



The SBU Monthly News

January 2024

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Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.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 on **16-18 February** at the La Mon Hotel in Northern Ireland. For the first time each event has a full complement of 6 teams: Scotland is providing a second team in the Junior Camrose.

Our teams are:

Junior Camrose: Antone Huang & Prajjwal Mayur; Jamie Day & Kajetan Granops

Junior Camrose SBU: Rufus Behr & Tamsin Munro Lydia Foale, Harry Stuart, John Russell

Peggy Bayer: Kevin Ren & Alexander Duncan Niamh Reid, Rachel Yu, Isla Jamieson

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

National Events

The **Winter Fours (BBL CUP)** is Scotland's Premier Open teams event, run as a **Double Elimination**.

This year it returns to a face-to-face format over a single weekend in the **New Melville Bridge Club** on the weekend of **2-4 February**.

Teams eliminated from the main event after losing two matches can still qualify for the Consolation Multiple Teams on Sunday 4th February. Those who do not make the Consolation have free entry to the Winter Swiss Teams instead.

So this is a bridgefest: starting at 7pm on Friday through to late afternoon on Sunday.

Entry fee = £200 per team. Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players. Lots of red points available...

The **Winter Swiss Teams (Peploe Trophy)** is a one-day Swiss on **Sunday 4 February** in the **Carlton Bridge Club**.

If you cannot manage the whole weekend, you should enter this instead.

48 boards (8x 6-board matches; or 6x8-board matches...), starting at 11 am, finishing around 6.30.

Refreshments available all day at the famous Carlton Café.

Entry fee £72 per team – red points for winning matches!

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

Kennedy Trophy

The last of the **Ranked Masters Pairs**, for **Novices and Club Masters** only,

On BBO on Sunday 11 February start time 11.15 am. Approx 24 boards, finish around 2.30pm

Entry fee: 8 BBO\$

Pay on the day but please enter on the SBU website so that the organisers have some idea of the numbers

Further information on the website: [Kennedy Trophy-SBU Bronze Events](#)

The SBU National Congress

8th – 10th March 2024



Peebles Hydro Hotel

Programme

Friday	14.30	Open Pairs
	20.00	Board a Match Teams
Saturday	10.30	Congress Pairs Qualifier
	15.00	Pairs Final, Consolation Final & Swiss Pairs for non-qualifiers
	19.30	Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner
	22.00	Speedball Pairs for the Martin Stephens Salver
Sunday	10.30	Congress Teams Qualifier
	15.00	Teams Final, Consolation Finals
	20.30	Selected Hands Pairs Tournament & Discussion

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

“We aim to make the congress a unique experience for all participants of any standard. It is intended to be an occasion which is as enjoyable socially as it is challenging in the excitement and expectations at the table.”

An opportunity to win **National Master Points** while enjoying a great weekend away.

More details and entry form on the SBU website: <https://www.sbu.org.uk/competitions/events-timeline/congresses/peebles-congress-2>

The 14th Overseas Spring Congress

16-22 April 2024 in the Paloma Perissia Hotel, Side, Turkey

A great way to combine a holiday with bridge in the evenings

*5-star hotel, competitive rates, and **Red points!***

Brochure with details and how to book on the website under Competitions/Congresses

STRATHPEFFER BRIDGE CONGRESS

Ben Wyvis Hotel

22nd -24th March 2024

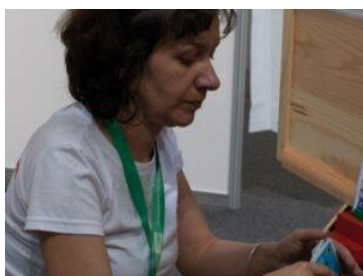
Traditional “Strathpeffer” format, Mixed Teams, Pairs Qualification, Bidding Competition, Teams Qualification, Pairs Finals, Pivot Teams, Teams Finals, Play with the Internationals. Congress fees only £50 per player, payable by Bank transfer or cheque on acceptance.

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))

Life Lessons from the Bridge table



Tihana Brkljadic teaches psychology and bridge at Zagreb university.

