



The SBU Monthly News

December 2022

Content of Issue 13

What's on in January 2023

BAMSA News

"Meet and Play" Weekend

Crossword

"Heroes, Icons and Scandals"

Oban Bridge Congress Returns

Opening Lead Quiz

It's a Funny Old Game

Results Page

Master Point Promotions

Solution to Crossword

Answers to Quiz

Sam Punch

Gill Roberts

Mike Marshall

Book review by Alan Goodman

Sue Pollard

Roddy Mclean

(November 2022)

The National Congress

12-14 March 2023

We are asked to remind you that the bridge fee for the Congress is £85, **but** if you book before 31 December, you get a discount and pay just £75!

Details on the Home Page of the website: sbu.org.uk

Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor:

liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

The Winter Fours

This competition is one of Scotland's most prestigious events, a **Knockout Teams** with a twist.

A **Double Elimination**: Teams are eliminated from the main event only after losing **two** matches.

It will be played on **RealBridge** over two weekends, **28-29 January**, and **4-5 February**

The first weekend is knockout stages: teams eliminated early vie for a place in the Consolation event.

The second weekend consists of the last few knockout rounds and the Consolation Multiple Teams.

We hope to attract entries from top teams all over Europe and beyond – this is a rare opportunity to play against top-quality opposition.

Teams may consist of up to 8 players (but only four play in each match!)

The entry fee of **£160** per team covers both weekends

Winter Swiss Teams

(Teams that do not make it into either main event of the Winter Fours have free entry into this event)

Sunday, 5 February, open to all comers: if two weekends are too long, why not have a go?

Starting time **11 am**. Entry fee **£12** per head.

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

The Thea Teale Bronze Swiss Teams

It will be played on **BBO** on **Sunday, 22 January**, at **11 am**

7x5-board matches in the Swiss format. Entry fee = BBO\$11 per head

This event is a National event for Bronze players. A good opportunity to earn red National Points.

You earn points for every match you win, then do well enough and you get a bonus.

This is a Teams of Four event, but if you do not have a partner or team-mates contact us, and we shall match people up: email us at tournament@sbu.co.uk

There is a partnership desk for people to register as looking for a partner here:

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

A note from the Competitions Committee

We are in a new era of bridge. Face-to-face bridge is gradually restarting and gaining numbers, but online bridge is still popular. Considerable research has been done, and the majority opinion of members is that they would like to see a programme including both face-to-face and online.

We have made some changes to the programme we are delivering for the rest of this year. The reaction to this in numbers playing and feedback received will dictate what programme runs in future years.

The programme for 2023/4 will be decided based on the success or otherwise of these competitions.

The SBU currently uses two online bridge platforms: BBO and RealBridge. There are concerns about the integrity of online bridge, and RealBridge is regarded as better than BBO: because players are in view all the time, cheating is more difficult. However, there are issues with RealBridge in rural areas where broadband speeds are slower. The programmed events use both platforms. We would urge BBO users to try RealBridge. It does work a lot better now than it did at the start.

The programme is based on the following policies:

- All one-day open events will be played online so that they are available to all members wherever they live.
- There will be Saturday/Sunday events played face-to-face in places where overnight accommodation is available.
- There will be events on BBO and RealBridge, but all finals will be played face-to-face or on RealBridge.

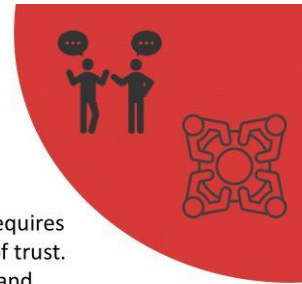
BAMSA News

Bridge: A MindSport for All is working on producing accessible resources based on our academic research findings. We hope these might be useful for bridge teachers, clubs, or organisations to promote bridge as a mindsport.



THE MINDSPORT BRIDGE

As a card game of incomplete information, bridge requires partnership communication and the development of trust. Bridge teaches the value of loyalty, cooperation and mutually supportive relationships.



STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Reading opponents strategically

Thoughtful and logical analysis of situations enables players to assess the best course of action.



Preparation and cooperation

Top players need to prepare in advance as well as work on strategies with their partner away from the bridge table.



PARTNERSHIP

Building a strong partnership takes time, effort, empathy and understanding.



Supportive silence

Bridge is a game of mistakes that requires a calm demeanour when things go wrong.



Disciplined planning

Successful players respond to events in a disciplined manner and learn to anticipate possible problems that might occur.



