



# The SBU Monthly News

**January 2022**

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*The SBU Tournament Convener would like to draw your attention to correct alerting procedures on BBO. You can find an article on the website – it involves a fair bit of scrolling!*

*Go to the website: [Home - SBU](#)*

*Scroll down the right hand side till you find the heading **SBU Online Club**.*

*Under **Guidance for Players** select **Instructions for Players**.*

*This is a 16-page document with lots of useful information.*

***Alerting Procedures** appear on pages 10 and 11.*

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

# 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 online on **18-20 February**. There are 6 teams in the Junior Camrose, with England providing 2 teams; just 4 in the Peggy Bayer where Wales is unable to field a team. Because the events are online each team is allowed a reserve pair in case of technical problems.

Our teams are:

<b>Junior Camrose:</b>	Ewan Anderson & Ronan Valentine	Donald MacKillop & John Russell
	Adam Tobias & Wan-Hew Tran	Res: Rufus Behr & Lydia Foale
<b>Peggy Bayer:</b>	Chloe Farrell & David Tobias;	Harry Stuart & Jamie Day
	Kevin Ren & Michael Kennedy	Res: Aidan Woodley & Alexander Duncan

The events will be run on RealBridge: you can watch on [RealBridge](#) with the usual half hour delay

## National Events

Not too late to enter the one-day Swiss **Teams** on **Sunday 30 January**.

The **Mixed Swiss Pairs** (*Ruby Martin Trophy*) is on **Saturday 12 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm

The **Mixed Swiss Teams** (*Helen Walton Trophy*) is on **Sunday 13 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm

The **Men's and Women's National Pairs** are on **Saturday 26 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm

The **Men's and Women's National Teams** are on **Sunday 27 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm

The Swiss Pairs events will be held on Real Bridge and the Swiss Teams events will be on BBO

## Weekly Events

The SBU runs these events **on BBO** for your enjoyment in the dark winter days:

Tuesdays at 7pm:	Match Pointed Pairs
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](http://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.

## Other Events

Your Club and District also run tournaments. For details consult their websites.

Go to <https://www.sbu.org.uk>. Click on **Districts** to find the one that applies to you.

(You will find your **local club website** on your District site).

The **East District** would love you to enter their **Mixed Pairs** (McGregor Cup) on **Friday 4 February** and their **Bronze Challenge** on **Sunday 6 February**.

Open to all – more information on the website [www.sbueast.org.uk](http://www.sbueast.org.uk)

## Scotland Dominates the 2021 IBPA Awards

Team Scotland has been awarded the **Alan Truscott Memorial Award** by the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA).

This prestigious award is presented periodically to an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, has done something in the world of bridge that Alan\*\* would have approved of and appreciated.

Team Scotland won the award for the stance it took in this year's European Bridge League Qualification Event. This was run as a Round Robin where each of the 30 participating European nations was drawn to play each other. Scotland was first to face the Italian team, whose selection had been controversial, so they chose not to take their virtual seats at the bridge table. They accepted a zero for the forfeit rather than dignify the opposition by playing the match. Every other country taking part subsequently followed suit.



The Scottish Open Team: (l to r). Anne Perkins (npc); Derrick Peden; Stephen Peterkin; Jim Hay; Alex Adamson, Sam Punch; Derek Sanders

The IBPA **Award for Personality of the Year** was conferred on our international player **Samantha Punch**, professor of sociology at the University of Stirling, and the driving force behind BAMSA (Bridge: A MindSport for All), previously known as 'Keep Bridge Alive'. BAMSA was launched in 2019 in order to use academic research in collaboration with bridge organisations to transform the image of bridge, increase participation and enhance sustainability of the mindsport.



And Sam's book *Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens* was the recipient of a third IBPA award, being conferred **Master Point Press Book of the Year**, jointly with Simon Cocheme for *Bridge with a Twist*.

