



The SBU Monthly News

July 2023

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(June 2023)

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Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

We have experts ready to answer any queries you may have about bidding, play, table etiquette or how to interpret the Laws of Bridge. Please send them in.

What's on Offer in Summer

Weekly Events

The SBU runs these events on BBO

Saturdays at 7pm:	Swiss Pairs
Saturdays at 11.45 am:	Bronze Brunch
Sundays at 3 pm:	Teatime Individual

To enter go to www.bridgebase.com. Click on [Play or Watch Bridge](#); then select [Competitive](#) from the menu. Under [Tournaments](#) click on [All Tournaments](#). Enter SBU in the search box (top right). Select your tournament and when your partner is online invite them to play, using their BBO nickname. Payment is made in BBO\$, you can purchase those by clicking on the shopping cart next to your name..

Next season, 2023-24 will soon be upon us!

It is time to start planning your activities... In particular, start thinking about entering two teams events. These are not just for experts: one way to learn is to play against more experienced players; one way to earn immense satisfaction is occasionally to beat them.

Anyone who has attended the Thursday Seminars should get a team together and get stuck in!

The Gold Cup

Organised by Bridge Great Britain, this is the most prestigious Open Teams event in Britain, first played in 1932. The Cup really is solid gold!

It is knock-out throughout, and, prior to the semi-finals, all matches are arranged privately between the captains. Teams consist of 4 to 6 players, and matches are played in sets of 8 boards: a minimum of 32 boards in the early rounds, more if both teams agree.

This year there will be a separate **Scottish section** from which 2 teams will qualify to the last 8. We have negotiated a special rate of £15 per player. (Players must all be bona fide members of the SBU.)

Scottish teams eliminated in the early rounds get free entry into the Gold Cup Plate (Marion Hill Trophy)

Generous **National (Red)** points are awarded for matches won.

Entries / expressions of interest to the editor by 15 September: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk



The Scottish Cup

Scotland's oldest and most prestigious competition, first played in 1933-34.

Like the Gold Cup, it is a knockout team event where competitors arrange their own matches.

Teams consist of 4 members: substitutes are allowed only for a good reason.

Early rounds are of 32 boards, played in two 16-board halves.

Teams eliminated in the early rounds get free entry into the Scottish Cup Plate: so at least 2 matches.

Generous **National (Red)** points are awarded for matches won.

Enter for season 2023-24 via the webpage, which will be updated soon...

News Page

Advanced Tournament Directors Course

Saturday August 12th at the Carlton Bridge Club in Edinburgh.

Contact Angus at chieftd@sbu.org.uk for details

World Under-31 Championships

Scotland's Under-31 team received a surprise invitation to participate in the World Championships in the Netherlands, July 31 – 7 August 2023

Under 31 is a new category, introduced to encourage recent ex-Juniors to retain their interest in bridge. Scotland sent an Under-31 team to the European Championships in 2022. They did not qualify for the World Championships, but some teams have dropped out. There is a special dispensation to allow overage participation, so we can field last year's team: Glen Falconer, Gints Freimanis, Jun Nakamaru-Pinder, and Jake Milne, with Abi Milne as a fifth member.

You can follow their journey on <http://championships.worldbridge.org/veldhovenwytc23>

This is a great opportunity for our young promising players. The SBU is keen to support it. As it is an unexpected cost, the SBU is not in a position to fund the team completely; it will pay the entry fees, so the players must fund themselves. Life is hard for most of us at the moment, and not all the players can afford to pay their own way, so contributions from clubs and individuals would be much appreciated.

EAST DISTRICT LEAGUE SECRETARY REQUIRED

Several people have been asking when the East District is going to get our League restarted. In 2019 we had 5 Divisions and a total of 52 teams participating, but with only a couple of months of the 2019-20 season remaining, Covid struck and that season has never been completed.

It is now time to consider trying to start an East District League in the coming season again.

Before we can do that though, ***we need someone to organise it.***

The Committee is now quite small, and everyone has other responsibilities, so we need an enthusiastic person to take on the job of League Secretary. (In the past there has been a small remuneration).

