



# The SBU Monthly News

*December 2023*

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# What's on Offer in the New Year

## National Events

- The **4<sup>th</sup> National Online Grand Prix Competition** is **online** on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**
- The **National Mixed Swiss Pairs** for the Ruby Martyn Trophy are on **Saturday 20 January**
- The **National Mixed Swiss Teams** for the Ruby Martyn Trophy are on **Sunday 21 January**  
Both at the **New Melville Bridge Club** in Edinburgh.
- The **Winter 4s**, our most prestigious **Open Teams** event, run as a Double Knockout, runs on **2-4 February** in the **New Melville Bridge Club**.  
*A rare opportunity to pit your skills against the elite.*  
There is a Subsidiary event on Sunday for teams eliminated in the early stages.  
And free entry to the **Winter Swiss Teams** in the **Carlton Bridge Club** on **Sunday 4 February**  
(Which you can enter separately if a whole weekend is too daunting...)

Details on the website: <https://www.sbu.org.uk/competitions/events-timeline/national-events>

## Free SBU Courses on Scoring Programs

These will be available in the New Year:

- 1) Basic use of Scorebridge in Clubs, including trouble-shooting and Setting Bridgemates  
**(HALF DAY, Morning)**
- 2) Advanced use of Scorebridge (Teams, Individuals, Swiss Pairs, multi-sections)  
**(HALF DAY, Afternoon)**
- 3) EBU Score for SBU Tournaments: Pairs, Teams, Swiss Pairs, Individuals, multi-sections, Mitchell-Howell, Barometer, Camrose  
**(ALL DAY)**

**Dates will be arranged to accommodate those interested**

**Contact Angus Macdonald at [chieftd@sbu.org.uk](mailto:chieftd@sbu.org.uk)**

## STRATHPEFFER BRIDGE CONGRESS

**Ben Wyvis Hotel**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Traditional "Strathpeffer" format, Mixed Teams, Pairs Qualification, Bidding Competition, Teams Qualification, Pairs Finals, Pivot Teams, Teams Finals, Play with the Internationals. Congress fees only £50 per player, payable by Bank transfer or cheque on acceptance.

Hotel is offering Dinner Bed and Breakfast for 3 nights from £186 per person (+£45 single person supplement, +£45 superior room upgrade)

Note that entries will be initially limited to 18 tables, please wait for your application to be accepted before attempting to book Hotel accommodation. **Entries by 31 January 2024 please!**

Details and entry forms at: [Dingwall & District Bridge Club, Ross-shire \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://Dingwall & District Bridge Club, Ross-shire (bridgewebs.com))

# Clap Our Clubs

## Meet and Play 4/5th November St Andrew Bridge Club, Glasgow

There were only winners at the 'Meet and Play' event held at the St Andrew Bridge Club in Glasgow in early November. Exhaustive preparations and creative planning paid off as the 50 guests spent a weekend engrossed not only in the novel experience of playing face-to-face Bridge, but also socialising with their hitherto perhaps faceless partners and opponents.



Over the weekend, the St Andrew Bridge club welcomed visitors from many parts of Scotland and even some from much further afield with warm hospitality and, yes - Prosecco was produced at the end of the Saturday session! The two relaxed, mentored and supervised sessions of Bridge (Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning) produced challenges of many kinds but there were always helpers on hand to facilitate and assist with the practicalities of bidding boxes, alerts and conventions. Hand commentaries were given out after the tournaments which rounded off the experience nicely along with prizes (interesting bridge books and handy Andrew Robson flippers) for the winners.

Most players stayed over at the Holiday Inn Express and an evening meal was organised in the nearby Di Maggio's restaurant where players then truly got to meet and mingle and perhaps even talk on subjects other than bridge!

The following comment from a budding new bridge player may truly reflected the experience of many :

"As a lockdown online beginner who had never held cards, the St Andrew Club Meet and Play was an invaluable step in my bridge career. With the wilds of BBO as my benchmark and a sense of dread beating excitement at the prospect facing humans across the velvet battleground, it was scary to contemplate the transition to club play. Add in the distractions of strange table paraphernalia, procedures and scoring and the challenge was to quieten sighs of anguish. I think the organisers appreciated this exactly and provided the best welcome, patient attention, advice, all the comforts and, somehow, a really relaxed atmosphere - taking over Di Maggio's for dinner helped too. Success was measured in psychrometric units - humidity in the club rooms reduced over the 2 days as sweaty palms and laboured breathing gave way to more settled minds and a returning ability to figure out the cards. Many thanks to the organising team and St Andrew BC for a fabulous weekend. Nice people! Great fun! Job done!"