According to research by BAMSA at the University of Stirling, life skills such as strategic planning, flexibility in problem-solving, concentration and focus can be developed at the bridge table. Players learn and practice interpersonal skills, resilience and emotional self-control.

Punch, S. and Snellgrove, M. (2021) [Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge](#), *Sociological Research Online* 26(3): 601–619.



Let us know what you think of our first attempt - feedback on style, content, and format is much appreciated; please contact: bamsa@stir.ac.uk

What other formats or types of resources might be helpful?

The infographic poster is based on this paper:

Punch, S. and Snellgrove, M. (2021) [Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge](#), *Sociological Research Online* 26(3): 601–619.

Other papers and this poster from the *Bridging Minds* project, along with two-page summaries of each paper, are available on [the BAMSA website](#)

The 'Meet and Play' Weekend

During Lockdown, the bridge playing world moved online, and so did bridge teaching. This was great! But... and yes, there's always a but... lots of players who can now play bridge have never met their chums nor played bridge at a table with real cards with real people.

So, now that clubs are moving back to face-to-face bridge, how to encourage these new online players to learn the benefits and differences of playing face-to-face?

The Scottish Bridge Union arranged an event to stimulate the move from online to playing the game face-to-face as in a club. Held over the weekend of 12 - 13 November, 64 people from around the country who learned to play bridge online met each other for the very first time in Salutation Hotel in Perth.

New online bridge players came by boat, train, plane, and car. They were coming from as far afield as London to Stornoway and Arran to Elie. One couple, Stuart, and Jackie Coulthard, even came by bike, cycling from Leven to Perth and back again! Lots of enjoyment was had.



Serious bridge was played with much concentration, focus and thinking!

'It was lovely to meet and play face to face with friends I have been playing online with over the last two years.' (MM)

'It was good to play with real cards and record scores.' (EA)

'Lots of help was available during play.' (LS-G)

'It was very friendly, and everyone so helpful. Yes – I made mistakes, even bloomers, but it was all part of the fun.'

(MW)

Even at the breakfast table, one was seen 'mugging up' from the Andrew Robson book



each player received.

As nervous as I was about playing, I was reassured to discover that most other folk were too. My favourite comment was: 'bridge is a game of mistakes'. It is, and I made some howlers. (GF)

Two key questions spring to mind.

Firstly, would they come again?

The good news is that everyone who replied to the feedback questions said yes!

Some depend upon location, and a few highlighted their preference for a similar level of a player event.

'Yes, I definitely would attend other events, as long as they were geared towards beginners.' (MR)

'I would be delighted for this format to be repeated in the future, but unsure about attending a residential event with very experienced players.' AM

'What an amazing event! I can't put into words the experience. Just meeting all those like-minded people. I will probably go on about this weekend forever! If real congresses are like this – I can't wait' (LR)

And would they be tempted to try playing at their local clubs?

Well, at least one:

'It was fabulous, and the team did an amazing job organising everything (particularly since the venue had to change).

'I'd definitely recommend it to other beginners. ...it has made me keen to play in the gentle pairs at the club - I'm just trying to reorganise my working hours to free up a Wed afternoon to do that (probably starting in 2023)' (LA)

After the event, links for affiliated clubs from both the SBU and EBU websites were emailed to all participants.

Information pre the event was emailed to SBU Education District Convenors to forward to affiliated clubs in Scotland, so fingers crossed!



Alison and Eric

Many thanks are due to our guest experts, Eric Starritt as TD and Alison Carmichael, who did all things technical with Scorebridge, Bridgemates and publishing of results on the SBU website. Also, to the Thea Teale Foundation which supplied Andrew Robson Lesson books, Beginner Flippers, and pens for all players

Last, but by no means least, huge thanks to the team who worked with me to make this happen, starting with support from the SBU Education Committee and in particular Marina, the chair, Grace White, who was my co-organiser, then all the helpers on the day, George, Chris, Eric, Alison, Miriam, Shelagh, & Steve and the stand-by players who filled in at tables as required, Marijke, Priscilla and Katherine. And to Joan Forsyth, who came along to open proceedings

Gill Roberts

Post Mortem

Most bridge clubs are doing their bit re-introducing play in the club premises and offering tuition from beginners through to experts. But its proving hard work. WHY?

It's very seductive and convenient to play bridge online from the comfort of your armchair, but do you really want to become a hermit? Let's, get out of the house, meet real people, and have some fun together as well as play good bridge. Search for your local club and get in touch!

