



# The SBU Monthly News

**November 2023**

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(October 2023)

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

## Forthcoming Attractions

The **Master Point Ranked Pairs** are on **Sunday 3 December**.

5 events in one day: play against competitors of the same MP rank.

	Eligibility	Venue	Approx No of Boards	Entry fee (per pair)	Start Time
<b>Johnston</b>	Local & District Masters	Carlton BC	24	£10	11.30 am
<b>Jesner</b>	Masters & Senior Masters	Carlton BC	32	£12	11.30 am
<b>Fairlie</b>	Regional, Scottish & National Masters	Dundee BC	48	£16	11am
<b>Bowman</b>	Life & Senior Life Masters	Dundee BC	48	£16	11am
<b>Arthur</b>	Grand Masters	Carlton BC	48	£16	11am

### Please Note:

These events are being played face-to-face this year.

Your rank was registered at October 30 2023: later changes do not apply.

A player eligible for a competition may play with a player of a lower rank

**Enter online** on the SBU website: [sbu.org.uk](http://sbu.org.uk) - click on your event in the right hand column.

## The 3rd **National Online Grand Prix Swiss Teams** (sponsored by RealBridge)

**Sunday 10 December**

**48 boards. 8x 6-board matches; or 6x 8-board matches, depending on the size of the entry!**

**11 am start, break around 2pm, finish around 6pm.**

**Generous National Master Point awards and prizes for the leading teams.**

**Entry Fee £40 per team**

**Enter on the website** [3rd National Online Competition Swiss Teams-SBU National Events](#)

Played on Realbridge, naturally... the link will be communicated to entrants nearer the time.

If you are looking for teammates please email [tournament@sbu.org.uk](mailto:tournament@sbu.org.uk). We will try find you a suitable pair.

*And one for your diary*

## Congress News

The **National Congress** will take place at **Peebles Hydro** on **8-10 March 2024**

Always a memorable experience, if you have never been to Peebles, now is the time!

*Highly recommended by Andy Robson!*

For further information contact the Congress Team at [SBU Congress Team](#)

You may also want to note the Overseas Congress

**14<sup>th</sup> SBU Overseas Congress** in **Side, Turkey**, on **16-22 April 2024**

Programme details for this are available on the SBU website: [SBU-Turkey-April-2024-WEB.pdf](#)

# Café Bridge Report

## Plockton

Run by **Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge Club** on **26 October** with **Victor Lesk** as director,

100 players participated on a beautiful autumn day.

They played 25 hands in 5 different venues.

They raised just under £1000 in support of the wonderful Rag Tag and Textile charity, and KoL BC rounded it up to a neat figure.



**Bob Ross & Shuna Colville** won the Martin Cup ( donated a few years ago by Peter and Elaine Martin, ex Glasgow, now Edinburgh)  
They also won a bottle each of Whisky kindly donated by the Torabhaig Distillery.

Runners up **Eddie McGeough & Angela Knox** (with the indefatigable Victor Lesk in the background)

Prizes included bottles of Gaelic gin made at the Wee Gaelic Gin Still at Hotel Eilean Iarmain. (Generously donated by the Eilean Iarmain Estate.



## Dunkeld

The **Dunkeld Café Bridge** day was another huge success, raising a magnificent £2100 for Alzheimers Scotland

(The cheque will be handed over by the "Spoons" – the gang who play 12 hands in Wetherspoons, Blairgowrie every Monday morning.)



The winners: George and Gill Roberts from Perth, travelled the country course by bicycle.

Runners-up were Sam Punch and Stephen Peterkin, there to publicise BAMS (Bridge: A Mind Sport for All)



# The European Bridge League Hall of Fame

The European Bridge League (EBL) was founded in 1947 in Copenhagen, with 8 member countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

In 2017, to mark its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the European Bridge League held a special event at the European Open Championships in Montecatini. Representatives of all the founding nations were presented with a memento. Great Britain had since been devolved into 3 nations, so England, Scotland and Wales all received a plaque.

The other significant event was the founding of the EBL Hall of Fame, with 8 members.



L to R **Benito Garozzo** (Italy) **Geir Helgemo** (Norway); **John Holland** (England) **Apolinary Kowalski** (Poland)  
**Nicola Smith** (England) **Sylvie Willard** (France)

The other two, who missed the celebratory dinner, were **Paul Chemla** (France) and **Bep Vriend** (Netherlands)

Every year bridge federations are invited to nominate new members, and these names have been added.

2018	<b>Sabine Auken</b> <b>Krzysztof Martens</b>	(Germany) (Poland)	
2019	<b>Jon Baldursson</b> <b>Sally Brock</b>	(Iceland) (England)	
2020	<b>Boye Brogelund</b> <b>P O Sundelin</b>	(Norway) (Sweden)	
2022	<b>Benedicte Cronier</b> <b>Pyotr Gawrys</b> <b>Tor Helness</b>	(France) (Switzerland) (Norway)	
2023	<b>Nafiz Zorlu</b> <b>Liz McGowan</b>	(Turkey) (Scotland)	(by a weird coincidence we were team-mates at the 1985 EBU Brighton Congress)



Members are presented with this impressively heavy plaque.