"I am delighted particularly regarding the book which I'm very proud of, because it is where the whole BAMSA journey started. BAMSA wouldn't exist if I hadn't done those interviews so it's also a big thank you to the players who gave up their time for all my questions and to the team of editors, including BAMSA volunteers, for helping to cut down the 30-40 pages of interview to a chapter length version. I'm doubly proud to have written a bridge book with no bridge hands!

"It's also great for BAMSA and Team Scotland, and to reassure people that the crowdfunding that has gone to BAMSA is being put to good use",

(Sam Punch)

"The really important thing is the gravitas of the recipients of previous awards in all three categories," It is an outstanding achievement for Sam and the team to be granted these awards."

(Joan Forsyth, President of the Scottish Bridge Union)

[www.sbu.org.uk](http://www.sbu.org.uk)

[www.bridgemindsport.org](http://www.bridgemindsport.org)

@bridgemindsport

*\*\*Alan Truscott (1925-2005) was prominent in British bridge in the 1950s. He emigrated to the USA where he was the bridge correspondent of the New York Times from 1964 till his death. He was one of the main witnesses in the Reese / Schapiro cheating accusation in Buenos Aires in 1965. The British pair were found guilty by the WBF but exonerated for lack of conclusive evidence by a British judicial enquiry. Truscott's book on the subject "The Great Bridge Scandal" was re-issued in 2004.*

*The Italian team at the EBL Qualification event contained a player found guilty of cheating by the EBL. He appealed successfully against his ban to the Council for Arbitration in Sport.*

# The Casebook of Samantha Spade, Bridge Detective

## The Case of the Missing Queen

I first met Miss Samantha Spade across green baize in the summer of 19xx. I was a relatively new bridge player and was partnered with her that afternoon: it was to be the first of many games. She was a small bird-like lady with eyes that ranged from sunny Mediterranean blue to icy Arctic grey depending on her mood. We agreed our system – Benjaminised Acol with a weak No Trump. She was business-like and yet had an ability to put me at my ease – and also on my mettle. I wanted to impress her with my play.

Her play seemed to me to be faultless. Then there came a deal which made me appreciate her skill as a player.

My hand was:

♠AK42
♥A64
♦KJ8
♣965

I opened 1♠ intending to rebid 1NT to show my 15 HCP. She responded 2♥. Realising that she must have a 5-card suit for her bid and 10+HCP I raised her to game.

West, her LHO, began with the snap of the ♣A followed in rapid succession by the ♣K and ♣Q. We all followed suit and then she switched to a trump. My anxiety grew – we couldn't afford to lose another trick. Miss Spade drew trump and played the ♠A and ♠K, West's ♠Q falling under her ♠K. Miss Spade then played on diamonds, finessing East for the ♦Q. The finesse succeeded and Miss Spade was able to claim the rest of the tricks.

There was still a little time before the move was called and West advised her partner:

“In future, do keep your cards higher. At least then it would be a 50% chance.”

Miss Spade sighed: in the future I would learn that she had a large range of very expressive sighs. This one was contemptuous with a hint of indignation.

“My dear lady, it was obvious from the bidding that your partner held the ♦Q.”

West tilted her head: “But we didn't bid anything!”, she retorted irritably.

“Exactly. It was like the curious incident of the dog in the night-time. Watson said: ‘But the dog did nothing in the night-time’. Holmes retorted that was the curious incident. On this occasion, you, West did not open the bidding. Having shown up with the ♠AKQ and the ♠Q, the ♦Q would give you 13 HCP and an opening bid of 1NT. Therefore, as you did not bid, East was marked with the ♦Q.”

Full Deal

	♠AK42 ♥A64 ♦KJ8 ♣965	Dealer West
♠Q5 ♥1053 ♦9532 ♣AKQ2	N W     E S	♠JT986 ♥J2 ♦QT4 ♣J74
	♠73 ♥KQ987 ♦AT7 ♣T83	

At that, the move was called, and they rose from the table.

I was never sure if Miss Spade overheard East whisper to her partner:

“I think she just called you a dog!” – but the curve of her lip made me think she had.