Could we do better? Always...

- Name badges for all would be helpful. (How could we have forgotten that!)
- Having a fixed tea/coffee break mid play sessions rather than self-service throughout seems to be preferred and of course having sufficient supplies of tea, coffee, and boiling water!
- Ensuring that the card room was warm enough from the start!
- Managing the timing of play especially on the first day was difficult. Nine minutes per board was allowed which was not enough for most on the first afternoon but a few did find the play slow! A total of 12 boards were played in the 1st session but the next day, in the 2nd session everyone played the planned 16 boards.

Two screens in the card room showed a visual timer counting down, but a suggestion was:

'I wonder if some sort of audible timer might help focus the attention of some players who play too slowly.' (JM)

Some appreciated keeping costs low.

'I liked that it was not too expensive so that everyone who wished, could afford to attend.

Sometimes, the cost of events like this limits the number attending, and if you are swithering then cost could be the deciding factor. I paid the meals only option, which I thought was fantastic value for money. The hotel staff were extremely pleasant and efficient, and the hotel itself coped really well with feeding so many people quickly. The room used to play bridge was all set up ready to start so no problems there. Both that room and the dining room were a good size, and there was plenty of room for everyone.' (MR)

While others would prefer a more upmarket venue with better food.

'I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. A more luxurious hotel perhaps.' (MM)

'I would attend (again) if it was better hotel with good reviews' (MC)

'I did hear some complaints about the quality of the food from other players, but I thought the meals were fine for what we paid, and there certainly was ample provided. Dealing with such a large number does mean that food has to be such that it can be served quickly after ordering so everything had to be prepared beforehand ready to be dished out' (MR)

So, yes, some room for improvement but having said that from all the feedback from most participants can be captured in the comments below.

A participant's view.

I think I speak for everyone who attended and must congratulate Gill, Grace and the team for a very enjoyable and successful Meet and Play Bridge event, despite the stress caused by the late cancellation of the original venue.

A room full of bridge players who have mastered the art of playing bridge online, on all sorts of technical devices, but who, when faced with 13 cards which need to be arranged, bid, and played in person on a table, found the new challenge a bit nerve wracking to start with.

But with the team of friendly, helpful assistants, we managed to get to grips with playing bridge just as we would do in a local club and by the end of the weekend, we were almost old hands even with Bridgemates and remembering to ask "any questions" before turning over the lead card.

The key success factors of the event for me were :

Location - Perth is a good central location, within a few hours for most people and with good transport routes

Cost – The weekend was set at an attractive rate within most people's budget

Timing – The dates and times for the event were suitable for most people

Scale – The event was not over-large. This gave everyone the opportunity to mix socially as well as at the table

And last but perhaps the most important ...

Attendees – The event was targeted at bridge players attending classes in the SBU region.

We were all playing at a similar level, using a similar bidding system and just for the enjoyment of the game.

This made the whole experience less daunting than attending a larger event with all levels of bridge player playing all kinds of bridge systems.

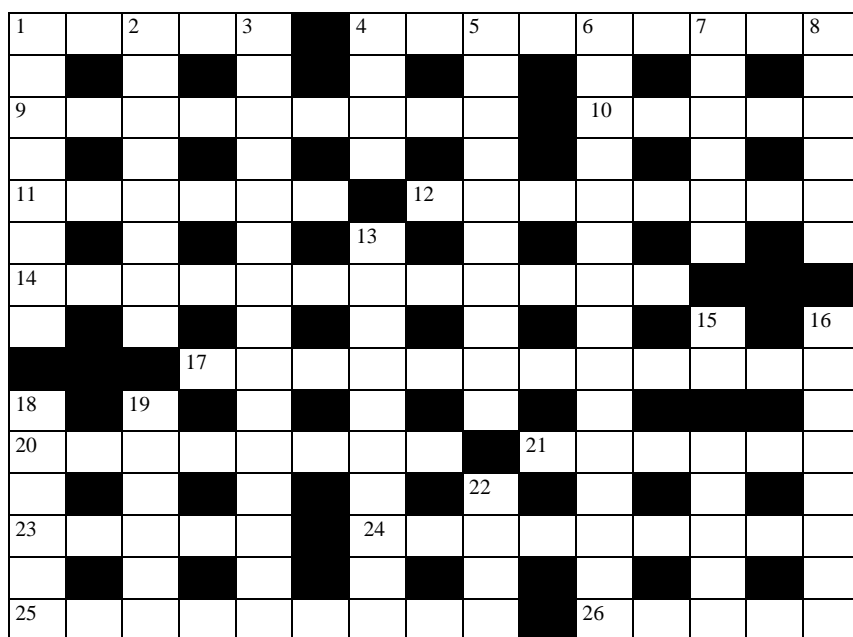
We enjoyed the chat at the meals, over coffee and in the bar every bit as much as the bridge. Smiles and laughter are everywhere. Who knew Face-To-Face bridge could be so much fun?

