



The SBU Monthly News

August 2023

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SOL 10

(July 2023)

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

liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

New Season Events for your Diary



Gold Cup: Organised by Bridge Great Britain, this is the most prestigious knockout Open Teams event in Britain, first played in 1932. The Cup really is solid gold!

There will be a separate Scottish section if we get enough Scottish teams.

Everybody aspiring to play international bridge should grasp this opportunity to gain experience and prove their worth.

Scottish teams eliminated in the early rounds get free entry into the Gold Cup Plate (Marion Hill Trophy)

Generous National (Red) points are awarded for matches won.

Entries by September 20 to: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

National Events (Red points!)

The new season begins with 2 National face-to-face events in Edinburgh:

The **Stirling Pairs**, our Major Open Pairs, in the **New Melville BC**, on **Saturday, September 16**
Match-pointed Pairs; 2 sessions of 24 boards; 12 noon to 7 pm (approx.) with a break for refreshments.

The entry fee is £30 per pair. Enter online at [Stirling Pairs-SBU National Events](#).

The **Edwin Berry Swiss Teams** is the following day, **Sunday, September 17**, at the **Carlton BC**.

Swiss teams; approximately 42 boards; 11 am to 6 pm (approx.), with a break for refreshments.

The renowned Carlton café will be open all day.

The entry fee is £72 per team. Enter online at [Edwin Berry Swiss Teams-SBU National Events](#).

Online Events

The 11th Iteration of the **Scottish Online League** (SOL) starts on **Monday, September 18**.

SOL League matches consist of 24 boards played in 2 sessions with a change of opponents at half time.

Teams may contain up to 8 members. Any four can play on any given evening.

National master points are awarded for matches won.

Existing Captains will be contacted shortly, but anyone wanting to enter a new team or re-enter a team that had previously dropped out should contact sol@sbu.org.uk

The **Diamond Trophy**, our **Senior Pairs**, will run on **BBO** on **Sunday, October 15**.

Match-pointed pairs. 2 sessions of 24 boards. 11 am start with a 60-minute break around 2 pm.

Restricted to SBU members who are Seniors! (Over 63 on October 15 2023)

Entry Fee: 15 BBO\$ per head, payable when signing up on the day

Please register in advance: [Senior Pairs for the Diamond Trophy-SBU National Events](#)

New Online Events

There will be six online Swiss events over the season, 4 Pairs and 2 Teams

The first is on **Sunday, October 4**

SBU Online Grand Prix Swiss Pairs, sponsored by RealBridge

[SBU National Online Grand Prix SWISS Pairs sponsored by RealBridge -SBU National Events](#)

SBU Saturday Swiss Pairs 17

Every Saturday at 7 pm on BBO for nine weeks, starting **August 19 2023**

- 5 rounds of 5 boards scored in match points.
- Open to all SBU members on any Saturday: playing every week is not required.
- The average of the six best partnership scores will determine the series winners after week 9.
- Master Points will be awarded to the final top quarter, with additional points for each match won.
- Bonus masterpoints for the Series winners and the top third in the final ranking after week 9.
- Entry fee BBO\$4.50 per player for each tournament.

Register for tournaments on BBO (search for SBU up to 2 hours in advance).

This is a restricted entry event. Please ensure that your Mempad record is updated with your BBO username.

Club Director's Course

We shall be running an **online session** on Zoom at a convenient date *near the end of September*

and an **in-person** day at **Dundee Bridge Club** on **Sunday, October 1.**

If you have not already shown interest in this course but wish to attend, please get in touch with Angus Macdonald at chieftd@sbu.org.uk

Beginners' Bridge Event

SBU Meet and Play for Learners and Improvers

4th & 5th November at **St Andrew Bridge Club**, Glasgow.

Are you attending, or have you recently completed Bridge classes?

Have you been playing online and fancy trying face-to-face?

Do you want to meet with other like-minded players to progress your Bridge and share some social time with them?

Come and play face-to-face Bridge in a friendly, supportive environment on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning (4/5th November) at Glasgow's popular city centre Bridge club.

You'll be made very welcome.

Join your fellow players in nearby hotel accommodation (rooms already reserved) and enjoy a group dinner at a popular Italian restaurant on the Saturday night. Eat, chat and chill with fellow card sharks!

Packages available: Hotel (shared room; B&B), Bridge and group dinner inclusive: £100/pp
Hotel (single room; B&B), Bridge and group dinner inclusive: £150/pp
Bridge and group dinner only: £50/pp

Further information and booking details are [here](#).

And it is not too late to sign up for some fun Café Bridge:

Dunkeld, Tuesday, October 24

<https://www.brianbridge.net/dunk2023/>

Plockton, Thursday, October 28

<https://www.brianbridge.net/ploc2023/>

Youth Bridge

You may have noticed the (relative) success of our Under 31 team at the World Championships in Veldhoven. The invitation came late, and there was little time for preparation. Yet our team of 5 qualified for the knockout stages by the skin of their teeth. Had we had a better-prepared team of 6, we might have won the quarter-final, too – but a sixth day of 56 boards proved too much.