I've played bridge my whole adult life. Sometimes I wonder who I would have been had I lived a parallel existence without bridge to shape my character all these years. Most of my friends are bridge players, most of my travels are for tournaments, most of my free time I spend in activities associated with bridge in one way or another, and even my professional interests are related to the psychology of games. Basically, my cat is the only important part of my life that is bridgeless, but even she was named after

a bridge player. So, obviously I am influenced by bridge more than a regular player. However, I think that playing bridge affects us all, and that there are many valuable lessons we learn by playing bridge, that we can apply to our regular lives. In this article, I will discuss some of the beliefs that bridge can reinforce or enhance in people. I hope it will encourage you to share your thoughts on this topic.

Don't discriminate.

Bridge tournaments have that special power to remove all the differences that exist among players except for the skill itself. If Mr. Doe is known to be the best player in the room, once the tournament starts we don't care less if he is 18 or 80, married or not, a lawyer or a scavenger, a Buddhist or a Christian. Age may be the most obvious, but it also applies to differences in social background, education, culture and so on. We can find some very amusing partnerships or teams consisting of seemingly mismatched people who join together in the game. Bridge has taught me that people engaged in an all-consuming activity will disregard the differences and concentrate on what is important. Therefore, in work, or my private life, I am less concerned about how people who have nothing in common will function. I just try to make the task engaging and challenging, and so far I can confirm that once they really get involved, the differences become irrelevant.

Intelligence is multidimensional.

It's amazing how regularly people who have been successful in business, academia or life in general, just can't get past intermediate level in bridge. On the other hand, you probably know players who struggle with the simplest of life challenges, but shine at the table. Bridge shows very clearly what cognitive scientists try to explain: intelligence consists of various domains, and one may excel in some, while being almost hopeless in others. I doubt there is a better example than bridge.

Perfection is overrated.

There are not many areas of human existence where one can experience one's own incompetence in such a blatant way as is possible at the bridge table. Bridge shows us how incredibly incapable we can be. If we take a lesson from this, we may become a bit less smug and understand and accept our own limitations. Moreover, we become aware that everyone can produce a blunder. In some areas of human existence, it's easy to find excuses and convince ourselves that we haven't made that big a lapse, whereas in bridge our mistakes often stare at us unforgivingly without any camouflage whatsoever. By playing bridge we learn to acknowledge, admit and cope with being imperfect. Forgive yourself and apologize to the other(s).

Being risk averse can be risky.

A beginner will sometimes refuse to bid (e.g. overcall, preempt) because they "don't want to risk". Very soon, when opponents land at the best contract and/or partner fails to lead their suit they realise that passing is at least as risky as bidding. In the same manner, people may be reluctant to invest, to change jobs, to leave a relationship, because taking this action may be risky. It is in human nature to believe that being passive and maintaining the status quo is safer than taking action. But, simple, every-day examples from the bridge table teach us that there is no safety in being passive.

(Although they teach you otherwise), luck matters.

When bridge teachers explain how bridge is more fair compared to other (card) games, they will stress that by duplication we manage to control the factor of luck. Aspiring students are often amazed by this newly discovered method and do not question it further. However, while for a beginner it may be a hook, any experienced player will know that luck plays an important, although sometimes disguised role in bridge. Getting a flat board against the weakest pair, getting away with a ridiculous bid or play, or discovering an unfortunate lie of cards when the contract seemed cold. Bridge teaches us that if we do our best we will profit in the long run, but there is no guarantee that it will work in any specific case. Understanding this will help in dealing with real life situations where we felt a sense of injustice and that we deserved better. Bridge teaches us to be sceptical about complete fairness in any life domain, and to appreciate an occasional stroke of luck.

Take one for the team (partner).

We were all in situations when partner or team-mates compensated for our mistakes, and when we did the same for them. Bridge teaches us to trust, to rely on others, to be responsible and to put the common goal in front of personal wishes. If you keep your partner happy you will be happy too. Playing competitive team bridge develops a team player mindset that is so needed and appreciated in both private and professional domains.

Live in the present.

Bridge is a fast game and every ten minutes or so we have to completely switch our thoughts and adjust to a new situation or challenge. Those who dwell on the past will not be able to focus on a current task. Whatever happens, you have to leave it behind, clear your mind and move onto the next board in order to survive. This mantra of many a life coach is brought into sharp focus in bridge and is a valuable lesson to learn: you can't change the past, so focus on the here and now.