All we want to know now is: *When is the next Meet and Play event to block off in the diary?*

And you never know, some of us may take the opportunity to venture out to a local club now that we have the skills to play Face-to-Face and with real cards.

Rona Cochrane

Crossword by 'Finesse'



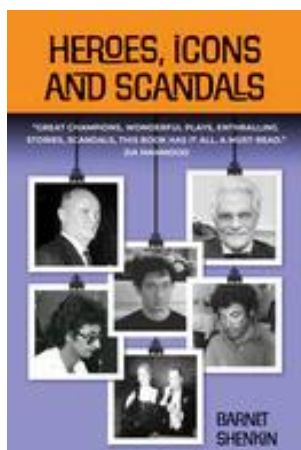
Across

- 1 Laughing out loud with you, we're told, departed from colourful holiday island (5)
 4 Winding roads ran round South Ayrshire town (9)
 9 Crack soldiers thus retreated by order (9)
 10 Just a very small part of it (5)
 11 Ordered user to follow company procedure (6)
 12 Obsolete aircraft with tapering section housing cable (8)
 14 Vaguely told about dubious views aged ladies expound initially (3,5,4)
 17 Meeting to try winter jumpers (8,4)
 20 Time in European capital to meet an irregular soldier (8)
 21 Leoncavallo had no love for sport (6)
 23 Some Frosties for breakfast in Switzerland (5)
 24 Topping facilities developed to get a title into print (9)
 25 When provoked anyone can reveal it (9)
 26 We're told they must when there's nothing else for it (5)

Down

- 1 Silly cow and old crock Donald left for Dawn (4,4)
 2 Less than perfect tyres smoulder if unbalanced (8)
 3 An invincible position with false alias and alibis in coalition I withdrew from (15)
 4 Middle Easterner beheaded - for driving! (4)
 5 Resentment last seen in dance marquee (10)
 6 Deceptively seen juggling act from riotous occasion at Lilliput (7,8)
 7 Peter, Janet, Jack et all scamper across river, a long river- - (6)
 8 - - - and climb to net last of emperor butterflies (6)
 13 Alternative medication feared by Roman legions (10)
 15 Bog paper wrapped silver medal firstly (8)
 16 His orders are for horses and hors d'oeuvres! (8)
 18 Watering hole houses paintings in ancient Greece (6)
 19 Can is found in topless pinny (6)
 22 Give birth to, and shave the top off it! (4)

Heroes, Icons and Scandals



Barnet Shenkin's second book has everything, including an insight into great players from the past, scandals past and present, and affectionate stories about some of Scotland's greatest players.

Barnet uses personal experience to relate hands and stories of the great champions, which includes a personal insight into the bridge life of film star Omar Sharif.

The author makes some fascinating revelations about the notorious scandals that have plagued our game, from 1965 involving Terence Reese and Boris Shapiro to recent cases involving some of the highest-paid professionals worldwide.

It is particularly interesting to read stories about many Scottish players who rose to the top of the game competing against the world's best. Barnet provides his own personal insight, but the players he writes about truly deserve the accolades. This book records much about their personalities and brilliancies which is a fitting

record of their achievements. For those who have played with or against these players, it will bring back many memories.

This book will appeal to bridge players of any level.

Barnet Shenkin has represented Scotland, Great Britain, and the USA in international events, winning many major events on both sides of the Atlantic. After many years living in the USA, he is now back living in Scotland. His first book: "Playing with the Bridge Legends" is also published by Master Point Press and available from Chess and Bridge: info@chess.co.uk

Oban Bridge Congress

3-5th March 2023

The Oban Bridge Congress returns to Face to Face!

The 47th Oban Bridge Congress will be held in the newly renovated Royal Hotel. The hotel is in the heart of the town – only a short walk to the harbour and the front, with plenty of cafes and restaurants nearby to enjoy between sessions.

We are delighted to have Horst Kopleck as the Tournament Director to oversee three days of bridge.

