



The SBU Monthly News

October 2023

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(September 2023)

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

What's on Offer in November

The 2nd **National Online Grand Prix Swiss Pairs** (sponsored by RealBridge) **Sunday 4 November**

8x 6-board matches: 11 am start, break around 2pm

Entry Fee £16 per pair

The **Thea Teale Bronze Pairs** is on **Sunday 19 November**.

This is the **SBU National Pairs** tournament for players ranked as **Bronze** on 1st November 2023.

(If you are promoted after that date you will still be eligible

If unsure of your Master Point Rank you can check on MEMPAD, or ask anyone who might know...)

Heats will be run face-to-face at 7 bridge clubs across Scotland:

Aberdeen; Carlton (Edinburgh), **Dundee, GBC** (Glasgow); **Inverness; Prestwick**; and **Stirling**

Heats are open to all Bronze players; you need not be a member of the club.

(Please help the organisers by registering with the club of your choice in advance.)

Approximately 24 Boards will be played, scored over the entire field.

Entry fees are £1.50 for the SBU, plus table money as charged by the host venue.

3 National (Red) Points will be awarded to the winners, with awards to the top third of the field.

Prize Money will be awarded to the leading five pairs.

Thea was a popular member of both Carlton and Melville Bridge Clubs in Edinburgh. She loved bridge and was an example to us all: unfailingly polite, good-humoured, and generous to both partners and opponents. Thea died in 2015 and left a generous legacy to the SBU. It was used to fund education, Junior bridge, and promotion of Bronze Events.

Congress News

The **National Congress** will take place at **Peebles Hydro** on **8-10 March 2024**

Always a memorable experience, if you have never been to Peebles, now is the time!

Highly recommended by Andy Robson!

You may also want to put the Overseas Congress in your Diary

14th SBU Overseas Congress in **Side, Turkey**, on **16-22 April 2024**

Programme details for this are available on the SBU website: [SBU-Turkey-April-2024-WEB.pdf](#)

Highland District Congress at Aviemore

10-12 November 2023

The Highland Congress returns to its traditional venue in Coylumbridge.

Wonderful location, wonderful people – can we restore this Congress to its pre-Covid greatness?

Details on the Highland District website: [SBU Highland District, Highland \(bridgewebs.com\)](#)

Don't Forget the Regular SBU Saturday Online events....

Saturday Bronze Brunch: BBO, 11.45, 12 fun boards for just BBO\$1.80

Saturday Swiss Pairs BBO, 7pm, 5x5-board matches

Clap Our Clubs

Flora Kelsey visits the New Melville



Flora is the widow of Hugh Kelsey, Scotland's greatest bridge author.

Hugh died in 1995 and Flora decided to donate his book collection to the Melville Bridge Club.

Many members and visitors may have overlooked the unique collection of first editions and translations into many languages housed in the bookcase at the New Melville, a fitting tribute to one of the greatest bridge authors of all time.

During her visit Flora reminisced about how the publication of Hugh's first book "Killing Defence" was received by the bridge elite in 1966.

The London experts asked each other if this Kelsey was a pseudonym.

"Who really wrote it?" was the question – no-one could believe that such a ground-breaking book could be the work of an unknown Scot.

Hugh gave a copy to John MacLaren, a leading Scottish player of the day, to be told "It will never sell."

Shortly afterwards came his second great book "Advanced Play". Together with "Killing Defence" it was listed in the Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge as "Mandatory requirements for a modern technical bridge library."

He wrote 54 books in all, some in collaboration with other authors – including "Opening Leads" with John Matheson.

His collaboration with the Hungarian Geza Ottlik produced "Adventures in Card Play" in 1979, regarded by many as the greatest ever book on the play of the cards. Flora remembered the Cold War impediments – it was very difficult for Hugh to visit Hungary, impossible for Ottlik to leave the country. Eventually Hugh did travel to Hungary, with no certainty that he would be allowed to leave again!

Flora was a Nursing Administrator when they met and married in Malaya.

She told Hugh that their marriage would be an agreement that he would do whatever he wanted to do; she would take responsibility for bringing up their 4 children.

She always insisted on travelling in the back seat of the car so that Hugh and his partner could discuss bridge.

Flora is a sprightly 96-year-old. She contacted the Melville to ask if she might see Hugh's book collection in situ, and new Operations Manager Andrew Harborow organised the visit. She was accompanied by son George and granddaughter Briony, walking to the club from her Care Home.

She was very impressed by the new premises: "Hugh would have wanted to spend all his time here!"

