



# The SBU Monthly News

**January 2023**

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**December 2022**

*Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: [liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk)*

### **Stop Press!**

***In connection with the Overseas Congress 9-15 May 2023 in Rhodes...***

**Rhodes Bridge Club (Greece)** is hosting a tournament on **8th February** for the benefit of all players who have either already registered for the Congress or who intend to do so or who are still thinking about it. (Priority will be given to such persons who apply to play. You may apply singly or as a pair or as a complete team. In the case of singles and pairs we will [hopefully!] find partners and team-mates for you.) It does not matter what standard you are, all will be catered for. There will be no fees. Dimitris (the event organizer) is still to give me a cap on entries, so anyone may apply and it may be possible to play even if you have no intention of going to Rhodes in May.

If interested please contact Matthew Pumphrey by email at [matthewpumphrey55@gmail.com](mailto:matthewpumphrey55@gmail.com) or Text/WhatsApp/ phone on 07740 250024 or landline 01556 630246. Remember to include your BBO UserName when applying.

***For further information about the Congress you should look at the brochure on the SBU website [sbu.org.uk](http://sbu.org.uk)***

# Forthcoming Events

## What's on Offer in February

### International Events

The **Junior Camrose** for Under-26 teams; and **Peggy Bayer Trophy** for Under 21s will be played face-to-face on **17-19 February** at the Cresta Court Hotel in Altrincham.

Our teams are:

**Junior Camrose:** Lydia Foale & Antone Huang                      John Russell & Adam Tobias  
Rufus Behr & Tamsin Munro

**Peggy Bayer:** Michael Kennedy & Kevin Ren                      Jamie Day & Harry Stuart  
Alexander Duncan & Aidan Woodley

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

### National Events

Not too late to enter the one-day **Winter Swiss Teams** on **Sunday 5 February**.                      (See next page!)

The **National Swiss Pairs** (T N Culbertson Salver) have moved to **Sunday 12 February**

On **BBO**:                      8 x 6-board matches with **National Points** for each match won.  
Starting time **11 am**. Entry Fee **BBO\$14** per person

The **Men's and Women's National Pairs** are on **Saturday 25 February**

On **BBO**:                      8x 6-board Swiss matches with **National Points** for each match won.  
Starting time **11 am**. Entry Fee **BBO\$14** per person

The **Men's and Women's National Teams** are on **Sunday 26 February**

On **RealBridge**:                      8 x 6-board matches with **National Points** for each match won.  
Starting time **11 am**, Entry Fee **£12** per person

All online events are run in 2 sessions with a break of approximately one hour half-way through.

For events on **RealBridge** register on the SBUwebsite and pay in advance to get the link.

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

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

See next page for information about the **National Congress**.

(Time to enter is now!)



## SBU Winter Swiss Teams for the Peplow Trophy

Online on [Realbridge](#) on Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

Swiss Teams (8 x 6 board matches)

Cost = £48 per team

Please enter via the SBU website at [www.sbu.org.uk](http://www.sbu.org.uk)  
under 'Tournaments' and 'Enter Online'

Prizes are awarded to the top few places and also to the highest placed Silver (in the top half of the field) and Bronze (in the top 2/3 of the field)



**Maximum 10 National Points (if 24 or more teams)**



## The SBU National Congress

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

[Peebles Hydro Hotel](#)



### Programme

Friday	2pm	Open Pairs
	17.45	Congress Teams Session 1
	23.00	Nightcap with the Experts
Saturday	10.30	Congress Pairs Session 1
	15.00	Congress Pairs Session 2
	17.30	Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner
	22.00	Midnight Speedball Pairs
Sunday	13.50	Congress Teams Session 2
	19.45	Congress Teams Session 3
	23.00	Prizegiving

To quote Andrew Robson in The Times, Peebles Hydro is "the Murrayfield of Bridge".

