



The SBU Monthly News

February 2022

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

How is it going, club-wise?

We would love to hear how your Club has been coping in these difficult times.

What's on Offer in March

The Second **Camrose** weekend is on 4-6 March

Our teams are:

Scotland: Alex Adamson & Derek Sanders; Stephen Peterkin & Sam Punch
Barnet Shenkin & Steve Levinson NPC Anne Perkins

SBU: Cathy Ferguson & Bob McKinnon Archie Bouverie & Finlay Marshall
John Matheson & Liz McGowan NPC Angus MacDonald

Scotland was unlucky in January, particularly in the slam zone, and currently lie sixth. The **SBU** team scored just below average and are fourth. Fingers crossed!

*The event will be run on **RealBridge**. You can follow the action with the usual half-hour delay. Full results will be available on the SBU website.*

National Events

Not too late to enter

The **Men's and Women's National Pairs** on **Saturday 26 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm
The **Men's and Women's National Teams** on **Sunday 27 February** from 11 am to 6.30 pm

*The Pairs will be played on **RealBridge**; you need to register on the SBU website to get the link. The Teams are on BBO. Please register in advance via the SBU website.*

District Heats of the **National Pairs** will be held on **Sunday 20 March**.
Leading pairs qualify for the **Final** on **9 April**.

*Information on how to enter can be found on your District website.
Go to the SBU site <https://www.sbu.org.uk> and click on "Districts and Clubs."*

Weekly Events

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

Tuesdays at 7 pm:	Match Pointed Pairs
Saturdays at 7 pm:	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, you can 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.

The **South District Congress** is on March 4-5

The **Highland District Strathpeffer Congress** is on March 25-27

Congresses are fun – why not give one a go?



Peebles Congress

11-13th March 2022 at Peebles Hydro

Celebrate the return of face-to-face bridge in Scotland

After what has been a very challenging time for everyone in the bridge-playing world, the SBU asks for your support in making sure we return to physically present bridge in good numbers.

Peebles Hydro is offering a great value deal for the congress including the bridge, accommodation, food, and the gala dinner on Saturday.

We will start officially at **20:00 on Friday** with the first session of a three-session Swiss Teams and have experts on hand in the bar to support the post-mortem questions.

On Saturday, we will host a two-session Swiss Pairs finishing at 17:30.

In true Scottish style, on Saturday we have the Gala Dinner, offering three courses with wine.

After dinner, there will be **late-night speedball**, fun bridge!

On Sunday we will enjoy two rounds of Teams, completing the three-session Swiss and then move swiftly into the evening prize-giving, accompanied by complimentary drinks.

We aim to restore a sense of occasion to the game, and therefore black tie, suits, or **equivalent evening wear** are all strongly encouraged at the evening sessions, with a special emphasis on the Gala Dinner.

The congress is designed as a celebration of the social aspects of the game. It is a residential congress, and we encourage everyone to stay in the hotel. We hope that you will all support this event and show that in the “new bridge normal” there is a place for well-attended congress tournaments.

We will of course work within Government guidelines and with the local authority to ensure that any protocols required at the time of the congress to protect against the spread of the virus are met.

Peebles Hydro has put together a great value deal for this Congress.

Three Nights at the Hydro:	Single Room	£406.50 pp
	Double/Twin	£329.00 pp
	Double (single occupancy)	£466.50 pp
	Triple	£290.00 pp
	Quad	£270.00 pp

Includes dinner each night and breakfast each morning plus:

- Soup & Sandwich lunch on Friday
- Buffet Lunch Saturday & Sunday
- Afternoon tea or coffee
- Gala Dinner with wine Saturday night

(Two-night prices and Thursday night prices are available on the website or by contacting the **hotel**)
Payment is required at the time of booking to get this deal and it is non-refundable.

This is bookable with voucher (or promo) code **SBU2022**. You can book online or over the phone.
There are a limited number of rooms available for this deal and it will be first-come, first-served.

For other details please email the SBU convenor at congress@sbu.org.uk

Book with the hotel online, over the phone or by email. http://www.booking.com/peebles_hydro/peebles

For further details and to book the events visit the SBU website [Home - SBU](#)

The Casebook of Samantha Spade, Bridge Detective

The Case of Eight Ever, Nine Never?

