



The SBU Monthly News

August 2022

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Mike Gallacher

(July 2022)

Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

What's on Offer in September

International events

There are no international events in September, but it is time to enter the **Trials** for the **Camrose Series**.

Camrose Trials for the Open Team will run over 3 weekends

The first 2 weekends on **10-11 September** and **22-23 October** will run as a National League on RealBridge. Entries are invited from Teams of 4. **Closing date for entry: 28 August**

The top 8 teams qualify for the final weekend, hopefully Face-to-Face on **November 11-13**.

Women's Trial for the Lady Milne will run on **2-4 December**.

Provided at least 10 pairs enter this will be run as a Pairs Trial, hopefully Face-to-Face.

Closing date for entry: 31 August

Senior Trials for the Teltscher Trophy will run on **13-15 January 2023**

(Seniors must be aged at least 63 by 22 January 2023)

Entries are invited from teams of Four. **Closing date for entry: 20 November**



Gold Cup: Organised by Bridge Great Britain, this is the most prestigious Open Teams event in Britain, first played in 1932. The Cup really is solid gold! It is knock-out throughout, and, prior to the semi-finals, all matches are played privately. Teams consist of up to 6 players, and matches are played in sets of 8 boards: a minimum of 32 boards in the early rounds, more if both teams agree.

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

So, if you have enjoyed your online matches why not give it a go?

National (Red) points are awarded

Entries to the BGB Secretary, Sandra Claridge. Closing date for the 2023 event is 3rd October.

You will find an entry form on the BGB site: [Bridge Great Britain, United Kingdom \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://bridgegreatbritain.com)

National Events

The first event of the new season is the **Stirling Pairs**.

Our Major Open Pairs event will run **online** on BBO on **Saturday 17 September**

Everybody welcome!

Registration starts on **1 September** on the website [Stirling Pairs-SBU National Events](http://stirlingpairs-sbu.com)

(but you can join the Waiting List right now)

Weekly Events

The SBU runs these events on **BBO**

Tuesdays at 7pm: Match Pointed Pairs (ends 30th August)

Saturdays at 7pm: Swiss Pairs

Saturdays at 11.45 am: Bronze Brunch

Sundays at 3 pm: Teatime Individual

To enter go to www.bridgebase.com. Click on **Play or Watch Bridge**; then select **Competitive** from the menu.

Under **Tournaments** click on **All Tournaments**. Enter **SBU** in the search box (top right).

Select your tournament and when your partner is online, invite them to play using their BBO nickname.

Payment is made in BBO\$, you can purchase those by clicking on the shopping cart next to your name.

Clap Our Clubs

*In May Paul Kerr lamented the apparent demise of **Troon BC**. In August he sings a different tune:*

Moribund - or Dumb in Diagnosis?

Like all human beings, I am me and, being me, I am a wee bit different from you.

And, like all human beings, we can open our mouth, let our bellies rumble and – without ever dreaming of trying to do so - the words that come out can upset some people. And a few weeks ago, that's what I did.

I upset some of my bridge friends in Troon by writing a brief 'article' in the SBU Monthly News saying that our club was 'moribund'. Findlay – my good friend and fellow Troon bridge player– wrote back to the journal chastising me for my inaccuracy and negativity. I thank the editor, Liz McGowan, for the kind apology she gave to Findlay on my account.

'Moribund....' Well, moribund is a poor state of health which, even with treatment, can drift us toward death. But with a positive mental attitude, a sense of purpose and deep faith linked with high quality care and attention from us and the people around us – our health can most certainly be restored. We can shake off the mantle of despair and get back to feeling great, enjoying each moment in life and looking forward to a bright future.

And – for Troon bridge club – this has happened. Like many other clubs up and down the country, our club has shrugged off the miseries of ill health and is back, up, and running. Troon bridge club has made a wonderful recovery. It is back to life – full of vim and vigour: no longer moribund. And that happened because of great teamwork. A big thanks to the Troon bridge club committee - and close associates - who worked very hard behind the scenes to make the return happen. Fiona, Adrian, Findlay, Ian, John, Tom, and Eddie – thank you all very much.