The atmosphere is friendly and the main aim of the weekend is to have fun with *real people* playing face-to-face. An opportunity to win *National Master Points!*

More details and entry form on the SBU website: [Peebles Congress-SBU Congresses](#)

# A Book for the Dreich January Days?

**Findlay MacDonald**

I have no doubt that almost every bridge player of a certain (old) age will have come across Victor Mollo's books in the menagerie. Four of the characters are –

**Hideous Hog (HH)** – “Please, please partner, let me play the hand. I assure you that it's in your own interest.”

**Rueful Rabbit (RR)** – “One gets used to abuse. It's waiting for it that's so trying.”

**Papa, the Greek** – “The essence of bridge is to see through the backs of the cards.”

**Karapet, the Armenian** – “Again everything bad has happened to me.”

In the first book, *Bridge in the Menagerie*, the Hog picks up the following hand as South–



♠ None
♥ AQJ9
♦ Q98765
♣ AK9

The bidding:

WEST <i>Papa</i>	NORTH <i>RR</i>	EAST <i>Karapet</i>	SOUTH <i>HH</i>
-	-	1♠	2♠
3♣	4♠	Dbl	4NT
Pass	5♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Redbl	Pass	6♠ (!!)
Pass	Pass	Dbl	End

As the bidding progressed, the Hog snarled with increasing ferocity, whilst Karapet purred ever more softly. The Hog's bid of 6♠ was a desperate effort to avoid a catastrophic re-double by the Rabbit. By that time he had given up all hope of playing the hand with anything longer than a void in the trump suit.

♠2 ♥876 ♦432 ♣QJT843	♠ AKT96543 ♥ 432 ♦ None ♣ 65  ♠ QJ87 ♥ KT5 ♦ AKJT ♣ 72  ♠ None ♥ AQJ9 ♦ Q98765 ♣ AK9	All Vul Dealer East
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Papa led the ♦ 3 (the only false card he could find).

The Hog ruffed in dummy and took at once the heart finesse. Another diamond ruff was followed by a second heart finesse, then came a third diamond ruff and another heart to the closed hand.

The Hog proceeded to ruff a fourth diamond and cashed his ♣ Ace and ♣ K, leaving this 4-card position

♠2 ♥— ♦— ♣QJT	♠ AKT9 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —  ♠ QJ87 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —  ♠ — ♥ 9 ♦ Q9 ♣ 9	
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He now led a club (it didn't matter what he led) and ruffing with the ♠9 in dummy, claimed the contract.

“Of course, I knew all along that the opening spade bid was a psyche” said the Rabbit “and when you enquired for Aces (the Hog winced at these words), I was afraid that we might miss Seven. So glad that you didn't make it, although perhaps if you had drawn trumps.....”

The rest of the sentence was lost in the flood of recriminations unleashed by Papa against Karapet.

“I suppose you realise that, had you been able to restrain yourself for a few seconds, long enough to pass 5♦, that is where the hand would have been played. How often did you double? Was it five times or only four?”

“Have the Greeks a word for result-merchant?”

“What is the Armenian for Palooka?”

Even if you've read it before, it's a good time of year to dig this book out and have a hearty laugh.

## Clap Our Clubs



### Dingwall & District Bridge Club

#### Club Night

Tuesday 6.00 pm. (Sep-Apr)

The Club's venue is the  
[Tulloch Castle Hotel](#)

Club secretary: Clare Whiteford (07932 645576)

Email: [claremw23@gmail.com](mailto:claremw23@gmail.com)

Dingwall got in touch to pass on the sad news that **Andrew Ramsay** has passed away.

“Andrew was a well-known figure from Dingwall Bridge Club, enthusiastically taking part in local and National events. He was instrumental, with Stuart Staveley, in setting up the Strathpeffer Congress in 1994 and helped with the organisation of every subsequent one until COVID forced a cancellation.

His health deteriorated greatly with the onset of Parkinson's and he was looked after by his partner Mary Eames during his last 8 or so years, still managing the occasional game of Bridge.  
RIP Andrew.”

*The Strathpeffer Congress was one of the most popular in the bridge calendar. We remember Andrew as the friendly and gracious host, wearing his kilt and always smiling.*

The Club is trying to re-start the Congress, but space is limited – it would be a good idea to enter quickly

### STRATHPEFFER BRIDGE CONGRESS

*Ben Wyvis Hotel*

*24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March 2023*

**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 £165 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 2023 please.**

You will find the entry form on the Club website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/dingwall>



## Biggar Bridge Club

The membership is around 80 people coming from the town and many places in surrounding areas.

It meets at 21 North Back Road, ML12 6EJ on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and Wednesday evenings.

The club run a beginners class on Thursday afternoons.