Another time I played with Samantha Spade, still fresh from my bridge lessons, I sat across from her in the bar area during the afternoon break for tea. It was the first day that you could feel a bite in the air, the herald of autumn and the end of the summer. Samantha was waiting for her cup of Earl Grey to cool down enough to drink and was whiling away the time with a crochet hook, working on a mysterious cylindrical object taking shape beneath swift fingers. I coughed to attract her attention and she looked up with a gentle sigh and a smile.

"I was wondering about the last hand," I began. Samantha put down the woolly mass and replied, "Yes, an interesting hand for many reasons," she replied, "What were you wondering about it?"

My hand was:

♠ 654
♥ QT32
♦ A3
♣ A763

My partner, sitting South, opened 1♥. I was about to respond 3♥, when suddenly from my RHO there was a bid of 2♥, alerted by her partner. I asked and was informed it showed at least 5/5 in spades and diamonds. At that time, I decided that there was no need for the overcall to interfere with my usual bid, so I responded 3♥ which my partner raised to game. West now intervened with 4♠, and, keen to show partner that I had my full 3♥ bid and wasn't stretching, I had a sudden rush of blood to my head and bid 5♥. Samantha Spade gave a small, barely audible sigh which made me think she might have been considering a penalty double but was too well-bred a partner to mention it at the table.

Her LHO began with the ♠A followed rapidly in succession by the ♠K and the ♦K. Winning with my ♦A Samantha equally quickly drew trumps in two rounds and played towards my ♣A. She led a low club back to my hand and played her ♣J without hesitation. Following with the ♣K, which felled East's ♣Q, she scooped up eleven tricks, making the contract.

"I was wondering why you knew to finesse the Q♣ and not play for the fall. We were taught in the classes eight ever, nine never, meaning to play for the Queen to fall if you held 9 cards in the suit but to take the finesse if you hold 8 cards. How could you tell?"

Samantha smiled indulgently. "It really was not complicated – just a matter of counting. We were assured that the 2♥ bid showed a minimum of 5/5 in spades and diamonds. West held two hearts therefore she could not have held more than one club. I played over to your Ace in case it was the singleton ♣Q, then when she followed it was a marked finesse. West could not hold the missing club card, it had to be East."

Full Deal

		♠ 654 ♥ QT32 ♦ A3 ♣ A763	Dealer South EW Vul
	♠ AKT72 ♥ 95 ♦ KQJ97 ♣ 5	N W E S	♠ J93 ♥ J6 ♦ T8652 ♣ QT8
		♠ Q8 ♥ AK874 ♦ 4 ♣ KJ942	

"When you explain it, it actually does sound really simple – I should have been able to work it out myself!"

"Indeed – and you will in time and with practice. It is interesting, sometimes the bidding reveals exactly how to play a hand; it makes it easier to reconstruct the distribution. It's a good thing to think about things like this when you're playing – some bridge players see but they do not observe or make the correct deductions. And it's also good to see statements, like "8 ever, 9 never" considered to be guidelines rather than rules to be followed rigorously.

Anything else you would like to ask?"

"Actually - there is just one more thing: what exactly are you crocheting?"

"It's a winter coat for Roger my dachshund. He's getting on and feels the cold nowadays. And today it feels like autumn is just around the corner."

We looked at each other and began to laugh just as the tournament director called us back to the table.

Helen Taylor



Danny's Page

More tips gleaned from teaching Juniors....



How to make a doomed contract.

Suppose you are playing 4♠, with four top losers. What are you supposed to do? Claim down one (against top opposition?). Better is to try and steal the contract.

One option is to play off all your trumps, then hope something good happens at the end. The opponents may throw away so many winners that they make the mistake of keeping the wrong one. Or they end up clashing their King and Ace on the same trick. Or one defender wins but then must return something to help you. There are a few ways to win.

The alternative approach is to try and steal the contract early on by sneaking a trick past the defence. You can grab a singleton King, or set up a suit before the defence gets organised.

Which of these two approaches do you go for I think is partly a question of personality? If you like to leave the washing-up to soak and put off the nasty work, you go for the first approach. Take your 9 winners, then hope something good happens. If you're the sort of person who likes to rip a plaster off quickly and deal with the problem straight away, you go for the second approach, trying to steal your 10th trick immediately.

Here's an example hand:

Board 11	♠K65 ♥4 ♦T9742 ♣QJT9	None Vul Dealer S									
♠73 ♥9873 ♦K863 ♣A87	<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		♠A98 ♥652 ♦AJ5 ♣K643
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠QJT42 ♥AKQJT ♦Q ♣52										

You open the South hand 1♠. Your partner makes a slightly dubious 2♠ raise and with your strong hand you go on to game.