# The Highland (Aviemore) Congress

## *“Back to the Future?”*

The first Aviemore Congress was run in 1973, so the 2023 Congress celebrated 50 successful years. The brainchild of Hamish Pringle, masterminded for so many years by Bill Richardson, Aviemore was the most popular Scottish Congress. Its successful run was interrupted in 2020 by Covid, the 2021 Congress was held online, and the 2022 edition was held in a less than ideal venue in Aviemore itself.



The 2023 Aviemore Congress returned to its traditional home in Coylumbridge. The hotel is the ideal Congress venue, with an enormous playing area and lots of space for socialising.

The hotel offered very competitive rates for dinner, bed and breakfast and threw in coffee and cakes to fill the void between the Bidding Competition and afternoon play. Dinner was served as a buffet, allowing lots of drinking time before and after. Staff were welcoming and helpful, and the management threw in some vouchers as extra prizes. The only complaint I heard was that the bar closed at 11pm!

Congress Managers, **Ann and Tim Wickens**, and Tournament Directors **Horst Kopleck** and **Matthew Robb** did a terrific job, with the attention to detail that has always been the essence of Aviemore.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary mementos were given to regular attenders. There are not many left who attended the first Congress, but **Jim Hay** was there as a schoolboy, and was delighted to receive his gift. The other recipients were Beryl Campbell, Veronica Guy, Shiena Lang, Ken MacDonald and Liz McGowan, with Sheila Adamson and Stuart MacDonald receiving theirs in absentia.



It was perhaps fitting that the Trophies were won by regular attenders:



The Teams by **Ken and Rita MacDonald, Eddie McGeough and Jim Mason.**

The Pairs by **Fiona McQuaker and Liz McGowan**

And the Bidding Competition by **Bob Hunter and Ron Moodie.**



But winning is not what matters at Aviemore: what matters is to be there to enjoy a wonderful venue, some competitive bridge and a great social atmosphere where everybody is having fun.

Put the second weekend in November in your diary for next year – don't miss a unique weekend!



# The Case for RealBridge

**Surely online providers like RealBridge are much fairer and better for national red pointed tournaments than F2F?**



*This issue reports on two very successful F2F events.*

*Mike Hammett makes the case for Online Bridge.*

- 1) Members of the big city clubs in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Stirling and the like are much more able to obtain red points than those who reside further away because they don't have to encounter such huge travel and/or hotel costs.
- 2) F2F is dauntingly much more difficult and off-putting for those players with mobility problems or vulnerable people fearful of travelling in the dark of winter.
- 3) F2F Inhibits players from further afield thereby excluding many potential rivals from competing in a level playing field.

Some of the reasons why RealBridge isn't as popular as it should be in comparison to both F2F and to other online providers:

- 1) Potential cheats dislike it because its openness makes it much more difficult to collude in comparison to more opaque providers.
- 2) It reduces the fun of not being able to get to a communal toilet in time.
- 3) The other players look far too comfortable wearing slippers etc.
- 4) It deprives participants of the ecstatic pleasures of travelling in the rain, ice, snow, fog, and dark.
- 5) It's cheaper, depriving taxi drivers of fares and garages of fill ups.
- 6) It considerably reduces the pleasures and challenge of often being disconnected.
- 7) It reduces the vagaries of the chat box, such as misspellings and the deletion of a lot of badly timed chat.

Hopefully very soon the failings of F2F bridge and of the dated and overburdened online providers will be a thing of the past and the smooth efficient relaxing providers such as RealBridge will become compulsory in national competitions in Scotland, as is already happening in other more responsive countries

My own personal results tend to be a lot better on RealBridge and Bridge Club Alive etc simply because it is much more relaxing not to have to face the adversities pertaining to their rivals.

The F2F excuse of online losing "in the flesh" contact doesn't hold up. If that really were really so, how does that measure up with the fact that TV and films are far more popular in comparison to live theatre, which is available rarely to big city dwellers in the main at either much greater cost and/or heavily subsidised?

*Mike suggests a ZOOM meeting of the membership to discuss this issue.*

*We think that would be rather unwieldy.*

*But we would love to hear the opinions of our members on the F2F v RealBridge debate*

# Quick Quiz

## 1) Limit Bids

A **Limit bid** is one that defines your strength within a narrow 2-3 point range; a typical example is a 1NT opening bid.