Andrew had established that her favourite refreshment was Victoria sponge and saw to the baking.

Also present were Rob Hickling, Chairman of Colinton Castle BC and one of the band of volunteer duplimaters on whom the Melville relies. Your editor made up the party, delighted to see her old acquaintance looking so well.

Freaks

The other night at the New Melville Jake and Abi Milne faced each other in a League match. On opposing teams, they each picked up this hand as East, vulnerable against not:

♠AKQJ
♥—
♦—
♣AKQT98652

RHO opened a weak 2♥.
What would you bid?

Jake chose a straightforward 7♣, scattering most of his bidding box to the four winds in his excitement. Abi adopted a more subtle approach, starting with 3♥, asking for a heart stopper! LHO raised to 4♥ and now Abi bid 7♣ - but nobody doubled.

Neither South chose to take out insurance by bidding 7♥ which escapes for -3. Less than the value of your game!
Would you then have the courage to try 7♠?
It makes!

Many years ago, there was an erudite discussion about what to do if you were dealt all 13 spades. If you opened 7♠ would LHO smell a rat and bid 7NT, knowing your partner did not have a spade to lead? I suppose it might depend on your reputation – but even the wildest bidders are unlikely to bid a Grand Slam unless they expect to make it. So perhaps a softly, softly approach is best...

... but not too softly. I was once given a problem by a cunning player.
What to lead from ♠— ♥— AKQJT98743 ♣AK2 against 1♥?

An East District League match in the 1990s was famously won on this single board.

	♠AK9532	EW Vul
	♥—	Dealer N
	♦J8	
	♣A9854	
♠—		♠QJ86
♥AKQ98765		♥2
♦AKQ53		♦T642
♣—		♣QJ62
	♠T74	
	♥JT43	
	♦97	
	♣KT73	

At 3 of the 4 tables the auction did not take long.
North opened 1♠, passed round to West who bid 7♥.
South had a nasty surprise for declarer in the trump suit, so nastily doubled. -200 all round

At the 4th table Rosemary Cadell sat West. She was a wily player with years of experience of bridge on the dark side. She chose to bid just 6♥.

North was suckered in: surely 6♠ would not be too expensive?
East, Charles Guthrie, (father of Nigel), doubled 6♠, but Rosemary pulled the double to 7♦.
North doubled in disbelief – but he had no defence.
2330 in the plus column is useful at aggregate scoring.
7♠ would likely escape for -5, a mere 1400.

There is no good advice on coping with freaks – but there must be lots of entertaining examples out there.

Care to share?

Quick Quiz

1

North ♠J7 ♥A753 ♦92 ♣AQT95
West ♠AK543 ♥K6 ♦AJ3 ♣J82

Bidding			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♦5, and East contributes the ♦Q.

- How many winners can you count?
- Where can you find the extra tricks you need?
- Which diamond will you play from hand at trick 1?

2

North ♠A62 ♥A74 ♦92 ♣QT956
South ♠K543 ♥K6 ♦AJ3 ♣AJ83

Bidding			
West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West leads the ♦5, and East contributes the ♦Q.

- How many winners can you count?
- Where can you find the extra tricks you need?
- Which diamond will you play from hand at trick 1?

It's a Funny Old Game

The Onlooker Sees More of the Game

Have you ever noticed how dummy, who theoretically sees only one hand, seems to play better than any of the people actively involved in the play? Perhaps it is because dummy is under no pressure...

The know-all on this fascinating deal was Alasdair Adam.

	♠AKQ9532	NS Vul
	♥A6	Dealer E
	♦-	
	♣9853	
♠JT74	N W E S	♠6
♥2		♥Q854
♦986		♦KQJT32
♣AKQT6		♣J2
	♠8	
	♥KJT973	
	♦A754	
	♣74	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	2♥
Dble	2♠	3♦	3♥
Pass	3♠	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♥	End	

The auction was interesting.

Most Norths insisted on playing in their 7-card suit, understandably enough.

If spades break 3-2 there are an easy 10 tricks – 11 if declarer dares to take the heart finesse.

But when spades were unkind the defenders could cash several club tricks to defeat 4♠.

Alasdair decided to let his partner play in the 6-2 heart fit instead.

West led their three top clubs, and on the third East discarded their spade.

South ruffed, ruffed a diamond in dummy, cashed the ♥A and returned to hand by ruffing dummy's last club. She now cashed the ♥K to reach this position:

	♠AKQ953	NS Vul
	♥-	Dealer E
	♦-	
	♣	
♠JT74	N W E S	♠-
♥		♥Q8
♦9		♦KQJT
♣T		♣
	♠8	
	♥JT	
	♦A75	
	♣	

It was obvious to North that declarer should play another heart.