West leads a heart which you win in hand. There are four top losers. One spade, one diamond, and two clubs. Claim down one?

Not yet. These are your two options:

- Draw trumps, and if the defence hasn't taken their four tricks yet then play off all your trumps and your hearts. Finally, play a club and hope the defence end up crashing their ♣AK.
- Immediately start on clubs. If the defence doesn't get round to playing diamonds, you can discard a losing diamond on dummy's clubs.

The first line is the safest, as it begins by drawing trumps, and it is the one most players would take. At the table, the declarer chose this line (and went one off).

The second line looks like it shouldn't work but just might do. *You* know the defence can safely play diamonds, but *they* don't. West might be reluctant to lead away from his ♦K. And maybe when East wins his club honour, he'll want to play trumps to cut down heart ruffs (he doesn't know you've got a solid heart suit), or he might even return a heart (his partner's suit).

The point is: defence is the hardest part of the game and what's clear to a declarer will not always be clear to the defence. So, make life as hard as possible for the defenders, and sometimes they'll get it wrong.

On this hand there is a third option, a bit harder to spot:

- Play four rounds of Hearts, discarding three clubs from dummy. On the fourth round of Hearts, one opponent will be out of Hearts (even if they split 4-3), but he might have to ruff with the singleton Ace of trumps. You could try and improve your chances by sneaking a round of trumps through first (e.g., leading the ♠J), which increases the chance that later when an opponent ruffs your Heart, they may have to do it with their Ace.

This gives you a small genuine chance of making it, but risks going down two if the defence ruff a heart winner, then take their other four tricks. This could be the best line against expert defenders, who you would expect to always take their tricks.

Here's another hand, this time from a Glasgow League Match:

Board 22	♠J4 ♥A832 ♦K7543 ♣K5	EW Vul Dealer E									
♠Q73 ♥QJ74 ♦J2 ♣9874	<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		♠AKT8652 ♥K9 ♦A6 ♣QJ
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠9 ♥T65 ♦QT98 ♣AT632										

As East I opened 1♠ and rebid 4♣ over partner's 1NT response. 4♣ is not a bad contract, but when South found the killing diamond lead it looked like I had a certain four losers. I turned to hearts immediately, even before drawing trumps. My logic was that if you're going for the steal-a-trick route, you need to do it as early as possible. Leaving trumps out is fine as there's no risk of a ruff on this hand. It also gives the defence more to think about. Drawing trumps would give the defender who runs out first a chance to signal. In the heart suit, there is the chance of getting a useful discard from dummy, but surely once I touch hearts it will be obvious to the defence what's going on?

Certainly, if I had started by leading the ♥K then the defence would take their Ace, see the winning ♥QJ in dummy, realise they can only get one diamond (before dummy ruffs) so turn to clubs. I, therefore, tried leading the ♥9 from hand. This feels awkward, as I've blocked the heart suit, but that's not going to be a problem. North took his ♥A, cashed a diamond, and went into a "think". I could see that there were two clubs to lose, but he didn't know that. He also didn't know I had the ♥K hidden in my hand. The longer he thought, the more my hopes went up. Only a club will beat me. Finally, he played a diamond, and so the contract was made.

So, here's what I've learned. If you're going for a deception play:

- Do it as soon as possible before the defence know what's going on
- Hide the honours in the closed hand

And don't be surprised if some of the time the defenders help you out - it's much harder for them than it is for you.

A final example is from a Glasgow League match in 2020.

Board 9	♠432 ♥- ♦KT962 ♣AJ843	EW Vul Dealer N									
♠65 ♥A7643 ♦Q4 ♣K965	<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		♠AK8 ♥KQJT985 ♦75 ♣Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠QJT97 ♥2 ♦AJ83 ♣T72										

You are East, declarer in 5♥. You've overbid, so you better make it. You get the ♠Q lead. There are three top losers. What's your plan? Following the rules above (do it quickly and use the closed hand), you cross to dummy to lead a club towards your singleton ♣Q. Looking at all four hands it's obvious for North to take the ♣A and cash two diamonds for contract one down), but what if you had a club void in hand? Then playing the ♣A would be a big mistake.

Leading a low Club from the North hand early on makes the defender guess, and at least some of the time they're going to guess wrong.