The award was announced at the European Open Championships in Strasbourg but the plaque took some time to reach Scotland...

Alan Goodman presented it at the Edwin Berry in September.

I am grateful to the Scottish Bridge Union for putting my name forward:  
(I am reliably informed that their presentation was the best received this year!)

## More Freaks

There was some reaction to last month's article on Freak hands, though less than I had hoped!

**Alasdair Adam** pointed me towards "Grand Slams" by Alan Truscott. This is a selection of 55 of his articles for the "New York Times". Alasdair particularly liked this deal, from an early round of the Reisinger Teams:

### Lightner is Darker

	♠T	None Vul
	♥872	Dealer N
	♦Q6	
	♣KQT8763	
♠7		♠984
♥T65		♥AKQJ943
♦T98432		♦K75
♣942		♣—
	♠AKQJ6532	
	♥—	
	♦AJ	
	♣AJ5	

North opened 3♣.

East overcalled 3♥.

South bid 7♣.

West was John Lowenthal, a well-known American expert. After a little thought he doubled 7♣!

John had no hope of defeating 7♣, but he had worked out the likely distribution.

No-one leaps to a Grand unless they expect to make it.

South must have a club fit, a void in hearts, and all the other Aces. And a solid suit that would provide discards for all North's losers. That suit could only be spades, so John formed a Cunning Plan.

His double was clearly Lightner, asking for an Unusual Lead.

South was convinced: West must be void in spades, so could ruff a spade lead to North's slam.

He converted to 7♠.

When West doubled again South started to worry.

Lowenthal followed up his Cunning Plan by leading a club.

South, a large, aggressive man, faced his cards, turned to East and snarled: "If you are going to ruff this I am going to kick you..."

"East was small and nervous with a strong sense of self-preservation. He produced a trump to beat the slam, got up from the table and set off at a great rate for the horizon."

**Martin Bateman** also reported an experience from his early bridge years.

He learned bridge at school in a class run by Danny Kane in the early 90s.

Zia was in town, preparing a television series on bridge for beginners, and played some test hands against Martin and his partner Dermot Coyle, two 11-year-olds.

Exact details of the deal are lost in the mists of time. Everybody held freaks except Dermot, who had a relatively balanced hand with quite a few HCP. The auction was typically Zia, making cunning bids to conceal his distribution. Eventually he reached 7NT. Dermot bravely doubled, and Zia promptly redoubled. Unfortunately, Martin had only two suits to lead from – and Dermot could not cash his Ace.

Zia claimed 13 tricks at trick 1.

Perhaps Zia should have been reported to the NSPCC?

Dermot developed into quite a timid bidder... but as the more photogenic member of the partnership he made it into the television series where Martin did not.

# Quick Quiz

1

	<b>North</b> ♠J93 ♥QT4 ♦KQJ96 ♣AJ	
		<b>East</b> ♠AKQ76 ♥A2 ♦T3 ♣K864

**Bidding**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♠4, and East wins the ♠Q, South following with the ♠2. The ♠K takes the next trick, as South plays the ♠8 and West the ♠5.

- How many spades does West have?
- How many tricks can you count for the defence?
- Where will you find a fourth trick?
- What will you play at trick 4?

2

	<b>North</b> ♠K94 ♥T8 ♦A73 ♣75432	
<b>West</b> ♠J852 ♥Q6 ♦QT52 ♣KT6		

**Bidding**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West leads the ♦2, and East contributes the ♦K. declarer follows with the ♦6 East returns the ♦J. Declarer plays the ♦9 and wins the ♦A.in dummy.

- How many diamonds does declarer have?
- What is South's likely distribution?

The ♥T runs to your ♥Q and you cash the ♦Q, the third trick for the defence,

- Where can you find a fourth trick?
- what card will you play at trick 5?

# It's a Funny Old Game

**“When you're done with a hand, it's over.”**

This piece of advice comes from one of the world's greatest players, Bob Hamman.

Some 30 years ago he gave a talk to the British Women's Squad. He reminisced about his early years, playing with Lew Mathe. He soon learned that there little point in discussing a deal where things had gone wrong – Lew did not suffer errors gladly.

An example from his autobiographical book: “At the Table” .

Bob picked up this hand as West:

♠QJ875
♥6
♦A87653
♣Q

And found himself on lead after this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	2♥	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

There seemed no point in leading a singleton heart when South had stoppers. If partner had a spade honour that suit could easily be established and cashed. He led the ♠7. Partner produced a worrying nine, but declarer won the Ace, not the Ten, Unfortunately, this was the full deal:

	♠43	NS Vul
	♥AT	Dealer E
	♦T2	
	♣K765432	
♠QJ875		♠T9
♥6		♥KQ9753
♦A87653		♦J9
♣Q		♣T98
	♠AK62	
	♥J842	
	♦KQ4	
	♣AJ	

Declarer cashed the ♣A, felling the Queen, then the ♣J. He then crossed to the ♥A for the rest of the clubs, and made two overtricks.