*Helen Taylor*

*The first in a series by our Dundee author...*



# Danny's Page

More tips gleaned from teaching Juniors....



## How to make extra tricks

Usually when you are declarer you have a stronger hand than dummy, and more trumps. You can therefore view your hand as providing the main source of tricks, with dummy giving a bit of help. Sometimes dummy helps with high cards, sometimes with a shortage that means you can ruff. Sometimes dummy helps with a long side-suit that you can establish, which is a bit harder to spot.

Very often when dummy has shortage (meaning you can ruff), it also has a long side-suit (which you can establish). But it's usually difficult to do both, and you have to decide which to do. For example, take this hand that my junior teams played in the *Inter Schools Trophy*.

	♠K8754	EW Vul
	♥3	Dealer N
	♦QJT93	
	♣J3	
♠AJ		♠Q2
♥AJ6		♥KQT84
♦A4		♦K852
♣AT8754		♣Q9
	♠T963	
	♥9752	
	♦76	
	♣K62	

You are East, declarer in 4♥.

You have 9 top tricks: 1 Spade, 5 Hearts, 2 Diamonds, 1 Club.

You only need one more trick. The easiest way to get it is to ruff a Diamond. Then take the Spade finesse for the overtrick.

But what if you are playing 6♥?

(Not so far-fetched, as one Junior Pair bid it.)

You now need three extra tricks on top of the nine you have.

- Option 1 is to go for two diamond ruffs, plus the spade finesse. If this all works you get 2 spades, 5 hearts, 4 diamonds, 1 club for 12 tricks.
- Option 2 is to try and set up the Clubs for one loser. If it works you get 1 spade, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds, 4 clubs for 12 tricks.

Although going for the ruffs is the natural thing to do for most players, it's going to be tough. You need the 50/50 Spade finesse, plus a lot more, as getting back to hand each time to ruff, then draw trumps, is going to be tricky.

In Option 2 if Clubs behave reasonably, you are home, and that's it.

So, if you need 12 tricks setting up the long suit is the better option.

On this layout the Spade finesse fails, so Option 1 will never get you 12 tricks.

Option 2 will lead to 6♥= unless you get a Spade lead.

In total the hand was played four times. The two more experienced Junior declarers in 4♥ both took a Diamond ruff, and picked up a second club trick, for 4♥+1 (the Spade finesse failed). One of the less experienced declarers got to 6♥ and got a diamond lead. Unfortunately the play didn't match the bidding, and perhaps overwhelmed by options and the level of the contract declarer neither ruffed diamonds *nor* set up clubs and finished with the 9 tricks he started off with, for 6♥-3.

**Summary:** if you need lots of tricks consider setting up a long suit in dummy.

# Ask Derek



*Derek Sanders is a Scottish International who teaches bridge and runs the Edinburgh No Fears Bridge Club, with its own website:*

[www.bridgewebs.com/dereksanders](http://www.bridgewebs.com/dereksanders).

Derek runs 'No Fear' Tournaments and discusses some of the hands afterwards, giving useful tips and answering questions from his players.

*Here is a question from Tom*

	♠A32	NS Vul
	♥T96	Dealer W
	♦QT52	
	♣T63	
♠KQJ4		♠T9876
♥KJ5		♥843
♦K983		♦A6
♣K5		♣A97
		♠5
		♥AQ72
		♦J74
		♣QJ842

Bidding			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	?	

*I sat East and partner opened 1♠.*

*We play a weak NT with 4-card majors, and I decided to make a simple raise to 2♣.*

*My partner, with the balanced 16 points, passed and then made 3 overtricks.*

*Despite only 8 points and a balanced hand was I worth more?*

## *Derek's Answer*

**Thanks, Tom, for this interesting hand.**

**Firstly, let's evaluate your cards.**

- 1) Two aces, always worth more than 8 points.**
- 2) 5-card Spade support, worth an extra 2 distributional points.**

**That's about 10 plus points!**

**Since you play a weak NT, your partner will be unbalanced or strong balanced, so will not be embarrassed by a raise to 3S.**

**They can pass with a poor semi balanced hand and play the 10-card fit.**

**With the better hands partner can raise to 4S**

**Either way you will not come to any harm.**

**There are a couple of plusses to this action in that the 3S bid may well push the opponents off the hand when partner has rubbish, and you now win the board by pre-empting them.**

**If the opponents do bid and partner doubles, you have the pair of Aces to help defeat any contract.**

**Great question ....**

## SBU Tournaments – Value for Money?

Ever wondered why the SBU has been so keen to squeeze every penny out of its members since Covid began? Me too.