The joy of the event for the npc was seeing so many youngsters enjoying the challenge of Bridge together. Youth bridge has extraordinary enthusiasm, and everybody has fun.

Success breed success, they say. If our Under 31s can make their mark, so can our up-and-coming youngsters. But they do need to prepare.

The SBU is making a special effort to encourage young players – they are the future of our game, after all.

They have created three Squads: Under 31, Under 26 and Under 21.

They will work to prepare for the European Youth Championships in 2024.

Partnerships will be encouraged to play in National events – free entry for all Youth players!

Can you help?

Do you know a young person who might be keen to learn bridge?

Might you run a fundraising event to raise money for our Junior Squads?

A message from Gillian Roberts at Scottish Bridge Education

Calling all teachers in primary or secondary schools who would be interested in starting bridge in their school.

Also, *calling on bridge players* who would be willing to teach bridge to school pupils (subject to Disclosure Scotland)

Please get in touch. Bridge needs you to help drive this initiative in Scotland.

Contact the Education Group at education@sbu.org.uk

Bridge Great Britain runs an annual Online Junior Pairs

There are two Trophies: the Paul Porteous (Under-26) and Liz McGowan (Under-21)

The CBAI is organising this year's event. They will run it on RealBridge.

It was scheduled for May but then rescheduled for **Saturday, September 23.**

11 am – 8 pm (approx., with a break between sessions)

If you know anyone eligible, please encourage them to play – otherwise, the event may die.

To enter, contact the CBAI Junior Committee (irishyouthbridge@gmail.com).

Clap Our Clubs: Stirling and Union BC

Bridge Seminar a Great Success

Bernard Magee, the UK's best-known Bridge teacher and host, volunteered to run a Bridge seminar at the Stirling & Union Bridge Club (S&UBC) Colquhoun Street, Stirling, on Monday, August 7. Bernard waived any fee, and all proceeds would be shared between two charities, Cancer Research, Scotland and Strathcarron Hospice, Denny.

Seventy-seven people signed up and paid £25.00 each, meaning each charity was due to receive £962.50. S&UBC have decided to round up the money so that each charity gets £1000!

As participants arrived, Sylvia MacKenzie and her small support team served soft and hot drinks, homemade cakes, and biscuits. This set the atmosphere for everyone to get acquainted before settling down to listen to Bernard's seminar.

Several of those attending learned about Bernard during the CV19 lockdown, where he set up online bridge events, which were often a 'lifeline' for many people who had been unable to get out to their local clubs. His online events provided a great opportunity for players to make new friends.



Bernard has published numerous books, CDs, quizzes, and puzzles relating to Bridge and has written regular articles for the BRIDGE Magazine. People were understandably excited at the prospect of this seminar, and it can be safely said that no one was disappointed as Bernard's effortless style made people feel at ease and relaxed.

The sandwich lunch was a casual affair and an excellent opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the seminar topic. S&UBC paid for all the food and drink from the club's resources so that every penny of the attendance fee would be allocated to the two charities.

After lunch, Bernard and a few club volunteers organised a play session with hands that were set up to reflect the seminar's topic, "Discards in Defence", with expert comment and support from Bernard himself.

The Club President thanked Bernard, the volunteer helpers, and George Roberts, who had organised this outstanding event. He, in turn, thanked the club for its generosity.



The club will run more seminars and Bridge classes over the coming months, and anyone interested should contact the Club Secretary. SUBCsecretary@outlook.com

Details are on the club website, which is easily accessed via this link. <https://www.bridgewebs.com/stirling/>

♠ ♥ Colinton Castle Bridge Club ♦ ♣

One of Edinburgh's oldest and friendliest clubs is trying to attract local players back to face-to-face. They hope to widen their membership base by persuading local club members and people not currently members of the SBU who play tennis, bowls, golf, etc, to join them.

This a commendable initiative which will be supported by members of our Under-31 Team.

Why not persuade your bridge-playing friends to give it a go?

Sunday 3rd September

♠ ♥ Duplicate Tournament ♦ ♣

The Gathering Bar at the Braid Hills Hotel,
134 Braid Rd, Edinburgh EH10 6JD

Arrive from 1.40 pm for a 2 pm start.
Finish at about 5 pm.

All standards of players are welcome.

Bring a partner, or come on your own (there will be a standby player available)

Entry Free

Saturday 9th September

♠ ♥ Online Swiss Pairs ♦ ♣

Bridge Base Online

Pairs should register online by 10.40 am for an 11.00 am start

Eight 6-board matches, Swiss format.