Now try a Google Quiz on [How to make a Doomed Contract](#)

This article originally appeared on <https://bridgedanny.blogspot.com>

Techies – The Education group needs your help!

We in education, are moving towards greater use of video recordings for lessons. The experience in Highland District is that students like them because they can pause or replay a difficult part and play them when the time suits. They are useful in both face-to-face and online lessons. This will expand the number of adults we teach, and already we are using short clips in schools. We urgently need people with editing skills and an interest in making bridge videos. A training day will be run by Sue Johnson of New Tricks for any interested parties.

If you are interested in helping edit existing videos or making new ones, please contact us at highland@education.sbu.com.uk. If successful, these videos will be made available to all.

Why not try Bridge Club Live?

Do you enjoy copy/pasting your system every round you play?
Are you fed up with having to waste time registering so early?
Do you look forward to the streams of dollars you pay out of your bank account along with the exchange rate charges you pay?
Do you like having your chat distorted or even deleted if you don't type it in time?
Do you enjoy the tedious rigmarole of setting up matches?
Are you tired of being bumped off BBO?



If you have any doubts, worries, or dislikes about any of these then why not try the **“Bridge Club Live”** provider?

Bridge Club Live is a lot more modern, efficient, and user-friendly platform provider. To take you quickly through the play of a board we start right away and there is a profile section listing mine and everybody else's details which can be accessed by pressing on the alias name for everyone situated at the table on the screen. Each time I play with a new partner for the first time, we type out our system on a simple system disclosure card and these are stored for easy and instant access, present and future. There are two wee icons in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen to access drop-down information boxes and all I need do is to press on one to find out what the opponents are playing or the other if I need to remind myself of what my partner and I have agreed. Instead of having to type out a greeting our respective aliases are accessed immediately and copied into the chat box for us by the provider.

When you play in a match on BCL you just take a seat at the virtual reality table and after the semi-automated introductions, you can just start playing. No need to use an awkward video or laboriously key in details that can be automatically accessed from files.

When the board is over the cards remain in place until you start playing the next board. You must press “ready” before that can happen and there is a nagging automated reminder to hurry you along. Further, BBO prevents you from looking back at the bidding once a board has been played whereas BCL will let you.

Kibitzing on BBO merely means looking at all four exposed hands simultaneously, whereas BCL gives you the option of just following a selected player and dummy, the rest being hidden from view I find this particularly advantageous because when one superior player I partner is partnering with another player I can pretend to be playing the board, guess what she is likely to play, wait to check it with what she plays and if it is different try and work out why, and if necessary email/phone her afterwards to ask her why. It thereby gives me an ideal chance to work out her strategy and harmonise the way we play as a partnership.

BCL regularly holds an annual reunion which has allowed me to meet people in the flesh whom I enjoy playing against and the chance to meet and express my views to the personnel running it. It also has a section for advertising for partners throughout the world.

I find playing on BBO absolute torture in being side-tracked all the time to laboriously fill in details readily instantly available on BCL and BBO's many idiosyncratic faults distract me from my main purpose, which is to play the game.

A fully inclusive 3-year subscription to BCL averages out at a £1 week to play in any of the wide variety of tournaments it offers, very little more if you take out one of its much shorter subscriptions, and a lot less if you only want to play social bridge 24/7. It's certainly worth giving it a try and if you do, please let me know how you get on, especially if you have any questions.



Mike Hammett

Mike learnt to play bridge back in the 1960s by studying the excellent paperback Pan Book of Bridge. He returned to the game later in life and is a member of the Carlton and New Melville clubs in Edinburgh (and of the online Bridge Club Live!). He has risen from Novice to 1-star master in the last four years.

CLAP FOR OUR CLUBS!

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY CLUB

We owe the inauguration of the club to a former student and keen bridge player Antoni Sieminski. Antoni, or Antek as his friends called him, first appeared at the Aberdeen Bridge Club where he enjoyed playing and he was soon taking part in Scottish junior events as well as international ones.

I shall always remember an awestruck Antoni when he saw the Hugh Kelsey book collection at The New Melville. Of his taking photos to send to his teacher and mentor back in Poland.

The SBU very generously gave a small grant of £300 to help resource the club and soon Antoni had gathered a group of students who wished to learn the game.

Antoni set a good ethos for the club with social events and gatherings some of which were generously hosted at the Aberdeen Club. Antoni liked to have music playing in the background and the game was played in a convivial atmosphere.