It seemed so unfair to me that when a large proportion of its members were stuck at home with nothing else to do but play online bridge, the SBU suddenly raised the charges for all their competitions. Why do that? I asked myself. Why do that when online there are virtually no costs involved? No hotels or premises to pay for, just a few buttons to click and away you go. And perched on my very high horse I decided to take a stand (as you do), refusing on principle to enter any SBU competitions where the entry fee was over £5 per session.

I usually quite like taking a stand, but this one proved to be rather frustrating. As the bridge events calendar continued, I found I was missing out on quite a few good bridge competitions, and with no face-to-face club contact I didn't even have the satisfaction of letting anyone know that I was making some kind of protest.

The only thing that lessened the frustration was the stream of SBU emails looking for more entries to national competitions. These were phrased along the lines of "Hurry, you still have time to register", but anyone who has tried to sell a lacklustre product at a Christmas craft fair knows that the call "Only a few left!" is all part of the game. The numbers playing in SBU competitions were definitely way down, and I took a kind of comfort in that, knowing others must feel the same as me. "That's what you get for being greedy, Mr SBU," I thought. "Put the prices down to what they were pre-Covid, and you'll get more entries." But time went on and nothing changed.

The final call for more pairs to enter this year's Bowman Trophy was the last straw for me. I really wanted to enter that competition, because I knew and liked Charlie Bowman very much, but of course it cost more than £10 to enter this double session event. In a fit of pique, I flashed off an email to the SBU with all the bottled-up complaints of the past year about how they were taking advantage of their housebound membership and ripping everyone off.

As soon as the "send" button was pressed I regretted my hasty action. Had I really dared to question this all-powerful committee? What dreadful punishment would I face for speaking my mind? A snippy email saying, "Who do you think you are?" A ban from BBO competitions, perhaps? Excommunication from the SBU?

In fact, the following day I got a very pleasant reply, with attachments giving explanations of prices pre and post Covid, together with the relevant costs of online bridge. I was surprised, not only at the friendly tone of the email but also at the information it contained.

- I didn't know how big a slice BBO take of all entry money.
- I didn't know that competition TD's on BBO have to undertake funded training.
- I didn't know that 20% VAT is chargeable on all entry fees received

In fact, there was an awful lot I didn't know, and I felt a bit silly when I realised that our entry fees are not all going into some SBU slush fund.

What made me feel most stupid, though, was my belief that the entry fees had all been hiked up so much. They haven't. These are the facts:

- The cost of entering events has reduced by 25% compared to pre-Covid
- Double session events now cost BBO\$15 (£11.25) when they were £16 previously

Maybe it was the BBO dollar/pound thing that confused me, or just being more aware of my finances in Lockdown, but the evidence is plain - competitions do cost less now than pre-Covid.

Once that misconception was blown out of the water, the fog seemed to clear, and I realised that playing in SBU tournaments on BBO is rather a cheap hobby. It costs no more than £2 per hour, and we don't even have travel or parking to pay for. Comparing this to cinemas, football matches, a round of golf or even going for a coffee it really isn't expensive.

So, I did sign up for the Bowman, and it felt great to be playing in a National competition again. Rather than complaining, maybe I will get off the high horse now, shut him away in his stable and start appreciating the thought and effort that has gone into providing us SBU members with the opportunity to continue playing bridge in these difficult times.

