦A84	4x - 5									
♣A42	♣KQ7	4♠ - 3									
♠108432	♠KQ76	3♠ - 10	10								
♥9652	♥8	3♥ - 7									
♦9	♦AKJ107	No - 5									
♣K53	♣A106	4♠ - 3									
This was a much tougher set than last time. Leading scores:											
Bernard & Rhona	70										
Rodney Lighton	69										
Jeffrey Smith	67										
2. I know you can make 6♦ sometimes but N holding ♥AQ will double.											
5. If you bid 3♥ you should be 5-6 shape.											
6. 6♣ will make except on ♣A lead and ♣ continuation. You then have to ruff out ♦A.											
8. Its close between 4♦ & X but as you know E is short in ♣ you should go for game.											
9. 4NT- Quant here. W goes on with 14-15. (Cue-bid then 4NT is RKCB).											