If you have a bit of spare time, please think about helping out. Please get in touch with me for further information. I can be contacted at anne@sbu.org.uk or via 0794 181 7395

Anne Perkins (East District Chair)

♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ Stirling and Union Bridge Club ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

is delighted to invite you to a morning at the club premises with

BERNARD MAGEE

Monday 7th August

This is a fundraising event jointly for Cancer Research and The Strathcarron Hospice

Outline Programme:	10.30 - 11.00	Tea, coffee and cake
	11.00 onwards	Seminar & Questions
		30 min break - sandwich style lunch
		Play set hands and review

£25 pp including all refreshments

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

Please register on the Stirling & Union Bridge Club website <https://www.bridgewebs.com/stirling/>

Please reference your name when making your payment by BACS to: Stirling & Union Bridge Club:

Account number 06021796 Sort Code 80 91 29

Café Bridge in Ayrshire

Prestwick, Tuesday, 6th June, 2023

Prestwick's Main Street, with lots of cafés, pubs, and restaurants, all within a short walk, provides an ideal setting for Café Bridge. Local businesses enthusiastically supported the event held in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice.

Players pre-entered on the BrianBridge site run by Victor Lesk, developer of the BriAn scoring app for Android / Apple phones.

Entrants registered on the day at Prestwick South Church Hall, and had time for a Tea/Coffee, while receiving their 'movement' card. There were 28 pairs: 14 tables in 2 sections over 12 venues, 7 rounds of 4 boards arrow-switched last round. At the last minute, the stand-by subs were called on to enjoy the day for free.

North-South pairs took 4 boards and bidding boxes to their first table and left them there to be taken back by the last North-South pair to play the boards.

North entered scores on the BrianBridge App, where travellers and provisional rankings were shown.

Pairs had 10 minutes' to enjoy the sunshine after each round, en route to the next venue. Their 3rd venue provided a light lunch of Soup and a Sandwich.

And a good time was had by all!



As well as being a great day out, café bridge helps to raise the profile of bridge in Scotland.

It creates awareness – seeing people having fun will encourage others to join our clubs.

If your club needs an uplift, why not give one a go?

In Scotland in 2023 there are 3 remaining café bridge dates for your diary:

Perth, Saturday 19th August

<https://www.brianbridge.net/perth2023/>

Dunkeld, Tuesday 24th October

<https://www.brianbridge.net/dunk2023/>

Plockton, Thursday 28th October

<https://www.brianbridge.net/ploc2023/>

Danny's Page

Danny reports on the activities of his Juniors....



Reading the Cards

This year I have two teams of Juniors playing in the SBU Bronze League. The older ones at University play in Division 1, the younger ones at school in Division 4. After each match I give some feedback to the players. The aim here isn't to work out who did what wrong but find some general principles to learn from.

For example, suppose your partner opens 1♥, and next hand overcalls 2♣. What do you bid?

♠9832
♥QJ63
♦9852
♣8

I'd recommend at least 2♥. You can support partner in competition when lighter, with distributional values.

Sometimes the hands from a match seem to have a particular theme.

Watching last week, I noticed that our declarers missed a few inferences that seemed obvious to me (not just because I could see all 4 hands). They were so focused on their own play they didn't notice defenders' cards. Can you do better?

For each example below, you should be able to work out the full layout of the suit after the first trick, and therefore how to play it for the maximum tricks. In each case you are declarer sitting South.

1. In a tricky 4♥, this is your Club suit. You begin with the ♣A, under which West drops the ♣K. What next?

♣A943
♣Q865

2. Playing 2NT, this is your Spade suit. On the opening lead, West begins with the ♠2, dummy plays the ♠3, and East the ♠9. How many Spade tricks can you win now?

♠A73
♠KJT8

3. Playing 1NT, West leads the ♠2, and your ♠9 wins. What can you deduce?

♠JT93
♠A64

4. This is your Club suit. East leads a low one, you play the 5, and West plays the Jack. Dummy's Queen wins. What next?

♣QT843
♣A95

My answers are given below. Of course, it's possible that a very wily defender may be misleading you and playing an unusual card, but I would accept that 1 in 1000 risk and say well done if they succeed in fooling you! The most likely layouts are:

1. The King is singleton, so now lead low from dummy and insert the 8 if East plays low.
2. West has the Queen (he led low from an honour, and East already played the 9 as his highest). So, lead the Jack next time to get four Spade tricks in total.
3. West has both the King-Queen of Spades (East would likely have played one if he had it). Also, the suit is divided 4-2 as West's lead of the 2 is probably fourth highest.
4. East has the King (West would have played it if he had it). So now lead from dummy and finesse the 9.