There will be a one-hour break after the first four matches.

The play will finish at about 6 pm

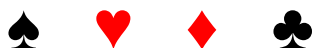
Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 pairs and the top SBU silver and bronze pairs.

Entry BBO\$ 5.00

To help us estimate numbers for both events, please register in advance on our website if you're interested in playing.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/colintoncastlebridgeclub/>

For more info, email: colintoncastlebridgeclub@bridgewebsemail.com



The Curse of Knowledge

Heleen Barendegt is a Dutch pedagogue I met in Veldhoven. She shared some of her ideas on teaching bridge. I thought they might be of general interest, whether you teach bridge or are trying to introduce a friend or family member to the game.

As a bridge teacher, you may have felt frustrated when students struggle to apply simple concepts, despite your clear instructions. Every teacher has probably thought: "I don't understand why they still don't get it. Some students seem to forget the entire lesson the moment they start playing the practice boards."

Pamela Hinds, a professor at Stanford University, found an explanation in 1999. She concluded that experts often severely underestimate the difficulty of the subject matter. They misjudge how much time and effort a beginner requires to learn new things. An experienced bridge player is tempted to view certain aspects of bridge as simple or easy. This is known as "The Curse of Knowledge".

Our substantial advantage in understanding makes us unable to imagine the learner's viewpoint. For a newcomer, there are a significant number of concepts that can seem complex or difficult.



e.g. Experienced players know that different responses to an opening bid show different maximum and minimum HCP:

1♥ – 2♥ is a 2-level response that shows 6+HCP but limited to a maximum of 9 HCP.

1♥ – 1♠ although at a lower level, has the same minimum 6 HCP but a much higher maximum.

Good luck to beginners trying to understand this!

e.g.,

AQ
xx

This is a commonly used example of a finesse.

Almost everybody understands that the King need not make a trick if left-hand opponent holds it.

Kx
xx

This is also called a finesse

A new player will require some time to understand this one correctly.

The Curse of Knowledge manifests itself in all areas of learning. Experts often forget how challenging things were initially, whether it's a family member sighing in frustration while helping with a PC problem or remembering the difficulty of first learning to drive. Now that you control the car effortlessly and understand traffic, it's easy to forget how many lessons it took to learn the correct routines.

How do you know whether you suffer from the Curse of Knowledge?

Do your students complain that bridge is really difficult?

Do they nod when asked if everything is clear – but with a glassy look in their eyes?

Do they fail to apply what you have taught them?

Do they quit because bridge is not for them?

Can you exorcise the Curse?

Repeat often. At the start of each lesson, review the previous topic(s)

Break down new concepts into tiny steps. Make things as simple as possible/

Utilise a variety of examples to illustrate a single concept.

Continually check whether each student has grasped the explanation by asking questions.

Sometimes let the students explain concepts to each other. A student who understands the problem may have better insight into the issue. Peer-to-peer teaching can be very effective

As a bridge teacher, you must frequently reinforce simple concepts such as:

- ❖ The difference between a game and a part score
- ❖ The distinction between an overcall and an opening bid
- ❖ The difference between an opening lead and a lead to a later trick

Quick Quiz

Reading the Opening Lead

1)

Lead: ♥3	♠— ♥9876 ♦AT8765 ♣AQ3									
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♦	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT

You are East. Partner leads the ♥3, the suit you overcalled,

What does that tell you about the way the hearts are distributed?

Dummy plays the ♥6.

Which heart should you play?

2)

Lead: ♥7	♠QT92 ♥J83 ♦KQJ8 ♣AQJ									
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
End			

You are East.

Partner leads the ♥7 against 3NT.

What do you think your partner's heart holding is?

Declarer plays the ♥3 from the dummy.

Which heart should you play?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

The World Bridge Federation ran its 2023 Youth Championships in Veldhoven from July 31 – August 7. There are five events: Under 26, Under 21, Under 16, Under 26 Women and the new Under 31. The WBF prefers to have 20 teams in its events: each starts with a Round Robin all-play-all, after which the leading eight teams qualify for a knockout phase. But Covid had affected the Qualifying events quite severely.

And so Scotland Under 31, who finished a lowly 13th out of 16 in the European Championships, were invited to the World Championships. (Germany, who finished last in the Europeans, also featured!)

Much to the surprise of everyone except their Captain, our team qualified for the knockout stages. (Admittedly in 8th place after some nail-biting late results.)

Play started at 9.30 am each day, and it had become apparent that we were not a morning team – we consistently lost the first match. So, it was no real surprise to find ourselves -33 imps after the first 14-board segment of the Quarter-finals. By contrast, we had won the second match every day – until the quarter-finals. An indifferent third set found us 66 down with 14 to play.

Never say die – we would give it our best shot.

We picked up 11 imps on the first board.

On the second board, our hero was dealer, vulnerable against non-vulnerable.