For more information visit the website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/biggar>

### **Biggar celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its annual Christmas Lunch on 5 December 2022**



Colin Young, the Club Chairman, welcomed 34 members to the Elphinstone Hotel with a glass of Prosecco.

Michael MacKenzie then entertained those present with a humorous Bridge poem. After an excellent meal they played a few hands of Bridge followed by coffee and mincemeat pies and a quiz prepared by Steven Henderson.

This year's committee are shown with their welcome drink.

### **History of the Club**

Biggar is one of our youngest clubs. It owes its existence to the efforts of its founder, Beth Wilson. She happened across a copy of "Bridge" the magazine published by Mr Bridge. An advert for a Bridge Cruise sounded appealing. Reading more closely, Beth realised that it she would need to play Duplicate Bridge, and to have a working knowledge of the Acol system. She had played rubber for many years, but not Acol, and needed to expand her knowledge.

After many telephone calls she found a teacher who lived some distance away. To attend her classes she would have to travel on her own in winter. Better to get some players together and persuade the teacher to come to them! Surprisingly, two or three tables were fairly easy to find. Where could they meet? The elderly gentleman in charge of the local British Legion Hall was most understanding and flexible as the group worked out its needs.

Beth had found a gem: Susan Aitchison was a qualified teacher who had turned to teaching bridge full time. Her love of bridge and enthusiasm was contagious – attendance grew as the word spread. Initially the group was mixed ability, ranging from experienced players to novices. Within a year a second class was started for beginners. When the first group had finished their course they wanted to practise their new-found skills – and so Biggar Bridge Club was born.

They joined the SBU, enthusiastically supported Simultaneous events, and entered teams in the local league.

#### **Colin Young, the current Chairman, takes up the story:**

"I joined Biggar Bridge Club in 2004 as a complete beginner. My wife had spotted an ad in the local paper for bridge lessons (something she has occasion to regret!) Beth had persuaded Liz McGowan to run beginners classes over the winter of 2004/5 at our then base in the Tinto Hotel. And so I became hooked. Many of that cohort of novices are still members and I am the second to act as chairman. When Beth established a committee it was on the basis of the chairman serving for two years so that with two years as vice and another two as past there was a good balance between continuity and freshness.

My own time in the chair began in the week after Covid locked everything down so for me the last two years have been about ensuring the Club's survival. At the start of lockdown we were in the middle of a three-year lease on our premises in Biggar so faced with rent to pay and little income. When the lease expired we were still in lockdown but the landlord's proposals for renewal were such that we had an easy decision to quit. After a period of homelessness we were fortunate to find a new base on affordable terms and still in the centre of town. Pre-Covid we ran six sessions a week ( four evenings and two afternoons) and while we're still some way short of that, signs are encouraging. What is particularly encouraging is that Cathy Cursiter, a former chairman, has a dozen beginners coming to classes. These have been difficult times financially but, thanks to the business interruption grants, we have weathered the storm. It is to the government's credit that clubs and societies were deemed as essential to the fabric of society as the commercial sector. The future looks bright!

*(Your editor took over as teacher from Susan Aitchison when she relocated to Ethiopia – she can confirm that Biggar is a happy, welcoming club, and wishes it continuing success.)*

# Counting Quiz

## 1) Counting ...

West	East
♠AK ♥AQJT972 ♦64 ♣A5	♠8642 ♥63 ♦KJ53 ♣863

Auction:			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1NT*	Pass	Pass
4♥	End		
	*1NT = 12-14		

North leads the ♠K.

You win the Ace and play ♥A, ♥Q to North's King, South follows twice.

North cashes the ♣Q and switches to the ♠Q

- how many points do NS have between them?
- what do you know about North's points?
- who has the ♦A?

## 2) ... and more counting

Lead: ♠J	♠A52 ♥J842 ♦A95 ♣KQ3	
	N W     E S	♠743 ♥KQT3 ♦K6 ♣T654

Auction:			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	3NT	End	
	*1NT = 12-14		

You are East. Partner leads the ♠J and dummy goes down.

Declarer wins the ♠K in hand and leads the ♦Q, which runs round to your King.

- How many points can partner have?
- What does the lead and play to Trick 1 tell you about the spade suit?
- How might you beat this contract?
- Which card should you play?