Wednesday 3rd of August was an important date for us in Troon to remember. On that date, Troon bridge club met face to face for the first time in two and a half years or so. What a wonderful thing to happen – a fantastic experience. It's great to be back on our feet once again. We had 5 and a half tables – and we played 22 boards with a warm, friendly, and very capable bunch of bridge players. And all this for £2.50 [tea and biscuits not included]. We played at the Ayrshire Bridge Centre in Prestwick - a town very close to Troon and a change of venue for our club. Our usual venue – a church hall in Troon – was not able to accommodate us post-Covid. Dancing classes took precedence over duplicate bridge for some reason, and I strictly won't be giving that decision a 10.

Anyhow, it was great to see our friends [and foes] in the flesh once again. We really enjoyed the intimacy of face-to-face bridge and loved the immediacy of discussion and post-mortem debate.

Although a very good turnout, some members were unable to attend. They were all missed, and I am sure they will return to the fold as soon as possible. I would really like to encourage friends and fellow bridge players in Troon, the county of Ayrshire and beyond to come along on a Wednesday evening @ 18.45 for a 19.00 start for a great evening of bridge. Good fun, great company, good quality bridge [for players at all levels], fantastic tea and biscuits and a much-appreciated return to normal life and flourishing health.

As I said, we humans can inadvertently upset our fellow humans. I did and will do as others have and will do. It's how we react to those upsets that often determines what happens. Irrespective of our imperfections, it truly is a wonderful privilege to be a human being and to have the capability to have fun and to be able to socialize together.

*Allan Downie, Chairman of **Ness BC** reports on his Club's post-Covid revival:*

It was good to read Findlay MacDonald from Troon Bridge Club in the July Newsletter and see the enthusiasm and commitment his Club has for F2F Bridge. This mirrors our NESS Club here in Inverness (currently 100 Members). We were the first Club to re-start F2F in Scotland and will shortly have a 'party' (home baking refreshments and cards) to celebrate twelve months of F2F Club play.

Our re-opening was greatly assisted by a grant from the SBU for the purchase of Air Purifier machines which have proved to be a boon - "thanks SBU".

Not only did Ness Club organise the highly successful F2F Congress at Newtonmore in February, but the Club is also organising a SWISS PAIRS/TEAMS weekend F2F in Newtonmore (28 - 30 Oct) that is already 80% full.

– see details at www.bridgewebs.com/ness.

Ness Club has continued with two evenings F2F throughout the summer and our Evening Class and Improvers' evening are scheduled to re-start in the Autumn. So, all in all, F2F at NESS is the place to be whatever your standard of play and especially if you miss the socialising that is so lacking with on-line play.

Let's hear it from other Clubs and give those that enjoy F2F the opportunity to play cards as was originally intended.

Readers' Letters

Two readers have responded to Hamish Galloway's unhappiness with Face-to-Face Rulings:

Hamish Galloway has written a letter in this month's SBU News saying that the present Bridge Rule Book is full of "rules that we never read and serves only to make it difficult to find the three or four rules we most often need" and suggests that "it would be helpful if we could print a summary of the most frequent issues on a card which could be attached to the rule book".

As you are probably aware, there is in fact a booklet which seeks to explain the rules in a simplified form. It's entitled "*Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified*" by David Stevenson and is published by Mr Bridge. This would serve Hamish's purpose.

Findlay MacDonald
(Troon BC)

In response to Hamish Galloway's letter, some time ago we made flow charts for the most common queries of the director and stapled them inside the cover of the rule book. The Revoke Law and Faced Lead Out of Turn were the two most frequently consulted. We also placed "Post-it Notes" as markers at the pages for other common queries. A heading for the query is written on the extending part of the Post-it, making it easy to locate the guidance.