**Sue Gordon**

# Quick Quiz

*Mike Gallacher*



## 1) Counting high card points

You are sitting North. From the bidding, what is your partner South's point range in each of the following?

And which of South's second bids are forcing, if any?

	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>		<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>		<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
a)	1♦	1♥	b)	1♦	1♥	c)	1♦	1♥
	1♠	2NT		1♠	3♥		1♠	3♦

## 2) Counting distribution.

From the bidding how many cards does declarer have in the suits they have bid?

(In hand a) you can work out the exact distribution of opener's 13 cards.)

	<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>
a)	1♣	1♦	b)	1♣	1♠	c)	1NT	2♣
	1♠	1NT		2♥	3♥		2♥	3NT
	2♦			4♥			4♠	

## 3) Counting Tricks

West	East
♠K	♠AQ4
♥J6	♥AT532
♦QJT84	♦96
♣AK975	♣832

You are East, declarer in 3NT.

The ♠2 is led (opposition play 4<sup>th</sup> highest).

How many tricks can you see?

How will you ensure your contract?

Answers: at the end of the Newsletter

*Mike is a bridge teacher based in Kirkcaldy.*

# Puzzle Corner

*The Quotes are from the American bridge player Edgar Kaplan, long time editor of the Bridge World and renowned Vugraph commentator.*

## CODEWORD

Three quotations have been encoded by a simple letter substitution: each letter of the alphabet has been randomly replaced by another.

(Each quote has its own code.)

1: J INDJINI J UWC W HKKI RXJIHN QAWLNK UFNZ J MKTZI KTO OFWO  
OFN QNKQAN UFKCN ZWSNC J FWI FNWXI WAA SL AJMN, QNKQAN J  
XNCQNDONI, IJI OFN CWSN ITSR OFIZHC J IJI.

2: S VCQGNSVG JPLCBPY "SBJAGACRY" CQIU HW LPVISNPN BSFPY AG.  
KP MSXP CGMPN KCNLY WCN AG AW AG ECPY LCKQ.  
GMAY VCQGNSVG KPQG LCKQ CQIU CQP.  
AG KSY QPSNIU SBJAGACRY.

3: G TUR'D DZGRQ MRLURH GR DZGY DUIJRMVHRD EMR OGT  
TGMVURTY DU YZUA TGMVURTY.  
AH PUYD DZH EPIO YIGD GR DZH 1950Y.  
RUA TGMVURTY MJH WURH MRT ZHMJDY MJH WUGRW XMYD.

*Hint: Look for short words, and frequently occurring combinations....*

*What do you think about the Puzzle Corner?*

*If you like the idea, might you consider producing a puzzle of your own?*

*We would be very grateful!*



# Results Page

*Some results from events run in December*

## December Online Congress:

The December Congress is run as a Swiss event, with Pairs on the Saturday and Teams on the Sunday

The **Swiss Pairs** on Saturday 11 December had an entry of 72 Pairs

1	<b>Richard Acaster &amp; Gil Fletcher</b>	<b>60.74%</b>
2	Isobel & Jim Brown	57.53%
3	Rob Boulton-Jones & John Larkin	57.41%
4	David Ripley & David Wiseman	56.49%
5	Derek & Martin Diamond	56.31%
6	Alex Adamson & Glen Falconer	56.19%
7	Beryl Campbell & Joan Forsyth	55.74%
8	John & Sarah Williams	55.33%
9	Sandy Duncan & Bob McPaul	55.27%
10	Peter Moss & Ying Piper	55.18%

The **Swiss Teams** on Sunday 12 December had a matching 36 teams

1	<b>Peter Moss &amp; Ying Piper; Paul Maiolani &amp; Jim McMenemy</b>	<b>124 VP</b>
2	John di Mambro & Douglas Mitchell; Martin Bateman & Callum Mckail	102 VP
3	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith; Liam O'Brien & Ronan Valentine	101 VP
4	Joyce Benson & Martin Diamond; Alan & Barbara Kay	100 VP
5	John Matheson & Liz McGowan; Brian Callaghan & Christine Duckworth	97 VP
6=	Archie & Pam Leith; Andy & Jan Philip	96 VP
	Alex Adamson & Glen Falconer; Gints Freimanis & Derek Sanders	96 VP

## SBU Online League (SOL):

This has proved a popular innovation during the pandemic.