Antoni also arranged a gathering with students from Edinburgh University which turned out to be a grand day out.

SBU North District Education is helped by Jim Mason and Fumi Nakamaru who are still at the helm and continue teaching each new generation as well as continuing to help students improve. Students have always been encouraged to play in events.

Lockdown had a terrible effect on our small club, but our second president called Mai Liis Liser was able to recruit freshers from an online fresher's week and were joined by previous year's students.

Alisdair McLeod as junior coordinator for SBU began to help Jim and Fumi each week.

Mai Liis admirably hosted weekly teaching and play from her home in Estonia helping keep spirits raised with games and social events at the beginning of each session, continuing the ethos which Antoni created.



Mai Liis has now graduated; the current president is Issy Halfhide.

She is in her final year studying philosophy and has hosted our online learning and teaching from Aberdeen, and then also from her home in Nairn when unable to be at the university due to lockdowns and Covid.

Issy is a very gracious president, and her quiet charm keeps the club alive.

The students have tried to play face-to-face but Health and Safety risk assessment has proved too challenging. Some are playing in club and junior online events.

Issy hopes to recruit more freshers in the early New Year.

We have tried to open the club to others and a few students from Edinburgh University did attend a taster session but did not return, unfortunately. We would love to see them return as Athena Chow worked hard to find them. We know there are other students out there, but they are tied up with lectures or other university events. So please if you know anyone attending university, please tell them about our Aberdeen Club which is trying very hard to keep bridge alive.

Lorraine Findlay

Education Officer North District

Puzzle Corner

ALPHACIPHER

Each letter of the alphabet has been allocated a random number from 1-26.

Given the totals for each word, can you work out the value of Z?

Ace	14
King	49
Queen	30
Jack	37
Ten	8
Nine	30
Eight	52
Seven	39
Six	69
Five	60
Four	47
Three	20
Two	34
Club	60
Diamond	72
Heart	21
Spade	40
Notrump	69
Auction	62
Lead	32
Play	52
Declarer	56
Dealer	39
Dummy	83

A		J		S	
B		K		T	
C		L		U	
D		M		V	
E		N		W	
F		O		X	
G		P		Y	
H		Q		Z	
I		R			

Hint: Look for low totals and words with similar letters.

If declarer is the dealer, should he lead the heart three or the ace?

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?

Which of South's bids is forcing, if any?

	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
a)	1♥	1♠	1NT	b)	1♥	1♠	2NT	c)	1♥	2♣	2NT

2) Counting distribution.

Work out one of the likely distributions of opener's 13 cards in each of the following.

In a) responder shows 5 hearts. There are two answers to b) and c)

	OPENER	RESPONDER		OPENER	RESPONDER		OPENER	RESPONDER
a)	1♠	2♥	b)	1♥	1♠	c)	1NT	2♣
	2NT	3NT		3♦	3♥		2♥	3NT
	Pass			3NT	Pass		4♠	Pass

3) Counting Tricks

West	East
♠KT93	♠QJ874
♥A73	♥82
♦T5	♦K86
♣QT75	♣AK4

You are East, declarer in 4♠. (Opponents are silent throughout)

The ♥K is led.

How many winners and losers do you have?

How will you play to give yourself the best chance of making your contract?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

Scotland entered two Senior teams in the Second Online Transatlantic Seniors Cup, organised by the Polish Bridge Federation at the end of January.

This freak deal appeared in the very first match. Scotland White was playing Germany 2.

Board 3	♠AKQ65 ♥AKJ643 ♦- ♣QT	EW Vul Dealer S
♠4 ♥T ♦KQT85 ♣976543	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> W N S E </div>	♠JT987 ♥9 ♦76432 ♣J2
	♠32 ♥Q8752 ♦AJ9 ♣AK8	

Harry Smith and Roy Bennett made short work of the auction.

Playing weak no-trump Roy opened 1♥ with the South cards.

Harry bid 2NT (Jacoby), a 4+ card raise to at least game.

Roy bid 3NT, 15-17 balanced (he would cue-bid a shortage).

Harry leapt to 5♦, a Convention known as Exclusion Key Card Blackwood.

The unnecessary jump to the 5-level shows a void diamond and simultaneously asks for key cards in the other suits.

Roy showed his ♣A and Harry bid 7♥.

(South must have either the ♣K or the ♦A to make up his 15HCP).

In a tournament like this, with 36 teams, a completely flat board is quite rare.