♠Q9863
♥A83
♦873
♣KJ

Time for some action? What harm could befall a wee 1♠ opener?

The auction was ominous:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The layout could scarcely have been worse:

	♠AKJT542	EW Vul									
	♥954	Dealer W									
	♦A										
	♣85										
♠Q9863	<table border="1" style="background-color: #c8e6c9;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠–
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥A83		♥T762									
♦873		♦J954									
♣KJ		♣Q7643									
	♠7										
	♥KQJ										
	♦KQT62										
	♣AT92										

North cashed the ♦A, then switched. He could discard his second club on a top diamond and hold declarer to just two tricks. The result? Minus 1400, and -14 imps against the quiet 4♠ by NS in the other room.

That ended all hope of recovery. 😞

Results Page

SOL 10

*The 10th iteration of the Online League was completed in July.
These are the winners of the 6 Divisions.*

Division 1	SHENKIN Winners of the Victor Silverstone Trophy (Barnet Shenkin, Steve Levinson, Nils Kvangraven, Geir Brekka, Brian Spears, Derek Diamond)	111.04 VP
Division 2	WISEMAN (David Wiseman, Mike McGinley, Robert Clow, Troy van de l'Isle, Adam & Yvonne Stokka,)	125.36 VP
Division 3	PATULLO (George Patullo, Hamish Galloway, Diana Gerrard, Ian Hunter, Alisdair McLeod, Steve Pomeroy)	130.62 VP
Division 4	MacDONALD (Findlay MacDonald, Fiona Abbott, Thomson Kerr, Janice Thomson, Donnie & Anne Graham, Paul Kerr)	126.61 VP
Division 5	JENKINS (Roderick Jenkins, Alex Forsyth, Bill West, David MacDonald, Alistair Crawford)	114.05 VP
Division 6	DEAN (Nicola Dean, Fiona McElhinney, David & Gill Simmons, John Allen, Agnes Munro)	103.05 VP

Divisions 1-5 had 10 teams; Division 6 had 9 teams

Don't forget! Iteration 11 starts on September 18.

If you want to enter a new team or re-enter one that has withdrawn, contact sol@sbu.org.uk

Master Point Promotions

July 2023

National Master

Tom Robertson E

Regional Master

John Allen E
 Adrian Eastwood E
 Charles Fogelman W
 Jane Guthrie C

4 Star Master

David Mcleod A

2 Star Master

Barry Cooper W

1 Star Master

Gavin Lambie W

Master

Liz Fisher E
 Edan Gardner C
 Antone Huang E
 Alastair Kerr E
 Lifang Lamb C
 Helen MacKinnon E
 John McCallum C
 Harry McDade W

District Master

Peggy Lawson A
 Roy Levine W
 John Malcolm E

Local Master

Owen Evans A
 Carol Medlock C
 Tamsin Munro N

Club Master

Sheena Cadenhead W
 Andrew Dey E
 Jill Dick E
 John Dick E
 David Linn E
 Rebecca Staunton A
 Chris Vennall W

Answers to Quiz:

1)

Lead: ♥3	♠— ♥9876 ♦AT8765 ♣AQ3	<table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;">N</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">W</td> <td style="border: none;">S</td> <td style="border: none;">E</td> </tr> </table> ♠JT8 ♥AQJ54 ♦94 ♣T96		N		W	S	E
	N							
W	S	E						

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♦	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT

You can see all the hearts except the King, Ten, three and two.

Declarer surely has the guarded King for his 3NT call.

Therefore, partner's three is either a singleton or top of the doubleton 32.

Your best chance of beating 3NT is that your partner has 32 and an entry somewhere.

If the declarer has a KT doubleton, you might play Ace and a low heart, keeping your QJ to beat the dummy's cards.

But you have no possible entry to cash your heart winners, so you should simply duck the first heart altogether.

You need your partner to have an entry and a second heart to play so you can drop the declarer's King and cash three more tricks.

2)

Lead: ♥7	♠QT92 ♥J83 ♦KQJ8 ♣AQJ	<table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;">N</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">W</td> <td style="border: none;">S</td> <td style="border: none;">E</td> </tr> </table> ♠J84 ♥KT64 ♦A97 ♣943		N		W	S	E
	N							
W	S	E						

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
End			

It is not a surprise that your partner has led the unbid Major.

Apply the Rule of 11. You can see all four cards higher than the 7, so either partner has ♥AQ97 or the ♥7 is not 4th best.

Partner likely has ♥9752 or perhaps ♥975.

Either way, you should not waste a high card:

if your partner has ♥AQ97, the seven will score.

if he has ♥9752, South has ♥AQ doubleton, and you must preserve your King to beat dummy's Jack in the 3rd round.

if he has ♥975 South has ♥AQ2, and you need to control the suit by preserving your ♥KTx.