Is the last bid in these auctions a Limit Bid? If so what is its range?

a)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
a)    1♥        3♥

b)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
b)    1♣        1♠  
      2♣

c)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
c)    1♠        2♣  
      2♥        3♣

d)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
d)    1♥        1♠  
      3♥

e)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
e)    1♣        1♥  
      1♠

f)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
f)    1♠        2♣  
      2♥

## 2) Forcing Bids

A **Forcing Bid** is one that demands a response; you may not Pass.

Note that Forcing does not necessarily mean Strong!

Limit bids are, by definition, non-forcing

Is the last bid in these auctions Forcing? Or may you Pass with a weak hand?

a)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
a)    1♥        1♠

b)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
b)    1♣        1♥  
      1♠

c)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
c)    1♥        2♣  
      3♣

d)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
d)    1♣        1♠  
      2♥

e)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
e)    1♦        1♥  
      2♣

f)      **NORTH**    **SOUTH**  
f)    1♠        2♣  
      3♣

# It's a Funny Old Game:

## The Expert Lead

	♠Q	NS Vul
	♥JT7632	Dealer W
	♦AKQJ	
	♣J9	
♠KJ8765		♠T432
♥K5		♥984
♦9743		♦T6
♣6		♣QT52
	♠A9	
	♥AQ	
	♦852	
	♣AK8743	

**This deal cropped up in an SBU 'Play and Discuss' Session.**

Two intrepid Wests chose to open 3♠ in the modern style.

North overcalled 4♥, East bid 4♣ and South closed the auction with 6♥.

At 8 of the other tables West opened a more normal weak 2♠. Most Norths overcalled 3♥.

What should East do?

NS are vulnerable and clearly have the values for game, if not slam.

Over a double there is a good case for raising to 4♠, even perhaps 5♠, making them guess a strain.

But once hearts are bid a random raise may simply provoke them into slam – or they may decide to take the money from 4♠ doubled, which is unlikely to be a cheap sacrifice.

The remaining Wests opened a Multi 2♦ and East took no part in the subsequent auction.

Half the field bid slam, half did not.

At one table North overcalled 2♥, South bid 3♣. North bid 3♦ and South closed proceedings with 6NT.

What would you lead?

West saw no point in a spade lead and tried a diamond.

Declarer was not tested: she established hearts for 12 tricks.

But the Double Dummy Solver was quick to find the killing lead: the ♠K!

Pinning the singleton Queen leaves declarer with no chance.

Double dummy she can escape for -3 by taking a club finesse or two.

A more likely result is -5 after a losing heart finesse.

Leading the King from holdings like KJTxxx may pin a singleton Queen in any hand, (including partner's) and probably does not cost compared with a low card when the Queen is not singleton.

But a word of warning: at a long ago Lederer an expert led the ♦K from ♦KJT9xx against a 3NT contract. He pinned his partner's doubleton ♦AQ!

# Results Page

## Rayne Cup

This was run on 22<sup>nd</sup> October face-to-face in Stirling & Union BC.

The turnout was a disappointing 12 teams, but it was a great success, smoothly run by Chris Smith, and we can hope for more teams next year

<b>Winners:</b>	<b>Roy Bennett &amp; Harry Smith; Finlay Marshall &amp; Bob McPaul</b>	<b>146.47 VP</b>
2	Martin Diamond & David Shenkin; Charles & Vi Outred	142.52 VP
3	Alan Goodman & Brian Short; Stephen Peterkin & Sam Punch	121.81VP
4	Cathy Ferguson & Bob McKinnon; Peter Hodgson & Allan Whiteford	120.98 VP

## The Second Realbidge Grand Prix Swiss Pairs

Run on 4 November, this had a larger entry of 52 pairs

<b>Winners:</b>	<b>Barnet &amp; Maggie Shenkin</b>	<b>122.57VP</b>
2	Mike McGinley & David Wiseman	114.70VP
3	Edan Gardner & Bob McPaul	107.95VP
4	Tim McKay & Liz McGowan	105.42VP
5	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith	103.47VP
6	Ctehy Ferguson & Bob McKinnon	103.10VP
<i>Leading Silver Pair (8) Linda Grieve &amp; Sheenagh Young</i>		<i>98.49VP</i>

## The Thea Teale Bronze Pairs

Played on 19 November, face-to-face at 6 different venues, the entry of 109 Pairs was a post-Covid record. Congratulations to all who took part.

