



The SBU Monthly News

April 2023

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March 2023

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

Dates for Your Diary

International Events

The **Senior Camrose (Teltscher Trophy)** will be played face-to-face in Newport, Wales, **19-21 May**.

Our team is: Robert Clow & Derrick Peden
Alan Goodman & Brian Short
John Hamilton & Paul Maiolani
Npc: Anne Symons

There will coverage on RealBridge with live commentary: you can kibitz with the usual half hour delay.

National Events

The **Master Point Ranked Individuals** will be held online on **Saturday 29 April**

Individuals are Fun! No need to find a partner! Generous **National** Master Point awards!
Play with others of your own rank, no need to discuss system, you can consult the set system at any time.
(Did you know: 1 **red** point = 100 black points: most players earn their first **red** points in Ranked events?)

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Harrison (Scottish Master to Grand Master) | 10.45am on BBO 14BBO\$ |
| Farquharson (Regional Master) | 11.00am on BBO 14BBO\$ |
| Shenkin (Masters, Star Masters, Senior Masters) | 11.15am on BBO 12BBO\$ |
| Alan Fairlie (Novices to District Master) | 11.30am on BBO 10BBO\$ |

Individuals run best with player numbers divisible by 4!

*It is **essential** to pre-register, and to inform the organisers if you have to pull out.*

For events on **BBO** pay on the day from your BBO account, but you **MUST** register on the website

<https://www.sbu.org.uk/calendar/national-events>

Spring Mixed Swiss Pairs and Teams

*These will be the first national events played **face-to-face** since Covid.*

Venue: the **New Melville BC** in Edinburgh (Capacity 32 tables)

Mixed Swiss Pairs (Ruby Martyn Trophy) Saturday 27 May 12 noon. £12 per person.

Mixed Swiss Teams (Helen Walton Trophy) Sunday 28 May 11am. £16 per person.

*Lots of **Red National Master Points** on offer: come and join the fun!*

SBU Saturday Swiss Pairs (15)

Every Saturday Evening at 7pm for 9 weeks on BBO, starting **15 April**

5 rounds of 5 boards scored in match-points.

Open to all SBU members, on any Saturday: there is no requirement to play every week.

The average of the 6 best partnership scores will determine the series winners after week 9.

Local masterpoints awarded to the top quarter for each separate tournament along with points for winning matches.
Bonus of 150 black masterpoints for the Series winners and bonus masterpoints to the top third in the final ranking.

Entry fee BBO\$4.50 per player for each tournament.

Register for tournaments on BBO (search for SBU up to 2 hours in advance)

Please ensure that your Mempad record is updated with your BBO username

The Inverness Congress

The Inverness Bridge Congress, organised by **Ness Bridge Club**, held a very successful weekend at the Highlander Hotel in Newtonmore.

We had 22 tables (88 people) with pairs and teams from all over Scotland from Orkney and Skye down to the Central Belt, Oban and even a team from N Ireland.

There was a 2 session pairs event and a 2 session teams' event, during the evenings and the afternoons. A voluntary bidding competition and an optional knockout pairs event were organised for the morning sessions. Lots of bridge !!

But the mornings also gave people the option to explore the beautiful area surrounding Newtonmore, and despite waking up to snow on Saturday morning, the weather was kind to us.

We had a gin company (AV VA from the Moray distillery) giving tastings and option to purchase, to distract the players from the bridge.

The hotel was fantastic at looking after us and the staff worked their socks off to provide us with coffee mid-morning, afternoon tea and cakes, along with breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Altogether a very enjoyable, friendly but exhausting weekend.

Sincere thanks to the Director Horst Kopleck, and the Ness Bridge Club's President, Allan Downie and his bridge partner Lorna Matheson, for their brilliant organisation.



Teams winners:

Bron McWhinney, Dilys Gellatly,
Veronica Guy Anne Perkins



Pairs Winners

Kevin Strathern
Angus MacDonald



Sunday evening Swiss Pairs

Mark Lincoln
Marie Mitchell

And if that's not enough there is a **Swiss Pairs and Teams congress** at the end of **October**, watch the **Ness Club website** for more details: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/ness>

But the word is out as to how well organised and friendly these Congresses are. So beware, the spaces fill up very quickly!

Strathpeffer 2023

The revived Strathpeffer Congress was run on 24-26 March.