### Winners of the Fifth Iteration

Division 1	Victor Silverstone, Barnet Shenkin, Steve Levinson, Derek Diamond, Brian Spears
Division 2	Charles & Vi Outred, Catherine & David Gerrard
Division 3	Peter Cairns, Jim McLaughlin, Les Verth, Shirish Chotai, Alex Cram, Raymond Levitus
Division 4	Anne Coles, Alex Russell, Mairi Sheils, Sylvia Peterson
Division 5	Tom Bagnall, Andrew Harborow, David & Shona Anderson, Denise King, David Hamilton, Chris Bagnall
Division 6	Louis Glekin, Raymond Blin, Charles Fogelman, David Edelman, Sandra Winocour, Harold Hammer, Hilary & Monte Marco
Division 7	Jennifer MacDonald, Felicity McLelland, Cecilia McRitchie, Diana Ritchie, David Hartley, Helen Hunter, Elaine McGregor
Division 8	Jane Frier, Marjorie Gracie, Margaret Forrest, Fred Milligan, Moira Brown

*Sadly, Victor Silverstone died before the League was complete. His team-mates donated their prize money for the purchase of a trophy in his memory for the winners of the First Division, to be called the **Victor Silverstone Trophy***

# Master Point Promotions

December 2021

## Scottish Master

Glen Falconer E  
Tricia Hewitt C

## Regional Master

Susan Geddes W  
Martin McGinley A  
Simon Rowbottom E  
Yuen Man Rowbottom E  
Jim Williams E

## Senior Master

Lesley Dick E

## 4 Star Master

Margaret Little A  
Derek McLachlan E

## 3 Star Master

Jack Suchodolski W

## 2 Star Master

Gordon Finch E  
Mary Mackenzie W  
Bill McArdle E

## 1 Star Master

Mike Hammett E  
David King E  
Anne Murdoch A  
Judith Smeaton E

## Master

Robert Alexander E  
Joan Cargill C  
Morag Easton W  
Valerie Lacey C  
Edna Paterson W  
John Wilmot W  
Alice Wilson W

## District Master

Dave Harrold H  
Diana Mackay E  
Gwen MacLeod E  
Muriel MacLeod W  
Elizabeth Thompson E  
Morag Young W

## Local Master

Maureen Armit E  
John Hunter C  
John MacDonald H  
Cath MacNeal E  
Dave Walker H

## Club Master

John Black H  
Jean Bonar C  
Stella Craig W  
Lesley Davidson W  
Alexander Duncan I  
Margaret Fyfe W  
Sheevaun Gallacher E  
Gladys Marwick H  
Camilla Milne E  
Ian Pennington C  
Karyn Slatter I  
Andrew Vinten C  
Sel Williams H  
Sharen Wilson W

## Solutions to Quick Quiz

1a) 11-12   b) 9-11 with a 6-card suit   c) 11-13  
None of South's second bids are forcing

2a) 4-1-3-5   b) 5C-4H   c) 4 cards in both majors.

3) You have 6 winners: 3 in Spades, 1 in Hearts, none in Diamonds and 2 in Clubs.

Win the ♠2 with the King and play on Diamonds. Play a small card to the ♦9 to establish the 3 extra tricks you need. If you play on clubs there is a danger that you will lose 2 Clubs, 2 Diamonds, and another trick and go down

## Solutions to CODEWORD

- 1      I decided I was a good bridge player when I found out that the people whose names, I had heard all my life, people I respected, did the same dumb things I did.
- 2      A contract becomes "ambitious" only if declarer makes it. We have other words for it if it goes down. This contract went only one down. It was nearly ambitious.
- 3      I don't think anyone in this tournament can bid diamonds to show diamonds. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone, and hearts are going fast.