**Answers: at the end of the News**

# It's a Funny Old Game

## Pips Matter

A hand from a long ago Grand Masters Pairs

	♠876	None Vul
	♥AJ9432	Dealer N
	♦54	
	♣J8	
♠J2		♠T3
♥KT865		♥Q7
♦A		♦KQT987
♣KQT43		♣976
	♠AKQ954	
	♥—	
	♦J632	
	♣A52	

West	North	East	South
	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
End			

N/S were playing the Multi, where 2♦ shows a weak 2 in either Major.

2NT was an enquiry: when North unsurprisingly showed a minimum weak 2 in hearts South punted 3NT.

The North hand was a disappointment. West led the ♣K it was clear that the contract had no play.

Declarer might use the dummy's third spade as an entry to cash the ♥A, but then there would be no way back to hand.

When your only chance is defensive error you may as well play quickly.

South won the CA and ran off 6 rounds of spades, forcing each defender to find 4 discards.

West discarded two hearts, showing 5 cards. East decided to tell him that declarer was void by discarding both of her hearts; then gave him the count in clubs by discarding one of those.

By this time West had thrown a club and one more heart.

South made the first 7 tricks, and reached this position:

	♠—	None Vul
	♥AJ9	Dealer N
	♦54	
	♣J	
♠—		♠—
♥KT		♥—
♦A		♦KQT98
♣QT4		♣9
	♠—	
	♥—	
	♦J632	
	♣52	

Declarer led a club towards the Jack, and West won the Queen.

He could cash the ♦A and two more clubs, but would then have to lead a heart, allowing declarer to finesse the ♥J and cash the ♥A for a smug 9 tricks.

If only partner had kept the ♥Q...

... or both her clubs so she could win the third club and cash some diamonds...

West was the late Ken Baxter, an imaginative and resourceful defender.

He won the ♣Q, cashed the ♦A, and exited with the ♣4 to declarer's ♣5!

East won the last 3 tricks with diamonds to take the game one down after all.

Declarer was mortified: he should lead the ♣5 at trick 8. You cannot be endplayed with a 2.



# Results Page

*Another round of SOL is complete*

## SOL 8

*These are the winners of the 7 Divisions*

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>SANDERS</b> <b>Winners of the Victor Silverstone Trophy</b>	<b>121.80 VP</b>
	Derek Sanders; Gints Freimanis; Paul Barton, Jun Nakamaru-Pinder; Adam Dickinson; Antone Huang	
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>STEVENSON</b>	<b>131.55 VP</b>
	(David Stevenson; Liz Commins, Paddy Murphy; Mark Roderick, Dee & Peter Lindon)	
<b>Division 3</b>	<b>SHENKIN</b>	<b>121.85 VP</b>
	(David Shenkin, Cameron McLatchie; Martin Diamond; Joyce Benson)	
<b>Division 4</b>	<b>SCRIMGEOUR</b>	<b>117.09 VP</b>
	(John Scrimgeour, Joe Duxbury, Archie & Pam Leith)	
<b>Division 5</b>	<b>McLEOD</b>	<b>112.94 VP</b>
	(Alisdair McLeod; Steve Pomeroy; Mark Lincoln; Marie Mitchell; Anne Brodie-Allan; Sandra Rabbits; Donald Mackillop)	
<b>Division 6</b>	<b>TEMPLETON</b>	<b>112.90 VP</b>
	(Sheila Templeton; Stephen Cole; Rani Sinak; Morag Ridley; Stewart McKechnie; John Matthewman; Ann Paugam)	
<b>Division 7</b>	<b>SMILLIE</b>	<b>102.97 VP</b>
	(Alistair Smillie, Neil Wilson, Mary Eames, Louise Hewitt)	

*Divisions 1-6 had 10 teams; Division 7 had 9 teams*

## Bronze League 12

*These are the winners of the 5 Divisions*

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>ACUITY</b>	<b>100.1 VP</b>
	John Allen; Agnes Munro; David Dunn; Will Davidson	
<b>Division 2</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL of GLASGOW</b>	<b>119.89 VP</b>
	Danny Hamilton; Kevin Ren; Michael Kennedy, Harry Stuart; Alexander Duncan; Aidan Woodley	
<b>Division 3</b>	<b>LITHGAE PLAYERS</b>	<b>119.13 VP</b>
	Graham Vincent; Andy McKinnell, Fiona & Steven Hall; Alasdair McKechnie; Paul Beaumont	
<b>Division 4</b>	<b>SILVER SURFERS</b>	<b>104.94 VP</b>
	Sheila Cochrane; Elspeth Burnside; Alistair Smillie; Roy Laing	
<b>Division 5</b>	<b>MALARKEY</b>	<b>88.88 VP</b>
	Margery Menzies; Lyn Wilson; Helen Barrie; Kath Fallon; Jennifer Paterson; Harry Menzies	