David Cotton, of **Dingwall and District BC** sent a brief report:

"I thought that I would let you know that the Strathpeffer Congress was a success and folk seemed to have a good weekend. Lovely to be playing face to face again with people that you have not seen for 4 years. Andrew Ramsay (and David Hammonds) were remembered in a happy way, as I am sure they would have wished."

The Congress had an entry of 34 pairs and 18 teams – hopefully it will repeat with even more next year!

Results

Pairs Final

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Jim Hay & Tim McKay | 60.12% |
| 2 | Robert Clow & Derrick Peden | 57.74% |
| 3 | Janet Rixon and Mark Simmons | 57.44% |
| 4 | Laurence Archer & Mary Stein | 53.57% |
| 5 | Alan & Myra Livingstone | 52.68% |
| 6 | Cathy Ferguson & Robert McKinnon | 52.38% |

Pairs Consolation Winners

Shirish Chotai & Leslie Verth

Teams Final

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 1 | Lucia Barrett, Lindsay Herbert, Jim Hay, Tim McKay | 103VP |
| 2 | Laurence Archer, Mary Stein, Shirish Chotai, Leslie Verth | 100 VP |
| 3 | Alan & Myra Livingstone, Jean Armstrong, Gary Coombe | 96 VP |
| 4 | Colin Macdonald, Donnie Mackenzie, Jean McLeod, Ross Woodburn | 94 VP |

Pairs Consolation Winners

Allan & Clare Whiteford, Dave Cotton, Donnie Mackenzie

"This hand from the Pivot Teams caused a bit of consternation, especially when partnerships had not fully discussed what they were playing! Stuart Staveley's "wee man" says that 6♥ is the optimum contract and yet I watched some people go off in 4♥ on the inevitable diamond lead."

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Bd 4 | ♠Q9843 ♥4 ♦765 ♣J963 | All VUL Dir W | | | | | | |
| ♠AKT72 ♥AK97 ♦T943 ♣— | <table border="1"><tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table> | W | N | E | | S | | ♠6 ♥QJ52 ♦— ♣AKQT8742 |
| W | N | E | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | |
| | ♠J5 ♥T643 ♦AKQJ82 ♣5 | | | | | | | |

The "wee man" was Stuart's way of referring to GIB, the double dummy analysis program.

This is the sort of hand that GIB eats for breakfast; mere humans struggle to keep up.

*West ruffs the diamond lead in dummy, then ruffs a club to establish the suit – with the **Ace** of trump!*

He cashes the ♠A to get rid of dummy's last loser and draws just 1 round of trump with the Queen.

*Now he plays clubs. South ruffs, but declarer overruffs with the **King**, draws a second round of trump with the Jack and continues clubs. South makes his last trump, but dummy ruffs the return and claims.*

West must ruff high to create two trump entries to dummy – he cannot allow dummy to be shortened twice.

Not surprising that players struggled to make even 4♥!

New Partnership?

Your regular partner is unavailable and you have fixed up with another single. Or you have decided to form a partnership with somebody new.

Where do you start?

Here is a Check List that might help your discussion.

You can start with this, amend it to your liking, add your own pet gadgets, delete anything you don't fancy, ignore anything you don't understand!

Iain Sime



Advanced Acol System Notes

1. Opening One of a suit

Order of suits opened if 4432, 15/19 points: 1) Hearts; 2) better minor 3) last resort, One Spade.

Responses: 2NT= 16+ points, 4-card support, (no 4-card Major over a minor). Respond with shortage.
3NT=12-15 balanced with four card support, (no 4-card Major over a minor).

Checkback Stayman after 1/2 NT rebid.

Simple responses- 2/3♥ = extra heart, 2/3♠ = extra spade but not heart, 2/3♦ = neither.

Responder's Jump shift and opener's jump rebid are Forcing to Game.

Two over One = 9+, Forcing to 2 of opener's suit.

If opener reverses, bids at the 3-level, or rebids 2NT (15/19), the auction becomes Game-Forcing.

4th suit Forcing to Game.

Sign off after a reverse through the lowest unbid denomination,

e.g. 1♣-1♥-2♦, then 2♥ neutral, 2♠ wants out, others Forcing to Game+.

When opponents interfere: Raises to 2/3 are shaded.

Fit Jumps: jump in a new suit = 5+ of the bid suit, 4 of partner's opener
(Fit Jumps also apply by a passed hand without interference).

If they overcall: double is takeout, normally with 4 cards in unbid major(s)
A new suit is forcing for one round,
cue bid (their suit) is a good raise of partner's suit.

If they double: redouble is 10+ with no fit and 2NT is 10+ with 4-card support.