I love the Newsletter by the way.

Elaine Slinn
(Ness BC)

And Mike muses on table manners:

I have often had to defend a stronger and higher ranked partner from our opponents' appalled admonishments of her immediate starkly blunt criticisms of my bidding and play. I have had to explain that I not only invite them, but I relish my rapid improvement as a result. I have benefited not only from the immediate feedback, but also from her detailed ensuing monthly emailed summaries driving her points home.

Nevertheless, there are obviously droves of squeamish over-sensitive players who find it offensive or at least embarrassing (I am NOT talking about the silly attempts at self-justification by some partners or the gloating by some opponents all of which is VERY RUDE and nasty), these are evidenced by the many pleas in the profiles of members of the Bridge Club Live provider. The pleas in the profiles of the more sensitive players are often amusing, but the best one I have encountered recently is this delightful one which I LOVE!

"My declarer play is very good when I am dummy, possibly because when I can see all 4 hands, I can see all your mistakes. When I am declarer, I often make mistakes. I won't tell you yours. Please don't tell me mine as I am probably already well aware".*

* source- alias "Manarola" (Bridge Club Live).

Mike Hammett

Note from the Editor.

Please see some further information on this matter on the penultimate page.

Danny's Page

Extracts from a Captain's Blog: <https://bridgedanny.blogspot.com/>

2022 European Youth Teams Championship

Scotland U26 Team

Match 0

As non-playing captain of the Scotland U26 bridge team my main responsibility has been getting the team to the championship in Veldhoven, near Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. That mission has been largely successful, as five out of the six have made it. That might sound bad but for a while we had only three players (bad number for a bridge team) and I only just made it here myself, arriving after the registration desk closed (apparently there's a stroop-wafel in the goody-bag).

Schiphol airport was not the problem, rather trains across Holland. But the important thing is we have a team, and I have submitted the line-up for tomorrow morning's match ahead of schedule. Choosing the four to play was made easier by the fact that one of our team, who lives in Amsterdam, had to return there after getting stuck in Rotterdam for many hours. She will try again tomorrow morning. It's a small country and I think between us we covered it all today. Donald has promised that next time he is going to hire a van and drive everyone all the way from Scotland. Our full line up is:

Michael Kennedy & Donald MacKillop	Weak NT, 4-card majors
Jamie Day & Tamsin Munro	Weak NT, 4-card majors
Lydia Foale & Jack Shearer	Strong NT, 5-card majors

While everyone else was registering and enjoying their stroop-wafels I attended the Captains' Meeting. Lots of questions about the new tablets that are being used for bidding, alongside real cards.

(The electronic bidding tablets recorded every auction in the event, so you can see how the contracts were reached. Perhaps mercifully, details of the play are not recorded. Ed)

After that the Opening Ceremony - there are 28 nations here in events from U16 to U31. Plus, a magic show. A woman got into a box and her top half was slid sideways, to the sound of 'Crazy in Love.'

My favourite bit among the many card tricks (know your audience) was when someone threw playing cards quite far into the spectators.

It is very hot here, even at night. We just played a few practice hands in a sweltering bar, but I'm assured the playing area is cooler. Hopefully, the heatwave won't affect the Northern European teams unduly. But we are not here to win it. Scotland has a very inexperienced team, and we will be learning rapidly as the event progresses. With no Northern Ireland team, we are the minnows. But, I wonder, can the minnows become winnows? Probably not tomorrow morning as our first match is against Sweden, who start as favourites alongside Poland.

Match 2 vs Hungary

I dared to look at the scores for this match half-way through and saw we were nearly drawing, mostly thanks to picking up a tremendous 13 IMPs on this board.

(In our earlier match against Sweden we were guilty of playing a hand in 5♦ with two balanced hands where 3NT was clearly better. Afterwards we talked about when you would ever want to play in 5 of a minor.

"Only with very distributional hands", I said. I'd like to take credit for the team's decision to play this one in 5♣, except that the pair who bid it – well done Donald and Michael – weren't at that discussion.)