Don't give up, 20% is better than 0%.

On some boards we just don't have a chance to make a decent result. We have to accept the fact that our opponents reached the best spot and the most we can hope for are a few matchpoints. But every board counts, and a handful of matchpoints might be all we need to win the tournament. So, when things don't look bright, in both bridge and life, we have to accept that obstacles are part of life, and that on bad days (hands), even little increments count.

Analyse carefully.

In my opinion, there are three main techniques that need to be developed to play bridge reasonably well: visualization, judging possibility, and stepping into someone else's shoes. Visualization involves imagining the various layouts possible during bidding and play, judging possibility is necessary to take the correct view of the hand and choose the best line, while stepping into partner's and opponents' shoes may answer the question of why they made a particular bid, or chose this card instead of another one. Carefully analyzing moves and thinking about motives gives us deeper insight into circumstances, and it is equally useful in real life as it is in bridge.

Don't let negativity consume you.

There are so many things we can learn in bridge that apply to life, I think I could continue to write on this topic forever. In so many ways bridge reflects fairly the challenges, struggles, and relationships we encounter in ordinary life. Even if we do not put a particular effort into this *knowledge transfer* we may well spontaneously notice how bridge improved the way we think and behave. It is almost as if we have gained clear evidence of a general wisdom that most people are not entitled to.

So, let's hear your thoughts! What life lessons have you learned from playing bridge?

This article was initially published on [BBO \(www.bridgebase.com\)](http://www.bridgebase.com). For the original article, please visit BBO's blog: <https://news.bridgebase.com/2023/12/19/life-lessons-from-the-bridge-table/>

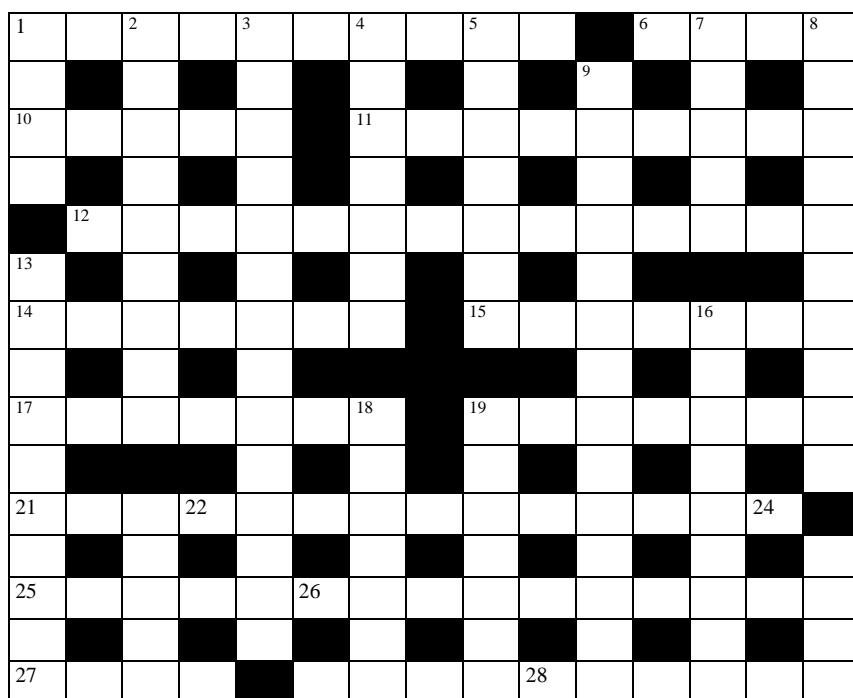
Reader's Letter

[Mike Hammett's article in the December issue has provoked a response:](#)

I have been reading Mike Hammett's letter regarding F-to-F vs RealBridge and I have to agree with everything Mike says in his article. I live in a small town in North Ayrshire and enjoy playing online, whether BBO or RealBridge, but I also play F-to-F three times per week. To travel to Edinburgh or Dundee etc. is difficult and expensive, for example, the recent ranked pairs competition could have been played on RealBridge to give everyone in outlying areas a chance of entering and maybe gaining points.