How to Organise a Visit from Bernard Magee!

Gill and George Roberts are delighted that Bernard has agreed to offer a seminar in Scotland!

As members of Stirling & Union BC, they have seen that the club like so many others is struggling to persuade its membership - which is quite healthy in numbers - to return to F2F bridge at the club

In this situation post-CV19 anything that can be done to promote a return to club bridge has got to be good...

So they thought that if they could persuade a high-profile bridge player such Bernard Magee to run an event at the club, it may just winkle out a few more of the membership, which once back, might be tempted to return to club bridge once more...

“On a cruise where the bridge was hosted by Bernard Magee we decided to ask if he would come to S&UBC and run a seminar. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

We knew that Bernard was hosting bridge on a future cruise that was sailing out of Rosyth in Fife on Tuesday 8th August.

We're sure you will know Bernard and be well aware that he is very personable, approachable, and helpful guy as well as an excellent bridge teacher! This encouraged us to ask him directly if he would indeed run a seminar at S&UBC in August this year. To our great delight, Bernard said that he would, and what's more this would all be free of charge!

His chosen topic for the day is “**Discards in Defence**” something that we can all learn from... so this is an excellent opportunity for improving bridge players.

Working with Board members at S&UBC, we very quickly worked out the social and logistical arrangements necessary and the seminar date was agreed for Monday 7th August, the day before Bernard and family will be sailing from Rosyth.

An attendance fee of £25pp was set, with the proviso that all income will go 50:50 to two selected charities, namely, Cancer Research (Bernard's chosen charity) and The Strathcarron Hospice (S&UBC choice).

All attendees will get a light sandwich lunch which along with all other refreshments will be paid for out of S&UBC funds.

(See Page 3 advert for how to sign up)

Bernard is a businessman who runs BMB and clearly he has to promote his business.

There is no doubt however, that he is sincere in his wish to do this especially as it's linked to Cancer Research and respite.

We also know from a number of previous conversations we've had with Bernard, that he does wish to increase his presence in Scotland which though a business initiative for him, cannot be bad for our great game and encouraging a return to F2F club bridge in Scotland.

Perhaps some other clubs could approach Bernard, or indeed any top-class player, with similar requests?

Quick Quiz

1) Counting Tricks and Making a Plan

West	East
♠K84	♠A5
♥AKJ	♥Q753
♦A732	♦8654
♣AK2	♣765

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	End

North leads the ♠Q. .

How many Sure Tricks can you count?

In what order will you cash them?

Will you duck the opening lead?

2) Counting Losers and Making a Plan

West	East
♠A73	♠K65
♥QJT76	♥A954
♦KJ4	♦Q5
♣A5	♣Q876

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	End		

North leads the ♠Q.

How many Sure Tricks can you count?

How many losers?

How might you get rid of a loser?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

“Sorry, Captain 😞”

Defence is difficult. Particularly when defending a low-level doubled contract.

The pressure gets to you, as on this hand from a long ago Junior European Championship.

Bd 4	♠973 ♥JT3 ♦Q54 ♣J863	NS VUL Dir E									
♠A85 ♥K9854 ♦T8 ♣AK7	<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		♠KT4 ♥A ♦J962 ♣QT942
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠QJ62 ♥Q762 ♦AK73 ♣9										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

This was the auction at both tables.

West had no good bid over 1♥, and was happy to pass partner's re-opening double.

Best defence nets 800.

West leads a trump, wins the club return, and plays King and another trump.

Declarer wins the third trump in dummy to lead a spade, but West wins the ♠A and plays another heart, removing declarer's last trump. Declarer has made 2 tricks and lost 4.

He can establish a spade by conceding a trick to East's ♠K, but then the defenders take 4 more clubs and the last trump for -4. He does best to cash 2 diamonds for 4 tricks and only -3.

Best defence is often missed, and most would be quite content with 500 for two down.

The British EW pair did not distinguish themselves. West never led trump. Declarer managed to establish a spade winner, and East was somehow endplayed to lead away from the ♣Q.

Beating the contract by one trick was not a great result, and they emerged shame-faced and apologetic.