Board 12	♠A864	NS Vul
	♥-	Dealer W
	♦T9	
	♣AJT9743	
♠KT95		♠QJ7
♥953		♥AQJT76
♦QJ832		♦65
♣8		♣K6
	♠32	
	♥K842	
	♦AK74	
	♣Q52	

This was their auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sogor	Donald	Szabo	Michael
Pass	3♣	3♥	3NT
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♣

I like Donald's 3♣ opening even with the 4 spades, though it is very much a maximum (two Aces and a void). Michael's 3NT bid is excellent - if partner has the ♣AK (why not at this vulnerability?) he can count 9 tricks and expects a safe heart lead. It might be nice to penalise 4♥ (at least 2 off), but I can understand Donald bidding 4♠, then it's obvious for Michael to correct back to 5♣.

Donald got a lead of the ♥A, which meant he only needed to ruff one spade and the play was easy. North-South fail in 3NT as West can lead a heart, setting up the suit for when East gets back in, or even a spade, setting up 5 tricks for the defence. 5♣ by North is unbeatable.



After this excitement we slipped a bit and lost the match 40-22, translated into a 15-5 VP loss. Which I'm counting as a win.

Match 14 vs Ireland

This was the big one - our match against Ireland as we fought for the second-last position. The 20 Victory Points on offer was sure to provide a bumper haul for one team, or maybe both of us if it was 10-10.

Ireland raced into the lead, then we got some back with this good effort from Jack and Lydia.

Board 8	♠KQ84 ♥432 ♦K963 ♣A5	None Vul Dealer W									
♠AJT653 ♥9 ♦872 ♣K42	<table border="1"> <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		♠9 ♥AKQ876 ♦4 ♣QJT63
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠72 ♥JT5 ♦AQJT5 ♣987										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jack	-	Lydia	
2♠	Pass	4♥	End

Over the weak 2♠ Lydia bid an immediate 4♥. On their card it says that a new suit from East is game-forcing, but when you know the final contract is going to be 4♥, why bid anything else? (They don't play splinters, so 4♥ must be natural).

4♥ played very nicely for 11 tricks. The Irish East-West, and many other pairs, played 3♠, just making.

Then our same pair bid a very poor Grand Slam, followed by this happier outcome:

Board 14	♠T5 ♥QT7642 ♦K953 ♣6	None Vul Dealer E									
♠AKQ93 ♥AK8 ♦874 ♣93	<table border="1"> <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		♠J7 ♥- ♦AQJT6 ♣AKQJT2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠8642 ♥J953 ♦2 ♣8754										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jack	-	Lydia	
-	-	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
7NT	End		

The game-forcing 2♣ opening seems reasonable, in that partner only needs the ♦K to make game good. On the other hand, when you have such a distributional hand it's very unlikely that a 1♣ opening will be passed out, so that would probably be my choice. I'm not sure what Jack thought when partner opened 2♣! He made a positive response, then jumped to 7NT.

I guess he might as well have bid 7NT the first time, which would have been even more stylish.

There are exactly 13 top tricks (without requiring spades to split or the diamond finesse).

That's my kind of Grand Slam. Well done you two!

The Irish played 2♠+5 ... just kidding. They played in 6♣, along with the majority of pairs.

In this high-scoring encounter Ireland prevailed 50-44, with the result in the balance even on the final board (a further 6♠ slam was available to Jack and Lydia). Well played to the Irish four of Isabel Walsh & Sheila Burke and Aileen Armstrong & Andrew Newbold.

This was our highest scoring game but feels like a loss (it was). We now slip behind our biggest rivals.

Match 16/17 vs Latvia/Israel

Could we overhaul Ireland to finish second last? Our first match today was against Latvia, who for a while were close to us at the bottom end of the table.

I've been sharing the NPC duties with Alisdair MacLeod. By now he's taking over and I'm on holiday.