If East won he had to return a red card; if he ducked he would have to win the next heart and lead a diamond.

But declarer, worried about losing trump control, led a spade.

East ruffed, cashed the ♥Q and had to make two more diamond tricks for 3 down.

The defenders might have spared declarer the irritation of having dummy point out the winning line...

West might switch to a spade at trick 3 to remove dummy's entry.

Or East might keep his spade as an exit card...

Results Page

Some results from September

Stirling Pairs

This was run in the New Melville BC on Saturday 16 September

37 Pairs played 2 sessions, 50 boards in all

Winners:	Paul Maiolani & Jim McMenemy	
2	Patrick Home & Finlay Marshall	
3	John Murdoch & Ying Piper	
4	Ray Gallacher & Bill Ross	
5	Gints Freimanis & Derek Sanders	
6	Alex Adamson & Wane Burrows	
15	Jane Harper & David Nisbet	Silver Prize
22	Peter Clarke & Andrea Main	Bronze Prize

Edwin Berry National Swiss Teams

This was run in the Carlton BC on Sunday 17 September

20 teams played 6 matches of 7 boards in the Swiss format.

Winners:	Derek Sanders / Gints Freimanis, John di Mambro / Prajjwal Prajjwal	102.8VP
2	Mark Menzies / Tam Penman, Paul Maiolani / Jim McMenemy	78.35
3	Mike Ash / Miro Dragic, Malcolm Cuthbertson / Douglas Piper	76.36
4	Brian Short / Alan Goodman, Stephen Peterkin / Sam Punch	72.08
5	Robert Clow / Troy van de l'Isle; Mike McGinley / David Wiseman	67.43
Winners of the Silver Prize:		
6	Tom Bagnall / Andrew Harborow; Bryn and Niall Tennant	65.96

Master Point Promotions

September 2023

Scottish Master

Linda Grieve C

Regional Master

Judith Smeaton E

Paul Thomson W

2 Star Master

Dan Dillon W

Graham Hyde E

Paul Rideout W

1 Star Master

John Douglas W

Hugh Logan W

Colin McCormack W

Master

Gill Gordon C

David Stewart W

District Master

Mike Crook S

David Cunningham W

Eileen Dwyer E

Michael Jenner S

Margaret Kraemer W

Local Master

Linda Bayne C

Kay Black W

Tom Brady W

Stuart Breckons E

Patricia Collins W

Scott Henderson S

Michael Heubeck C

Susan Jenner S

Ronnie McKenzie D

Marie Millar W

Peter Mutton H

Prajjwal Prajjwal W

Vicky Rennie W

Lizzie Riach H

Evelyn Tiefenbrun W

Terry Young N

Club Master

Louise Grierson S

Jo Howey E

Bain Mackay C

Urquhart Nielsen W

Bob Parker E

William Parker A

Anne Pickard W

Carol Rutherford C

Answers to Quiz

1	♠J7 ♥A753 ♦92 ♣AQT95		West leads the ♦5 against your 3NT contract. East contributes the ♦Q. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) You count 6 winners: ♠AK ♥AK and the minor suit Aces b) You can develop at least 3 more tricks from clubs, (4 if West has the ♣K.) c) If you win the ♦A and the club finesse fails, East will lead a diamond through your remaining ♦Jx for 1 down. You should hold up your Ace to win the third round of diamonds. That way, if East has a diamond to lead the diamonds are 4-4 and you only lose 3 diamond tricks. 						
♠62 ♥J92 ♦KT854 ♣763	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			♠QT98 ♥QT84 ♦Q76 ♣K4	
W	N	E							
S									
	♠AK543 ♥K6 ♦AJ3 ♣J82								

2.	♠A62 ♥A74 ♦92 ♣QT963		West leads the ♦5 against your 3NT contract. East contributes the ♦Q. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) You count 6 winners: ♠AK ♥AK and the minor suit Aces b) You can develop at least 3 more tricks from clubs, (4 if East has the ♣K.) c) If you hold up the ♦A till the third round and the club finesse fails West will cash 2 diamonds for one down. Since you cannot lose a trick to East you should win the ♦A at trick one. Your ♦Jx guards the suit if West is on lead again. 						
♠Q7 ♥J832 ♦KT854 ♣K4	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			♠JT84 ♥QT95 ♦Q76 ♣75	
W	N	E							
S									
	♠K543 ♥K6 ♦AJ3 ♣AJ82								