Anne Murdoch

Crossword by 'Finesse'



ACROSS

- 1 Struggle or slides into rapid decline (4-3-3)
- 6 What can make for a lessening of tension? (4)
- 10 Is there nothing in poetry suggestive of a fellow mortal? (5)
- 11 Grace, Elizabeth and Christopher in short (9)
- 12 Important English church charging exorbitant entry fees? Quite the opposite, apparently (5,9)
- 14 Impression left by leader abandoning rebellion (7)
- 15 An element of childish deception, it's said (7)
- 17 Where to sample crash diet containing no exotic tempting starters (7)
- 19 Discourage withdrawal of regressive aid burden (7)
- 20 A more eccentric form of refreshment (3-5,6)
- 23 Was lager first served out of this? (9)
- 24 You wouldn't credit it! (5)
- 25 Not, we're told, that it could be a menace to shipping (4)
- 26 Latest one respaced heavy burden (4-6)

DOWN

- 1 Note from proximate notes (4)
- 2 Learning from 14 about sport (9)
- 3 There's no rate to advance without attracting attention (4,2,8)
- 4 Stream from which there's no going back! (7)
- 5 Not a little angry, say, child being caught by whoppers (7)
- 7 He exercises regularly to shrink rear! (5)
- 8 Circulated tweet about vacuous party-pooper (3,7)
- 9 Crossing attendant I dismissed, playing card games (8,6)
- 13 The phone's not charged? That's just like the thing! (4,6)
- 16 I'm deserting, be pragmatic in order to get a grip (6-3)
- 18 Window display comprising unopened cheese and no end of alcohol (7)
- 19 Inherit triumph (7)
- 21 Some suffer a seizure and blank out (5)
- 22 Bounce back from 5 without invention (4)

Solution at the end of the News

Counting Quiz

1) Counting ...

West	East
♠AQT32	♠94
♥QJ9	♥632
♦KJT8	♦AQ53
♣Q	♣K863

Auction:			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	End

North leads the ♣T. South wins the ♣A and switches to a low heart. North wins the ♥K over your Queen and returns a heart to South's ♥A. You win the third round of hearts, relieved when North does not ruff.

- How many points has South shown?
- Who has the ♠K?
- How many tricks can you count?
- How will you tackle the spade suit?

2) ... and more counting

	♠J42 ♥654 ♦J7 ♣KJT65	
♠Q53 ♥KJ83 ♦642 ♣A43	N W E S	

Auction:			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT
End			

2NT = 20-22: *3♣ = Puppet Stayman
3NT = no 4- or 5-card major

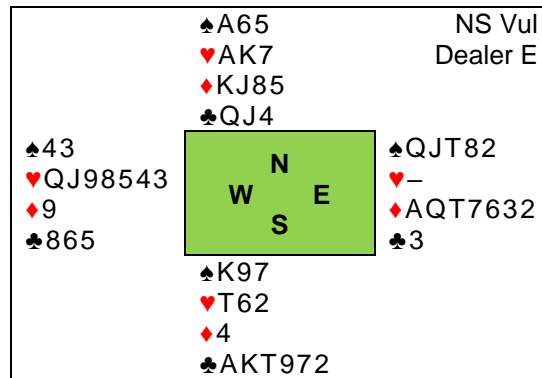
You are West. You lead the ♥3. Partner produces the ♥9 and declarer wins the ♥Q. South plays a club to the Jack and partner's Queen. Partner plays the ♥T, ducked and another heart. Declarer wins the ♥A. South plays another club which you take with the Ace. When you cash the ♥K partner discards a club, declarer throws a diamond.

- Which cards make up declarer's 20-22 points?
- What is South's distribution?
- How many tricks does declarer have now?
- Which card should you play?

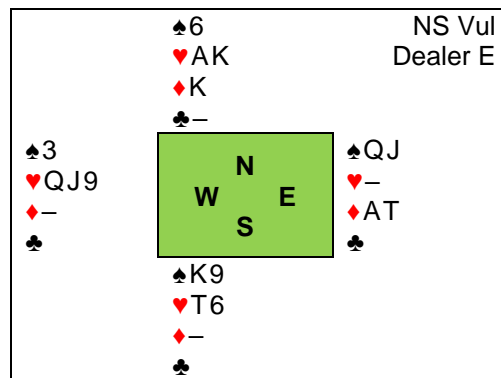
It's a Funny Old Game

There's Nae Justice

A hand from a European Junior Championship of yesteryear.