Not to worry, the Italian defence was even less effective.

West led the ♣A, then the ♣K. Martin Jones ruffed, crossed to the ♦Q and ruffed another club.

Then he cashed the ♦A. Four tricks already!

He played a heart. West jumped up with the ♥K(!), crashing his partner's ♥A.

East returned a grumpy club.

Martin ruffed that with the ♥Q and claimed 2 more trump tricks with dummy's ♥JT for his contract.

It was hard not to laugh!

Results Page

Bronze League 2Q23

Here are the winners of the 4 Divisions:

Division 1	COLINTON FOUR	125 VP
	(Ian & Sue Campbell, Moira & Norman Poyser, Robert Hickling)	
Division 2	TRAPRAIN	118.79 VP
	(John Allen, Agnes Munro, David Dunn, Willie Davidson)	
Division 3	PENTLAND PANTHERS	110.31 VP
	(Patricia Gilmore, Fiona Mackie, Alison Holwill, Mary Davidson, Sandra Renton, Catherine Jordan, Ken Brown)	
Division 4	LOOSEENDSLAMMERS	112.72 VP
	(Maureen Annan, Kathleen Don, Sandy Annan, Norma Findlay, David Deans, Darrell Crompton)	

Congratulations to all of the Bronze and Silver players who took part.

Bronze League 4Q23 begins after the summer break in late September 2023.

Registration for the next iteration will open on or around 1st September 2023, the start of the new Bridge Season. We would encourage ALL bridge clubs to publicise the next iteration: Bronze players can always form a new team for the league and will be welcomed.

Master Point Promotions

June 2023

Life Master

Rona Moss E

National Master

Tom Bagnall E

Regional Master

Katharine Bailey E

4 Star Master

Christian Gourlay C

3 Star Master

Kath Fallon W

Ken Ross E

2 Star Master

Joe McLuckie C

1 Star Master

Sandy Annan C

Maggie Dunbar W

Fiona Hall E

Pat Lennon W

Shaun Ni E

Master

Clive Aronson W

Kate Borgman E

Fraser Deanie W

Nancy Galloway E

Paul Kerr A

Eldrydd Robinson E

Graham Vincent E

District Master

Yves Haik D

Walter Hamilton E

Hazel Howatson C

Isla Inglis E

Margaret Johnston W

Ann Love E

Phil Moon D

Anne Patrick E

Mairi Raeburn A

Andrew Ritchie E

Marion Strachan A

Harry Stuart D

Local Master

Agnes Clow W

Judith Keys E

Cathy McLean E

Sheena Munro H

Lesley Patterson N

Christopher Priestley N

Lesley Robertson E

Jane Searles E

Club Master

Asha Arden W

Phil Ashby W

Susan Belford H

Michael Heubeck C

Forbes Howie E

Jenny McCallum E

Gisla Oettinger H

Niamh Reid D

Olive Woods S

Answers to Quiz:

1	♠QJT93 ♥84 ♦KT ♣Q932		
♠K84 ♥AKJ ♦A732 ♣AK2	N W E S	♠A5 ♥Q753 ♦8654 ♣765	
	♠762 ♥T962 ♦QJ9 ♣JT8		

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	End

Lead: ♠Q.

You have 9 Sure Tricks: ♠AK
 4 heart tricks
 ♦A
 ♣AK

If hearts do not break 3=3 you need an entry to cash dummy's ♥Q. Win the first trick with ♠K, then cash ♥AKJ to be sure of 9 tricks.

2	♠QJT4 ♥32 ♦A983 ♣T43		
♠A73 ♥QJT76 ♦KJ4 ♣A5	N W E S	♠K65 ♥A954 ♦Q5 ♣Q876	
	♠982 ♥K8 ♦T762 ♣KJ92		

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	End		

Lead: ♠Q.

You have 7 Sure Tricks: ♠AK
 4 heart tricks
 ♣A

You might make 5 hearts with a finesse.
 You can establish 2 winners in diamonds
 You may need a ruff in dummy...

You have 4 potential losers, one in each suit. You can knockout the ♦A, discard a spade from dummy on a diamond and ruff a spade for 10 tricks. However, you must play diamonds before trump. So be sure to win ♠K at trick 1, since you will need a quick entry to hand if they win the *second* diamond.