<b>Winners:</b>	<b>Barry Ross &amp; Mary Stein</b>	<b>66.41%</b>
2	David Olive & Fiona Scully	65.85%
3	Roy Heanes & Kathy Whaler	63.47%
4	Norma Fingland & Alan Morrison	61.81%
5	Debbi Butler & Juliet Vivers	61.71%
6	Jack & Stephanie Silverstone	61.37%
7	Robert Meechan & Walter Hamilton	61.24%
8	Ian Barnes & Norman Stewart	61.12%
9	Nick Morris & Bill Murray	61.01%
10	Margaret Dow & Kendall Knight	60.12%



# Master Point Promotions

November 2023

## Life Master

Jean Armstrong H  
Helen Wood C

## National Master

Geoffrey Whittaker E

## Scottish Master

Allan Downie H  
Dennis Higginbotham E  
David Leslie N  
Marie Mitchell N  
Jill Paice W  
Trina Rogerson E  
Jack Suchodolski W

## Regional Master

Roselyn Bygate C  
Penelope Davidson E  
Noel Goldthorp H  
Chris Gurney A  
Kendall Knight N  
Derek MacKenzie H  
Pam McGuire W  
Richard Oates E  
Margot Tuley H

## 5 Star Master

Kath Russell W

## 4 Star Master

Nigel Booth E  
Richard Edmonds E  
Allan Hutton E  
Linda Rusk W

## 3 Star Master

Will Iles S  
Beverly McCartney W

## 2 Star Master

Tom Jackson W  
Fiona MacLaurin W  
Allison Millar W  
Penelope Smith N  
Kathy Whaler E  
Jessie Young C

## 1 Star Master

Caroline Findlay W  
Elinor Green E  
Ian McCreath E  
Chris Smith N  
Pam Warner E

## Master

David Bruce W  
Barbara Humphries W  
Yvette Johnson W  
Andrea Main W  
Celia Nixon E  
Ken Tait E  
Johnnie Walker E  
John Wilson W  
George Wood E

## District Master

Angela Barnes W  
Peter Brent E  
Stephen Carr H  
Bob Gil W  
Fiona Gill C  
Michael Heubeck C  
Janet Hill C  
Philip Hudson W  
Hazel Leitch A  
Lesley Marron H  
Myra Plenderleith W  
Prajjwal Prajjwal W  
Alison Scott W  
Bryan Stewart E  
Marc van Grieken C  
Diana Veitch W

## Local Master

David Boag A  
Libby Bremner E  
Derek Brown C  
Bill Burns W  
Bernadette A  
Steve DeHaviland A  
Catherine Grainger C  
Dorothy Gray W  
Liz Hewitt E  
Angela Horsfall E  
Linton Horsfall E  
Judith Jackson E  
Elaine Macgregor W  
Lesley Maclachlan W  
Elspeth Marcroft W  
Ian McDowell W  
Robert Menzies E  
Alison Morrison E  
Jean Simpson E  
Gwen Traynor N  
Mary Walls A  
Gail Winstanley E

## Club Master

Sylvia Cockerill E  
Sandra Fullerton E  
Kajetan Granops E  
Elaine Hinselwood S  
Adarsh Lal W  
Jennifer Lamont E  
Veronica Linton E  
Christopher Marron H  
Ellen McIntosh W  
Linda McNally W  
Robert Meechan E  
Evie Millar W  
Thomas Perritt C  
Fiona Robertson W  
Innes Shaw H  
Alison Smith E  
James Smith W  
Alison Thomson E  
Ellie Whyte N  
Gwynneth Yates W

## Answers to Quiz

- 1a) **Limit** raise, 10-12HCP;                      b) **Limit** raise. 12-14HCP;  
c) Delayed **limit** 3-card raise 10-12 HCP                      d) **Limit** jump rebid, 15-17HCP;  
e) **Unlimited** change of suit, but **not forcing** after the 1-over-1 response;  
f) **Unlimited** change of suit, **forcing** after the 2-over-1 response

- 2a) A new suit by responder is **forcing** (you may pass if partner has already passed in 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> seat)  
b) A change of suit by opener after a 1-over-1 is **not forcing** but it is **unlimited**: try to find another bid  
c) A single raise of responder's suit is **limited** and therefore **not forcing**.  
(Some partnerships treat this as Forcing. Discuss with partner!)  
d) A rebid in a higher-ranking suit at the 2-level (aka reverse) is **forcing** for one round  
e) A rebid in a lower-ranking suit after a 1-over-1 is **not forcing** but unlimited. Try to respond.  
f) A jump rebid after a 2-over-1 is **forcing** because the 10+HCP response means the partnership has game value