For further details, **visit**, [Oban Bridge Club, Oban, Argyll, Scotland \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://Oban Bridge Club, Oban, Argyll, Scotland (bridgewebs.com))

email obanbridgecongress@gmail.com

or **call** Sue on 07776 024017

We look forward to a convivial weekend playing with new and well-kent faces and boards to remember (some to forget?). You are very welcome to join us!

Opening Lead Quiz

Opponents play a weak NT (12-14). You play 4th highest leads

1. Your sit West and your hand is

♠JT9
♥KJ943
♦K64
♣72

Auction:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
All Pass			

What do you know about the hidden hands?
What do you lead?

2. Your sit West and your hand is

♠JT9
♥KJ943
♦K64
♣72

Auction:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

What do you know about the hidden hands?
What do you lead?

3. Your sit West and your hand is

♠JT9
♥KJ943
♦K64
♣72

Auction:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

What do you know about the hidden hands?
What do you lead?

4. Your sit West and your hand is

♠JT9
♥KJ943
♦K64
♣72

Auction:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

What do you know about the hidden hands?
What do you lead?

It's a Funny Old Game

Going for a Duck.

Playing Match Point Pairs, with both sides Vulnerable, you are North, the dealer, and pick up these cards:

♠542
♥T32
♦QT5
♣AKQJ

Your partner is always saying you are not aggressive enough, so mindful of the pre-emptive power of the weak NT, you open 1NT (perhaps you can justify it because of the two tens?)

It goes Pass – Pass - Pass, and E leads the ♥8.

Partner (always a disappointment) puts down:

♠JT7
♥Q
♦9632
♣86543

Well, not doubled; opponents must have a game on, so not too bad...

E/W proceed to take 5 heart tricks, 5 spade tricks and 3 diamond tricks.

The most remarkable thing was watching poor North record 0 in the 'tricks made' column. None of us, or anyone I have spoken to, has seen this before.

The full hand:

	♠542	EW Vul
	♥T32	Dealer N
	♦QT5	
	♣AKQJ	
♠AQ98		♠K6
3		♥AJ985
♥K764		♦K54
♦AJ7		♣T72
♣9		
	♠JT7	
	♥Q	
	♦9632	
	♣86543	

Yes, E/W can make lots, though +700 was a most useful score.

Fortunately, we're a very friendly, low-key club, and we were soon chuckling over it, though it did take N/S rather longer to appreciate the unique humour!

This is as it happened; nothing changed!

Roddy Mclean.
Torphins BC

Results Page

Rayne Trophy

This is a Multiple Teams for which 12 teams qualify from the Districts.

The Final was played on RealBridge on 26 November.

Each team played a 4-board match against every other team

1	Alex Adamson, Sheila Adamson, Paul Barton, Derek Sanders	165
2	Sandy Duncan, Ying Piper, Lucia Barrett, Veronica Guy	146
3	Ian Burn, Ian McClure, Stewart Duguid, Stewart Pinkerton	123
4	Bob McKinnon, Peter Hodgson, Cathy Ferguson, Ileen MacGregor	122
5	Roy Bennet, Harry Smith, John Murdoch, Liam O'Brien	116
6	Robert Clow, Mike McGinley, Paul Maiolani, Jim McMenemy	110

Ranked Masters Pairs

All these events were played on RealBridge on Sunday, 27 November.

Arthur Trophy (Grandmasters Pairs: 8 tables scored by cross-imps)

1	John Murdoch & Bob Ferrari	+54.14
2	John Dick & John Hamilton	+51.29
3	Sandy Duncan & Bob McPaul	+36.37
4	Emily Garden & Bill Ross	+33.33

Bowman/Fairlie Trophies (Life, National and Scottish Masters Pairs: 19 tables scored by match points)

1	David Ritchie & Kevin Strathern	60.36%
2	Willie Clemie & David Briggs	58.91%
3	Tom Bagnall & Andrew Harborow	57.35%
4	Linda Grieve & Sheenagh Young	55.84%
5	Alison Carmichael & Paul Cozens	55.27%
6	Anne Perkins & Ying Piper	54.11%
7	Rob Boulton-Jones & John Larkin	53.59%
8	Yvonne Stokka & David Wiseman	53.30%

Jesner Trophy (Masters, Star masters and Senior Masters Pairs: 13 tables scored by match points)