So, I spent the day at Efteling theme park, and while this match was being played, I was on a rollercoaster.

It started in the dark, went up a little bit, then came crashing down.

That was similar to our scorecard, as we first raced into an 18-0 lead.

Board 1	♠AKT ♥AK872 ♦J64 ♣K6	None Vul Dealer N									
♠7432 ♥QJ9654 ♦A ♣A2	<table border="1"> <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		♠QJ9865 ♥T3 ♦83 ♣Q73
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠- ♥- ♦KQT9752 ♣JT9854										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Donald		Michael
-	1♥	2♠	3♦
3♠	3NT	End	

When partner bid 3NT I would bid 5♣ with the South hand. Not often you get a 0=0=7=6. But partner has double stoppers in the majors plus entries, so 3NT made.

The Latvian North also opened 1♥, but this time East passed. South took the low road, passing, and North had a rather tough time playing 1♥.

It would have been a fun dummy to table, though rather useless in 1♥.

Two off and 11 IMPs to Scotland.

When we came crashing down, we hit the ground hard, including an attempt to make a Grand Slam missing the Ace of trumps. It didn't work out.

For our final match we need to produce a result against Israel.

Although bidding is the thing players worry about, and spend most time discussing, it shouldn't be the priority. I've had many Juniors tell me: "the play's fine, I'm just not sure about the bidding".

They all need to improve their play.

Given that this is our last match, some team awards.

Best play:	Donald
Best bidding	Michael
Best performing pair	Lydia and Jack
Most improved	Tamsin and Jamie.

This was a challenge for our East-West

♠AQJ96 ♥K3 ♦K ♣AKT73	N W E S	♠KT52 ♥AT82 ♦J74 ♣J2	They did well to get to 6♠. West was declarer and got a heart lead. How do you play it?
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Despite trumps being 2-2 our declarer went down. North had four clubs to the Queen, so I presume it was an unnecessary club finesse that cost us.

I think the best line is to win the first heart with the Ace, then ruff some clubs high, but it's not obvious, and after seven days in a hotel and hundreds of boards I can certainly forgive our declarer for going down.

Unfortunately, the 0.58 Victory Points we achieved here leaves us last, unable to overhaul Ireland.

Well played to them! (Congrats also to France, the overall winners of the U26)



The Under 26 Team in the Woods

Jamie Day, Tamsin Munro, Lydia Foale, Jack Shearer and Donald McKillop. Michael Kennedy is crouching in the foreground, and Danny lurks at the back.

Full results at:

<http://db.eurobridge.org/Repository/competitions/22Veldhoven/Microsite/information.htm>

Should you Always Follow the Rules?

We are not talking about the Laws of Bridge: of course, you should always follow those.

We are talking about the various adages and axioms that are supposed to guide you to the best play.

The Rule of 11

This is an excellent Rule that you should apply whenever partner makes a fourth highest lead.

How does it work?

Because the Ace is the boss card our suits are actually numbered 2-14.

If partner leads his 4th highest, he has 3 higher cards.

By subtracting the card led from 11 you can tell how many higher cards are in the other 3 hands.

An example may help:

	♠Q92		If the 7 is 4 th highest West must have ♠AJ87 Subtracting 7 from 11 leaves 4. 2 in dummy, 2 in East's hand Therefore, declarer has no high spades and if dummy plays the 2 you can let the 7 win the trick.
Lead: ♠7		♠KT65	

(Yes, partner may have led a high card from a weak suit: ♠8743.

In that case declarer has ♠AJ and you may as well play low anyway)

That may not seem very useful. How about this?

	♠Q65		The Rule tells us that declarer has just one card higher than the 4. If dummy plays low, it can never gain to play a 3rd hand high King. If South has the ♠A your Ten forces, it out; the ♠K beats the ♠Q later If South has the ♠J he must make one trick however we play If South has the ♠9 or ♠8 the Ten will score
Lead: ♠4		♠KT7	

Regular application of this Rule will make you a better defender.