2. Opening 1NT = 12(11) -14

Stayman: may not have a 4-card Major **only** if invitational balanced.

1NT-2♣-2♥-2♠ shows 4 spades and invitational values.

Stayman then 3 other Major = slam try in partner's Major.

Stayman then 3 of a minor = Forcing One Round.

4 suit transfers

2♦/♥ = hearts/spades respectively

With 4-card support may break Major suit transfer to 3Major (minimum) or 2NT (maximum).

2♠/NT= clubs/diamonds respectively

With a fitting honour (A, K or Q) may break to 2NT/3♣

3-level responses are natural, Forcing to Game+,

Opener rebids 3NT with doubleton, cue bids to accept responder's suit.

Interference: *If they bid a suit they might have*, e.g. 2♣ = any one suiter, double is take out.

If they bid a suit they cannot have, e.g. 2♣ = Majors, double shows the suit bid but weakish.

Over any 2-level overcall: Lebensohl: FASS (Fast arrival shows stop),

An immediate bid at the 3-level is Forcing; cuebid of a known suit has a stopper and a 4-card Major,
direct 3NT has a stopper. 2NT asks partner to bid 3♣

If they double for penalty: redouble by either hand shows a 5+card suit, 2 of a suit shows that suit and a higher suit - may be 4/4.

More to come in May...

This month's new feature, Convention Corner, covers Checkback Stayman

Look out for Lebensohl next month...

Convention Corner

Checkback Stayman

We are all familiar with the Stayman Convention: a 2♣ response to a 1NT opener asks partner to show a 4-card Major. It is used to find a 4=4 Major suit fit when that may be a better place to play than No-trump.

Checkback Stayman extends the concept to auctions where partner has **rebid** 1NT.

1x - 1y - 1NT - 2♣ asks opener about Major suit holdings.

Opener describes their length in the Majors.

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - ? | ♠K95 ♥A54 ♦KQ4 ♣A876 | bids 2♥ to show 3-card support (would raise last time with 4) |
| | ♠KT95 ♥A4 ♦KQ4 ♣A876 | bids 2♠ to show 4x♠s but not 3-card ♥ support |
| | ♠K95 ♥A4 ♦KQ4 ♣A8765 | bids 2♦ to deny any interesting Major suit holdings |
| 1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ - ? | ♠K9 ♥AQ543 ♦K54 ♣A87 | bids 2♥ to show a 5-card suit |
| | ♠KT9 ♥AQ43 ♦K43 ♣A87 | bids 2♠ to show 3-card support, only 4x♥s |
| | ♠K9 ♥AQ43 ♦K543 ♣A87 | bids 2♦ to deny any interesting Major suit holdings |

The idea is to find an 8-card Major suit fit when one exists.

The 2♣ bidder promises values, at least enough to invite game: other 2-level bids are sign-offs.

A weak hand passes; rebids a 5+card suit as a weak takeout; or bids two of a lower-ranking suit to show 5-4.

The concept is quite simple, but as with all conventions players have developed various twiddly bits.

If your partnership decides to adopt it you had better consider some of these!

Points to Discuss

1) How do you show both Major suit features?

Some like to bid them up-the-way; always show the heart feature, hope to get spades in later.

Some prefer to focus on the unbid Major, bidding that first.

Some use a 2NT/3NT rebid to show both features.

2) How far is 2♣ forcing?

1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ Can this be passed? (If so a maximum opener must rebid 3♥.)

What does 2♠ mean now? (4=4 Majors? Or does 2NT show that?) Is 2♠ forcing?

3) Can I show a weak hand with long clubs? Eg: ♠2 ♥QJ65 ♦43 ♣KT9543 after 1♦ - 1♥ - 1NT

Some play that an immediate 3♣ rebid is a sign-off.

Others bid 2♣ then 3♣ to show the weak hand.

Some make 2NT a transfer to 3♣ to make opener declare. Bidding 2♣ then 2NT shows the balanced raise.

4) What do rebids at the 3-level mean?

1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 3♥

Both these sequences show a 6-card heart suit

1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♥

Which is invitational, and which forcing?

1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT - 3♥

Slam try or invitational 2-suiter?

Two-Way Checkback

In this variation both 2♣ and 2♦ are conventional.

1x - 1y - 1NT - 2♣ is a Puppet Bid, it demands that partner bids 2♦

Responder will either Pass, to play, or make a natural rebid to show invitational values.

1x - 1y - 1NT - 2♦ is a game-forcing relay. Opener shows Major suit holdings as before.