After East had shown a big 2-suiter Paula Leslie bought the contract in 5♣ as South. West led his singleton diamond to the Jack and Queen, and East returned a small diamond. Paula ruffed high, then drew trump in 3 rounds. She counted 10 tricks, 6 trump and the Major Ace-Kings. Where could an 11th come from? She led a heart and ducked in both hands. West won and switched to a spade to dummy's Ace. Paula ruffed a diamond and cashed her last trump, discarding a spade from dummy. This was the position:



When the top hearts were cashed West was well and truly squeezed. Nicely played indeed, for +600.

Unfortunately, this was the auction in the other room

West	North	East	South
		1♦	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♠	Pass
2NT	3NT	4♦	Pass
4♥	Dbf	All Pass	

East decided his distribution was worth a light opening. South overcalled and North made an unassuming cuebid to show a good raise. East was not going to be talked out of showing his second suit, and now West had an idea. There is a convention known as the Good-Bad 2NT. West thought this might be a Good moment to trot it out. North, puzzled, bid 3NT, a contract he would make with ease. East was equally unsure what was going on, but gamely bid out his shape. And West followed his Good-Bad bid with a Bad-Bad bid of 4♥. North was still confused, but not too confused to double. -1100 meant a loss of 11 imps.

Results Page

Ranked Master Pairs

These were run on Sunday 3 December

Arthur (GrandMasters) 13 pairs played 48 boards with Butler Scoring

Winners:	Mike McGinley & David Wiseman	+78
2	Derek Diamond & Iain Sime	+58
3	Peter Moss & Ian Hunter	+37
4	Paul Maiolani & Jim McMenemy	+34

Bowman (National & Life Masters) 11 Pairs played 44 boards, Match-Pointed

Winners:	Martin Diamond & David Shenkin	61.56%
2	Ann Anderson & Joan Forsyth	59.38%
3=	David Ritchie & Kevin Strathern	51.88%
	Eric Starritt & Sheila Vass	51.88%

Fairlie (Regional, Scottish and National Masters) 22 pairs played 44 boards, Match-Pointed

Winners:	Jake Milne & Thomas Perritt	55.68%
2=	Tricia Hewitt & Gillian Simpson	55.11%
	David Pollard & Jacek Suchodolski	55.11%
4	Tom Bagnall & Andrew Harborow	53.86%
5	Edan Gardner & Liam O'Brien	53.41%
6	Jack Shearer & Peter Thommeny	53.07%

Jesner (Master, Star and Senior Masters) was combined with the **Johnston** (District Masters) 22 pairs played 30 boards, Match Pointed

Winners:	Graham & Margaret Armstrong	61.11%	Johnston Winners
2	Roger Rist & Ross Angus	59.81%	Jesner Winners
3	Rhona Goff & Liz Young	58.89%	
4	Pat Walkingshaw & Kathy Whaler	58.70%	
5	Andrea Targett-Adams & Venetia Thomson	56.11%	
6	Bryn & Niall Tennant	55.19%	

SOL 11

These are the winners of the 6 Divisions

Division 1 **WISEMAN** **Winners of the Victor Silverstone Trophy** **120.89 VP**
(David Wiseman, Mike McGinley, Robert Clow, Troy van de l'Isle; Adam & Yvonne Stokka)

Division 2 **HACKETT** **140.89 VP**
(Jason Hackett, John Sansom, Clive Owen, Brian Senior, Paul Hackett, Diego Brenner, David Debbage, Nick Stevens)

Division 3 **HODDER** **121.23 VP**
(Mike Hodder, Graham Johnson, Eddie McGeough. Pauline Phillips, Emily Garden)

Division 4 **SCRIMGEOUR** **93.27 VP**
(John Scrimgeour, Joe Duxbury, Archie & Pam Leith)

Division 5 **BRAID** **98.39 VP**
(Peter & Heather Braid, Janet Unsworth, Maurice Franceschi, Hamish Wallace, Tom Kelsey)