A heart lead removes the entry from dummy, kills the club suit, and leads to a likely three down.

“I could almost see the smoke coming out of Mathe's ears.”

Hamman attributes his later success to his reaction to this disaster:

“What I did next was very simple.

I shoved my hand back in the board and pulled out the next one.

I did not show my hand to Mathe and look for sympathy.

I did not make an excuse for not leading his suit,

I simply went on with the next hand.”

Great advice, but hard to follow!

# Results Page

*Some results from October*

## The National Online Grand Prix Swiss Pairs

(Sponsored by RealBridge)

*46 Pairs entered the first of this series on Sunday 8 October*

*8 x 6-board matches were played*

<b>Winners:</b>	<b>Barnet &amp; Maggie Shenkin</b>	<b>112.46 VP</b>
2	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith	110.50 VP
3	Ian Burn & Ian McClure	109.77 VP
4	Grant Harrower & Andy Philip	109.16 VP
5	Cass O'Donnell & Ying Piper	106.26 VP
6	John di Mambro & Prajjwal Prajjwal	98.99 VP
7	Alex & Bob Adamson	98.70 VP
8	Liz McGowan & Tim McKay	97.32 VP

## The Diamond National Senior Pairs

*This was run on BBO on Sunday 15 October*

*52 pairs played 16 3-board rounds.*

*Apparently the glitch that saw many re-matches, including the leading two pairs play each other 5 times (!) has been fixed*

<b>Winners:</b>	<b>Nicol Taylor &amp; Peter Wright</b>	<b>59.18%</b>
2	Liz McGowan & Tim McKay	58.82%
3	Julian Gibson & Denis Murphy	57.32%
4	Sheila Blair & Howard Greenwell	55.39%
5	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith	55.08%
6	Jim Masom=n & Eddie McGeough	54.48%
7	Emily Garden & Bill Ross	54.44%
8=	Derek & Martin Diamond	53.99%
	Clive Owen & Nick Stevens	53.99%
10	David Nisbet & Ian Thomson	53.94%



# Master Point Promotions

## October 2023

### National Master

Alastair White E

### Scottish Master

Sheenagh Young C

### Regional Master

Joan Cargill C

### 3 Star Master

Graham Hyde E

### 2 Star Master

Norman Stewart E

### 1 Star Master

Mariusz Niedziolko N  
Helen Noble E  
Roger Rist E  
Ruth Scullion W

### Master

Fiona Cockburn E  
Frank Gillone W  
Andy McKinnel E

### District Master

Janette Fraser S  
Ron Gill  
Sandra Morrice W  
Liz Pottie C

### Local Master

Gerald Johnson E  
Donnie Macaulay W  
Gloria Wilson C

### Club Master

Bob Adamson S  
Eleanor Belcher W  
Margot Blair S  
Geoff Coles W  
Irene Fleming C  
Fiona Johnstone W  
Sandra Mair E  
Geraldine Marshall E  
Helen Morgan H  
Sharman Normand E  
Phil Prince H  
Rosie Schild W

### Answers to Quiz

<b>1</b>	<b>North</b> ♠J93 ♥QT4 ♦KQJ96 ♣AJ		a) West has played spades up-the-way, so must have 3 cards b) 2 spades and the Ace of trump makes 3. c) East needs a useful card. The ♥K or the ♦A would be useful, and if he has either of these the contract will fail for sure. d) Switch to a club to establish a winner if West has the ♣Q. If you do anything else declarer will knock out your ♥A and then discard his clubs on dummy's diamonds, The play does not cost if South has the ♣Q – you were never making your King anyway.
<b>West</b> ♠T54 ♥85 ♦8754 ♣Q952		<b>East</b> ♠AKQ76 ♥A2 ♦T3 ♣K864	
	<b>South</b> ♠82 ♥KJ9763 ♦A2 ♣T73		

<b>2</b>	<b>North</b> ♠K94 ♥T8 ♦A73 ♣75432		a) South has at least 3 diamonds. Partner has returned his highest remaining card. With 4 diamonds originally the correct return is his lowest remaining card b) Declarer has at least 9 red cards, so at most 4 black ones. c) Declarer surely has the missing Aces for his bid, so the most likely setting trick is the ♠K. d) Exit with your second heart. If declarer has a club loser there is nowhere to discard it. A spade switch allows South to win the Ace over partner's Queen, run the ♠T and enter dummy with the ♥T to discard a club on dummy's ♠K.
<b>West</b> ♠J852 ♥Q6 ♦QT52 ♣KT6		<b>East</b> ♠Q763 ♥752 ♦KJ4 ♣J98	
	<b>South</b> ♠AT ♥AKJ943 ♦986 ♣AQ		

*“More important than any other quality in a defender is the ability to tell which tricks will vanish unless a vigorous effort is made to obtain them, and which tricks declarer is bound to lose eventually. A good defender knows when to be aggressive, attempting to establish and cash tricks; or when to be passive, waiting for them to fall into his lap while declarer does the guesswork.” (Marshall Miles)*