With no Major features pattern out by rebidding 2NT or 3 of a minor.

Responder may now pick a game, but there is still lots of room to investigate slam.

This variant is popular with partnerships that have adopted a 5-card Major style where you bypass a 5-card diamond suit over 1♣ to show a 4-card major (Walsh).

The Puppet part is quite forgettable, but it is worth persevering: you cannot say you have mastered a Convention till you have forgotten it at least twice!

Counting Quiz

1) Counting ...

| West | | East |
|-------|--|--------|
| ♠A64 | | ♠K3 |
| ♥QT52 | | ♥AKJ93 |
| ♦T54 | | ♦QJ3 |
| ♣AJ6 | | ♣KT4 |

Auction:

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

South leads the ♦K followed by the ♦A, on which North discards the ♠5.
 North ruffs the third diamond and returns the ♠T to your ♠K and South's ♠2
 You draw trump in 3 rounds – North shows out on the first heart!
 So North got a ruff with a singleton trump.
 You wish you were in 3NT, but it's too late now...

- What do you know about North and South's distribution in the red suits?
- How can you find out more about the black suits?
- How will you tackle clubs?

2) ... and more counting

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | ♠AKQJ2 ♥852 ♦QJT ♣T4 | |
| ♠T7 ♥K96 ♦K532 ♣AKJ2 | N W E S | |

Auction:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| - | - | - | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | End | |

You lead the ♣K and ♣A. Partner plays ♣3, then ♣7, declarer follows with the ♣6 and ♣Q.

- How are the clubs distributed?
- How many points can partner have?
- Which 4 tricks can you hope to make to beat this game?
- What is your plan?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

R.A.T.S.

Acol Twos were a big feature of the original ACOL system

They have fallen out of favour, perhaps because they are so infrequent compared with the trendy Weak Two, but they remain a feature of Benjie Acol.

The original definition was “**a hand of power and quality** with 8 Playing Tricks”.

Players often forget the first part of the sentence, as on this deal:

| | | | |
|----------|--------|--|----------|
| | ♠T32 | | NS Vul |
| | ♥76 | | Dealer W |
| | ♦JT743 | | |
| | ♣AJ5 | | |
| ♠QJ6 | | | ♠A854 |
| ♥AKQ9854 | | | ♥T |
| ♦Q | | | ♦A9862 |
| ♣72 | | | ♣K84 |
| | ♠K97 | | |
| | ♥J32 | | |
| | ♦K5 | | |
| | ♣QT963 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 6♣ | End |

West was the late lamented Freddie Short, father of Brian, and one of the most popular characters on the Edinburgh bridge scene. He loved to open Acol 2s – to the extent that this sort of opener became known as a “Freddie 2”.

There is really no need for a 2-opener here. As John MacLaren used to explain, wearily: “I opened a 2-bid for fear that you might pass a 1-opener”. With only 14 HCP there is no danger that the auction might go 1♥ – All Pass.

East naturally thought slam was in the air and made a positive response. But her choice of suit was not best, especially when West made a 3-card raise.

South led a club against 6♣. North took the Ace and returned a club to the King. In a desperate attempt to make the hopeless slam declarer lost control and finished four down. It was Match Points, so the number of undertricks was irrelevant; any minus scored zero in comparison with the +450 from 4♥+1 recorded by the rest of the field.

Your editor wrote the hand up in the “Scotsman” as an object lesson.
(R.A.T.S. stands for “Re-instate Acol Two Strength”)

On her next outing to the Melville she was cornered by Freddie. Ready with the profuse apology, she was rather surprised to be greeted with “You were quite right!”

Had the penny dropped? Would the Acol 2 be restored to its former glory?

Not really. Freddie continued: “My partner should never have bid spades!”

Results Page

SBU Congress Results

The **Congress Swiss Teams** had 3 sessions of 3x8-board matches on Friday 8 & Sunday 10 March
24 teams took part.

| | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1 | Imogen La Chapelle, Charlotte Bedford, Claire Robinson, Paul Barden | 126 VP |
| 2 | Peter Moss, Andrew Symons, Mike & Margaret Hodder | 125 VP |
| 3 | Susan Aitchison, Jim Forsyth, Gosya Rozman, Pyotr Nawrocki | 121 VP |
| 4 | Martin Bateman, Callum McKail, Liz McGowan, Iain Sime | 116 VP |
| 5= | L Branchev, P Darakchiev, S Geshev, S Nikolov | 115 VP |
| | Alan Goodman, Anne Symons, Fiona McQuaker, Brian Short | 115 VP |

The **Congress Pairs** was run as a Swiss on Saturday 9 March, with 8x6-board matches.