Why?

It starts you thinking!

If you make a mental note of the card led you can deduce the complete layout of one suit.

This is the first step in building a picture of the hidden hands.

You may know exactly how many cards declarer has in the suit led.

You may infer how many of his High Card Points are located in the suit led, giving you an idea of his holdings in the other suits.

And you can decide which card to play without any tell-tale hesitations when declarer plays from dummy.

So much to think about while declarer is making their plan!

As declarer, you too can apply the Rule of Eleven.

The deductions you can make may help you plan the hand.

The Rule may not be useful on any single deal: but applying it routinely helps you remember which cards have been played and saves a lot of angst in the endgame.

Should you ever NOT apply the Rule of Eleven?

Only when you have reason to believe that the lead is not 4th highest!

Some partnerships prefer 3rd and 5th leads. Against them you can adapt to the Rule of 12 or Rule of 10.

Others play Attitude Leads, leading lowest from strong suits. The Rule is no longer fool proof.

Occasionally partner will lead from a shorter suit – be aware that their longest suit may have been bid by opponents.

Quick Quiz

Mike Gallacher



1) Putting it all together: Defence

Lead: ♥T	♠QT2 ♥J7 ♦KQJ8 ♣AKQJ	
	N W E S	♠KJ84 ♥Q53 ♦A97 ♣943

Auction:

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

You are East. Partner leads the ♥T. (This lead denies a higher honour in your style.)

For each of the 4 hands work out

- a) the distribution of the suits
- b) the high card points

South wins the opening lead with the heart ♥K and shifts to a low Diamond.

How do you plan to beat the contract?

2) Putting it all together: Declarer

West	East
♠QT97642 ♥K5 ♦3 ♣AK5	♠K3 ♥Q873 ♦A864 ♣Q72

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	Dbl	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	End

You are West, playing Acol

North leads the ♥A and continues with a low heart, ruffed by South with the ♠5.

South returns the ♦K

How many tricks can you see?

Plan the play to make your contract.

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

Scotland sent two teams to the European Youth Team Championships in the Netherlands in July. There was a new Under-31 event, where our recently ex-Juniors did not live up to expectation. And an Under-26 event, where our inexperienced team learnt a lot.

Junior Bridge has a reputation for excitement. This deal, reported in the Bulletin by Brian Senior, is rather piquant. It was played in Round 6 of the Under-26 event in the match between Estonia and Sweden.

Board 15	♠QT7 ♥— ♦K9543 ♣AKQ87	NS Vul Dealer S			
♠J532 ♥QT874 ♦J ♣J94	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠K9 ♥A92 ♦AQ872 ♣T32
N					
W E					
S					
	♠A864 ♥KT653 ♦T6 ♣65				

The Ekrens 2♦ opener, showing a weak hand with both majors, originated in Norway. Many players have amended it, using a 2♥ opener to show the hand type. The amended version has been adopted enthusiastically by the Estonian Junior team.

So, the auction in Room 1, with Estonia North-South was:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	End	

North gave preference to his better major, and East made a bold but perhaps ill-judged non-vulnerable intervention with his unexciting 5-3-3-2 distribution.

North's double was penalty, and the hand did not play well.

Four down meant +800 to Estonia

In room 2 Estonia were East-West:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	Pass
2♥	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	End

West's turn to open 2♥.

North leapt to 4NT to show the minors. South opted to play in diamonds, and East knew what to do

This contract was only three down, but that was another 800 to Estonia.

Estonia opened 2♥ at both tables and collected two 800 penalties from doubled diamond contracts at both tables. A sweet 17 imp swing.