1	Brian & Patricia Wilkie	66.02%
2=	Steven Henderson & Derek McLachlan	59.90%
	Kate Sharp & Gillian Simpson	59.90%
4	Jonathan Gibson & Gillian Templeton	55.60%
5	Jill Connor & Tony Reed-Jones	54.30%
6	Frederick Adams & Neil Bulleid	52.73%

Johnson Trophy (Local and District Masters Pairs: 8 tables scored by match points)

1	Stuart Morrison & Barbara Reay	60.97%
2	Dawn & Peter Beckett	57.65%
3	Douglas & Gill Gordon	56.89%
4	Tricia Bennett & Johan Sinclair	56.63%

Kennedy Trophy (Novices and Club Masters: 10 tables scored by match points)

1	Fiona & Ron Gill	65.02%
2	Helen Hunter & Elaine Macgregor	62.06%
3	Janice Duguid & Katie Lessells	55.89%
4	Elinor Adamson & Louise Paton	55.56%
5	Diana & Stephen Bromley	54.99%

Master Point Promotions

November 2022

Scottish Master

Nicki Traynor C

3 Star Master

Lesley Kydd W

2 Star Master

Allan Ainslie E
Christine Irving E
Agnes Lamont A
Ken Roxburgh W

1 Star Master

David Gillespie W
Kathy Jones W
John Lennon E
Helen Lodge E
Helen Long E

Master

Irene Adamson W
Gordon Brechin W
Sandra Gellatly W
Carol Lamond E
Nigel Marlow E
Mary Stein W
Campbell Young W

District Master

Fraser Evans E
Ann Foggo D
Liz Forbes W
Lesley Gray E
Carole Macartney E
Mabel Rennie E

Local Master

Mary Ashmore S
Michael Crook S
Diana Mccowat C
Hugh Mckee A
Grainne O'Grady W
Tony Quinn W

Club Master

Ewan Andersson D
Robert Black E
Alan Currie W
Wilma Currie W
John Davis W
Sonja Fair E
Jude Gardner E
Vyvienne Hosie C
David Hunter N
Estelle Hunter N
Isobel Hunter W
David James S
Clare Kieran S
Liam Kieran S
Elaine Macgregor W
Roger Perry E
Ronald Rankine E
Alice Read H
Helen Todd E
Oliver Wright C

Solution to Crossword

1C	O	2R	F	3U		4A	R	5D	R	6O	S	7S	A	8N	
O		E		N		U		I		P		E		E	
9C	O	M	M	A	N	D	O	S		10T	A	V	E	R	
K		O		S		I		C		I		E		V	
11C	O	U	R	S	E		12C	O	N	C	O	R	D	E	
R		L		A		13D		N		A		N		S	
14	L	D	W	I	V	E	S	T	A	L	E				
O															
W		S		L		C		E		I		15Q		16S	
				17N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	H	U	N	T
18S		19P		B		M		T		L		A		A	
20P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N		21R	U	G	G	E	R	
A		I		L		T		22H		S		M		T	
23R	O	S	T	I		24I	T	A	L	I	C	I	S	E	
T		O				O		V		O		R		R	
25A	N	N	O	Y	A	N	C	E		26N	E	E	D	S	

Quiz Answers

(This Quiz appears in "Instructions for the Defence" by Jeremy Flint and David Greenwood.

Their argument is that we should focus first on which is the best suit to lead rather than the correct card.

The first question is: "Shall I attack, or aim to give nothing away?"

The example hand has an obvious attacking lead in hearts, and an obvious passive lead in spades.

- 1 Not much information here: South has 12-14 HCP and partner could not compete over 1NT. North may be maximum for his Pass, and a heart may well give away a trick. Flint goes with the passive ♠J but admits that this might lose a vital tempo. With a close choice ♠J looks best at Pairs: at teams better to attack with the trusty 4th highest heart.
- 2 This time we know that North has 11-12 HCP and South 12-13, leaving partner with 7-9. We also know that North did not employ Stayman so is unlikely to have a 4-card major. NS have nothing to spare, and this may be tight. Flint relies on the passive ♠J, fearing that a heart may give the 8th trick.
- 3 Now North has at least 12HCP, might easily have more. Or he might be relying on a long club suit. Either way, our best chance of beating this contract is to attack in hearts. ♥4 is clearcut.
- 4 Unless NS have forgotten their system; your partner is marked with a Yarborough. An attacking lead is sure to give away a trick. Perhaps you can beat this contract by making both your red Kings. The passive lead is surely best. (Since partner is not going to play much part in the play, you may like to create a small diversion by leading the ♠T instead of the ♠J.