There were 26 tables.

| | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1 | Dick Davey & Nigel Wolfendale | 131 VP |
| 2 | C Crosswell & J Thoreson | 112 VP |
| 3 | Jake Milne & M Spence-Jones | 105 VP |
| 4 | Gints Freimanis & Derek Sanders | 102 VP |
| 5 | Martin Bateman & Callum McKail | 100 VP |
| 6= | Peter Clarke & Andrea Main | 98 VP |
| | Robin Key & Helen Lodge | 98 VP |
| 8 | Sara Moran & Andrew McIntosh | 97 VP |
| 9= | Paul Barton & Jun Nakamaru-Pinder | 96 VP |
| | Richard Bowdery & Ian Angus | 96VP |
| | Tim McKay & Derek Peden | 96 VP |
| 12 | Marina Evans & Sarah Gunn | 95 VP |

Bronze League 1Q23

These are the winners of the 4 Divisions.

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| Division 1 | COLINTON FOUR (Ian & Sue Campbell, Moira & Norman Poyser, Robert Hickling) | 144.23 VP |
| Division 2 | BidenNT (Stephanie Silverstone, Clive Aronson, Bernard Solomons, Sheila & Joe Fell, Bill Gardner) | 109.44 VP |
| Division 3 | TRAPRAIN (Anne & Derick McIntosh, Bill Miller, Robert Jones) | 127.17 VP |
| Division 4 | WIXTRIX (Jane Wickes, Roisin Sharpe, Philippa Brown, Christine Jack, Charmian Switzer, Michael Smyth) | 138.05 VP |

Master Point Promotions

March 2023

Life Master

David King E

National Master

Jane Harper E

Scottish Master

Clare Douglas E

Gordon Milne E

Regional Master

Gillian Simpson C

4 Star Master

Gill Clarke E

2 Star Master

Scott Gallacher C

1 Star Master

Fiona MacLaurin W

Brian McConnell W

Julie Menzies E

Patricia Millar W

Master

Beryl Harley C

Sandy McConnachie H

Alan Morrison E

Stuart Morrison C

John Pottinger E

Ellen Smith N

Janette Towers W

District Master

Val Beamish E

Eman Clayburn E

Sally Kerr W

John Meldrum E

John Mitchell A

Morag Telfer W

Linda Warcup E

Local Master

Gordon Barnett E

Colin Boag N

Jackie Cameron D

Dora Cossar E

Margaret Evans E

Alistair McFadzean S

June Miller H

June Whiteford N

Club Master

Eleanor Brennan N

Celia Caffyn E

Paul Machin W

Jean Mason S

Richard Pearson E

Chris Pountain D

Shirley Redgrave E

Sandie Watson E

Answers to Quiz

1

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | ♠QT875 ♥4 ♦2 ♣Q98752 | |
| ♠A64 ♥QT52 ♦T54 ♣AJ6 | N W E S | ♠K3 ♥AKJ93 ♦QJ3 ♣KT4 |
| | ♠J92 ♥876 ♦AK9876 ♣3 | |

- a) South has 6 diamonds and 3 hearts
North has 1 diamond and 1 heart.
- b) South has only 4 black cards.
We can find out how many spades she has by playing ♠A and ruffing a spade.
- c) If South has 3 spades she has at most 1 club.
Play a club to the Ace and finesse the ♣T
If South has 2 spades she has 2 clubs
North has 5 clubs, so is more likely to hold ♣Q
If S has only 1 spade you just have to guess – but this is unlikely given the earlier play in spades.

2

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | ♠AKQJ2 ♥852 ♦QJT ♣T4 | |
| ♠T7 ♥K96 ♦K532 ♣AKJ2 | N W E S | ♠9843 ♥4 ♦764 ♣98753 |
| | ♠65 ♥AQJT73 ♦A98 ♣Q6 | |

- a) Declarer has ♣Q6 doubleton – why else would she drop the Queen?
- b) You see 27 points between your hand and dummy, and South has an opening bid. Partner might have the ♥J...
- c) You have taken 2 clubs, and ♥K is a sure trick.
♦K will be the 4th trick – unless declarer can discard all her diamonds on dummy's spades.
- d) Switch to a spade. If declarer has only 2 spades you can cut her off from dummy by playing a second spade when you win the ♥K.