Results Page

Some results from events run over the Summer

SOL 7

*The 7th iteration of the SBU Online League was completed later than expected. Summer Blues!
These are the winners of the 8 Divisions*

Division 1	HACKETT Winners of the Victor Silverstone Trophy (Jason, Justin & Paul Hackett, Diego Brenner, Clive Owen, Brian Senior)	118.01 VP
Division 2	WISEMAN (David Wiseman, Mike McGinley, Adam & Yvonne Stokka, Sandra Wiseman, David Ripley)	137.19 VP
Division 3	FITZPATRICK (Anne Fitzpatrick, Harold Curran, Fergal O'Shea, Michael Coffey; Mary Kelly Rogers, Michael O'Kane, John Lavery)	109.53 VP
Division 4	HOUNSELL (Ron Hounsell, Laurence Archer, Susan Aitchison, Joan Lees, Tony Nolan)	128.52 VP
Division 5	MacDONALD (Findlay MacDonald, Fiona Abbott, Thomson Kerr, Janice Thomson, Paul Kerr)	118.27 VP
Division 6	JENKINS (Rod Jenkins, Alex Forsyth, Bill West, David MacDonald, Alistair Crawford)	84.12 VP
Division 7	BRAID (Fiona Braid, Gordon Cunningham, Ann Braid, Jim McClymont, Hazel Rutherford, David Wilbraham)	88.19 VP
Division 8	THOM (Isla Thom, Aileen Stone, Sheena Dunn, Phemie Cameron, Duncan Ross)	118.99 VP

Divisions 1-5 had 10 teams; Divisions 6 & 7 had 8 teams; Division 8 had 9 teams

In response to Hamish Galloway's letter last month ...

I am afraid, just as there is no royal road to learning, there are no shortcuts to applying the Laws of Bridge. Directors have to acquaint themselves with the Laws and should know the common face to face infractions without reference to the book.

In particular, they should know the faced lead out of turn, the revoke; but also have acquaintance with insufficient bids and bids out of turn.

I have created 'cheat sheets' for these and they can be found on the TD page of the SBU website, on the left-hand side called *Most Common Law Infractions*.

I also recommend on the right-hand side of that webpage, *EBU Resources*, which takes you to a page with a list of which the last two are relevant: 'Flowcharts and Common Rulings' and 'Video Tutorial Series'.

Angus Macdonald
SBU Chief TD

Master Point Promotions

July 2022

Senior Life Master

Duncan Rodger W

Regional Master

Cornelius Meehan W

2 Star Master

Judith Sischy E

1 Star Master

Margaret Thomson S

Master

Jim Aitken H

Dorothy Middleton E

Dorothy Weir E

District Master

Alison Collins H

John Wood A

Local Master

Murray Forgie E

Derek Hart N

Malcolm Lee E

Lilian Murray W

Stewart Simpson E

Club Master

Mary Ashmore S

Fiona Gill C

Carol Medlock C

Fiona Murray W

Answers to Quiz:

1) a) Distribution-

South has shown a balanced hand and does not have 4 diamonds or 4 of a major.

We can reasonably assume she has 4 clubs, maybe 5, therefore must have at least 2 cards in all the other suits. Partner likewise will have a balanced hand.

b) High card points-

You have 10 points and dummy has 19.

South has 6-9 for her 1NT response, thus partner has 2-5 points.

South has 6-9 points. She has played the ♥K and also has the heart ♥A.

So, she has no room for the ♠A. Take your ♦A and play a low spade.

Partner will win the Ace and return a spade for you to cash three more spade tricks.

2) There are 23 points between your hand and dummy.

North has 6 hearts and 10+ points and from the bidding must have the ♠A

South has 7-ish HCP and a good 6-card diamond suit (she didn't open a pre-emptive 3♦).

The defence has won the first 2 tricks

You have 3 club tricks and one in diamonds.

You are hoping for 6 more in spades and may make a heart trick.

You do need however to avoid losing 2 spade tricks.

Take your ♦A and play the ♥Q.

If South ruffs you can overruff and give up a spade trick to make your contract.

If South fails to ruff it is reasonable to assume that North has the remaining trump.

Ruff your ♥Q and run the ♠T to trap North's Jack.