Division 6 **SMILLIE** **91.62 VP**
(Alistair Smillie, Neil Wilson, Mary Eames, Louise Hewitt)

Divisions 1-3 had 10 teams; Divisions 4-6 had 9 teams

Master Point Promotions

December 2023

National Master

Tadeusz Janowski E
John McIntyre W
Frances McKeon W

2 Star Master

Ishbel Clark E
Sylvia Mackenzie W
Judith Thornton E

District Master

Barbara Adams-Strump W
Carolyn Anderson W
Tom Anderson W
Alex Campbell W
Maggie Eldon E
Janis Hughes C
Ann Main W
Derrick Russell W
Morveen Urquhart W
Hugh Wilson A

Club Master

Kate Behr N
Norma Bennie W
Roy Broatch S
Fiona Brown A
Christopher Carr E
Margaret Dean S
Morag Douglas A
John Grindley E
Christine Jamieson A
Kenneth Johnson N
Mary Lamont A

Regional Master

Rhona Goff E
Robin Key E
Roger Rist E
Jack Shearer C
Kathy Whaler E
Liz Young E

1 Star Master

Christine Baillie W
Stuart Hubbard N
John Jones W
Moira Poyser E
Norman Poyser E
Ian Sleigh W

Local Master

James Adam D
Alex Black E
Charles Briggs W
Jeannie Hammond W
Elizabeth Harley C
Elaine Kilgour E
Sue Miles E
Jennifer Neilson A
Thomas Perritt C
Prunella Seels E

Gary Longhurst W
Ellen McCafferty E
Lesley McCartney S
Wilson McCracken W
Kate Milne N
Helena Ponty H
Elizabeth Robertson C
Nancy Wilson A
Sheena Wood N
Donald Wright E

Senior Master

Flora Brodie E

Master

Katherine Carson E
Cathy Dover C
Jane Frier E
Ingrid Hooton E
Fiona Mackie E
Alasdair McKechnie E
Fred Milligan E
Ian Mollison E
Barbara Reay C
Mary Stewart E
Elaine Whitehead S

3 Star Master

Cath MacKay H
Stephanie Silverstone W
Violet Tulloch N

Answers to Quiz

- 1
- South has produced 2 Aces, and the opening lead tells you he also has ♣J = 9 points
 - South cannot have ♠K as well – that would make 12 points and he did not open.
 - You have 1 heart trick; 4 trump and 2 black Aces make 7.
You can hope for a ruff in dummy, but you need to establish a length trick in spades
 - Draw trump ending in dummy and run the ♠9. If that draws the King all is well
If North wins the ♠J cash the ♠A next and lead the ♠Q.
If North produces a small spade run the Queen – you know North has the King

2

	♠J42 ♥654 ♦J7 ♣KJT65	
♠Q53 ♥KJ83 ♦853 ♣A82	N W E S	♠T876 ♥T92 ♦QT6 ♣Q97
	♠AK5 ♥AQ7 ♦AK542 ♣43	

- declarer has ♥AQ and 0 points in clubs: she must have ♠AK and ♦AK to make up 20 points. If she has ♦Q as well she has the rest of the tricks, so we hope partner has that card.
- South had 3 hearts: partner's discard tells you she had 2 clubs. So she has 3 spades and 5 diamonds.
(2 spades/6 diamonds is unlikely when she plays this way)
- declarer has made 2 hearts and has 4 more top winners in ♠AK and ♦AK. She has no entry to the winning clubs but might establish 2 more diamond tricks if you lead one.
- lead the ♦8: Even if that gives South 4 diamond tricks your ♠Q will win the setting trick

Solution to Crossword

Across

1 Free-for-all 6 Thaw 10 Mouse 11 Bethankit 12 Ripon Cathedral 14 Edition 15 Silicon
17 Dinette 19 Scourge 20 Ice-cream cornet 23 Glassware 24 Debit 25 Reef 26 Dead-weight

Down

1 Fame 2 Erudition 3 Free of interest 4 Rubicon 5 Litotes 7 Hiker 8 Wet blanket
9 Waterloo bridge 13 Dead ringer 16 Carpet-bag 18 Etalage 19 Succeed 21 Erase 22 Stot