*Divisions 1-3 had 9 teams; Division 4 had 10 teams and Division 5 had 7 teams*

# Master Point Promotions

## December 2022

### Senior Life Master

Diana Drysdale E  
Nicol Taylor E

### Life Master

Dougie Munroe H

### National Master

Andrew Harborow E

### Scottish Master

Mary Eames H  
David Houston E  
Robert Sim W

### Regional Master

Allan Ainslie E  
Jill Connor E  
Joe Fell W  
Martin Gordon W  
Steven Henderson E  
Peter Johnson C  
Derek McLachlan E  
Hamish Watson W  
Linda Watson W  
David Wilbrahim A  
Brian Wilkie D  
Patricia Wilkie D

### 5 Star Master

Iain Dingwall E

### 4 Star Master

Patrick McCartney W  
Bob Robertson E

### 3 Star Master

Lorna McCaig W

### 2 Star Master

Derry Ford E  
Peter Philip C

### 1 Star Master

Sue Campbell E  
Graham Clarkson E  
Sheila Cochrane D  
Bill Cowe E  
Rosie Crockett E  
Richard Oates E  
Christopher Smith E  
Paul Thomson W

### Master

Ken Aitken H  
Shelagh Black C  
Charmian Entwistle H  
Norma Fingland W  
Jack Gordon W  
Danny Hamilton W  
John Holcroft E  
Denise Kearney S  
Lynne Loudon E  
Fiona McKay E  
Mari Muirhead E  
Tony Reed-Jones E  
Kate Sharp C  
Peter Yacoubian W

### District Master

Ann Hamilton A  
Marianne Hasler E  
Anne Hepburn E  
Barbara Humphries W  
Joyce James S  
Alister Lambie E  
Patrick Lawrence E  
Bea MacDonald H  
Alison McAllan E  
Carolyn Morrison H  
Jack Shearer C  
Gillian Templeton E  
Dave Walker H  
Moira Wright E

### Local Master

Eric Begbie W  
Alex Campbell W  
Russell Crichton W  
Alex Currie W  
Rowan Duggan A  
Dorothy Dunbar D  
Peter Eager A  
Anne Fingland E  
Fiona Gill C  
Ron Gill C  
Pam Hogan H  
Mike Hunter E  
David James S  
Gavin Keith W  
Shirley Lawtie W  
Katy Lessells E  
Tony Rowley A  
Derrick Russell W

### Club Master

Elinor Adamson D  
Stella Bain N  
Denise Barker S  
Julie Brimble N  
Diana Bromley N  
Stephen Bromley N  
Jennifer Butler N  
Janice Duguid E  
Susan Holland E  
Alison Houston C  
Pat Hughes C  
Helen Hunter D  
George Keith E  
Marie Keith E  
Louise Paton E  
Susan Smart C  
Lynn Smith C  
Robert Struthers C  
Anne Vance A

## Answers to Quiz

- 1 a) You can see 22 HCP – so North-South have 18 between them, South has 4-6 of them  
b) North has turned up with ♠KQ, ♥K and now ♠Q, probably from ♠QJ. That is 11 HCP.  
c) South must have the ♦A. Lead a diamond and put in the Jack

2

	♠A52 ♥J842 ♦A95 ♣KQ3	
♠JT98 ♥A7 ♦874 ♣T654	N W     E S	♠743 ♥KQT3 ♦K6 ♣T654
	♠KQ6 ♥965 ♦QJT32 ♣A9	

- a) You see 22 HCP between your hand and dummy; declarer has 12-14; therefore partner has 4-6.  
b) East has 4+spades headed by the Jack: declarer has ♠KQ  
c) assuming declarer has ♦QJ we know 8 of his points: he must also have the ♥A or ♠A but not both. If partner has the ♥A a heart switch will beat the game; if he has the ♠A game will likely make  
d) lead the ♥3: you do not want to block the suit if partner has the doubleton Ace