This was nearly one – but ...

- 1 pair was confident enough to bid 7NT

- 3 pairs stopped in 6♥

- (to be fair one pair had to contend with an unusual Unusual 2NT from West).

- 1 pair mysteriously stopped in 4♣, presumably after a bidding misunderstanding

And then there was the pair playing against Cameron McLatchie and David Shenkin who bid:

1♥ – 5♦ – Pass!

This contract went five down for -250 to N/S and a healthy 18 imps to the Scots.

Exclusion Key card can be a useful convention – but only after careful discussion of precisely when it applies and provided both members of the partnership remember it ...

Results Page

Some results from events run in January

Winter 4s

This is one of our most prestigious events, a Double Elimination knockout teams.

Online it is played over two weekends: January 22-23 and January 29-30.

Winners of matches in the early stages enter an Undefeated Pool and play against each other.

Once Defeated teams also play each other. Twice Defeated teams drop into a Swiss.

At the semi-final stage, there is either one Undefeated team (awarded some time off) and two Once Defeated, or 4 Once Defeated teams, when two semi-finals are played. This year we had an Undefeated team.

Winners:	Martin Seligman & Jacek Pszczola Michal Kwiecien & Wlodzimierz Starkowski	<i>(a guest team of Polish internationals)</i>
Runners-up	Brian Short and Alan Goodman Alex & Paul Gipson	<i>(The Undefeated Team. They lost by just 5 imps after leading almost all the way)</i>
Losing Semi-Finalists	Barnet Shenkin & Steve Levinson Nils Kvangraven & Jan Arild Olsen Geir Brekka & Óvind Sauer	<i>(The Scottish-Norwegian combination lost by 16 imps to the Poles)</i>

Consolation Teams

A multiple teams event run over the second weekend for teams eliminated at the quarter-final stage, plus the leading teams from the drop-down Swiss. There were 10 teams.

- 1 Andy Philip & Grant Harrower; Jan Unosson & Tage Bengtsson;
Daniel Gustafsson & Thomas Samuelsson
- 2 George Plant & Tadeusz Janowski; Lukasz Brede & Gosia Rozman
- 3 Ana Brito & João Paes de Cavalho; Juliano Barbosa & Sofia Pessoa
Paulo Goncalves Pereira & Alexandra Rosado

Winter Swiss Teams

This ran on 30 January. Teams knocked out of the Winter Fours enter without charge, other teams are welcomed to make up the numbers – to 48 teams this year.

1	Craig Gower & Brian Pincus; James Grant & Larry Chemaly (S Africa)	112 VP
2	John di Mambro & Martin Bateman; Hugh McCash & Douglas Mitchell	110 VP
3	Archie Bouverie & Finlay Marshall; Andrew Symons & Iain Taylor	107 VP
4	Diana & Reg Drysdale; Beryl Campbell & Ross Herd	103 VP
5	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith; Liam O'Brien & Ronan Valentine	102 VP
6	Tom Bagnall & Andrew Harborow; David and Shona Anderson	101 VP
7	Peter Moss & Ying Piper; Paul Maiolani & Jim McMenemy	100 VP
8=	Fiona Greenwood & Julia Palmer; Tim Chanter & Helen Wildsmith	99 VP
	David Briggs & David King; David Hamilton & Denise King	99 VP
10	Rose Simpson & Andrew Muir; Pat Walkingshaw & Kathy Whaler	97 VP

Master Point Promotions

January 2022

January is a quiet month.

Scottish Master

Senior Master

Master

Local Master

Hamish Robertson

E

Rosemary Elliott

W

Anne Singh

E

Neville Kale

E

Patricia Watson

E

Regional Master

4 Star Master

3 Star Master

District Master

Club Master

Marcus Adams

W

John Baraclough

H

David Allison

A

Lorraine Boyne

H

Helen Allison

A

Stephen Carr

H

2 Star Master

Keith Clark

E

Carol Lamond

E

Margaret Fiskin

N

Linda Simpson

N

Richard Leeson

E

Lizzie Riach

H

1 Star Master

Debbie Butler

C

Barbara Robertson

C

Barry Ross

W

Robyn Glynn-Percy

E

Jackie Tunstall-Pedoe

C

Brenda Wingate

E

Solution to ALPHACIPHER

A	2	J	17	S	20
B	15	K	7	T	4
C	11	L	24	U	10
D	5	M	25	V	14
E	1	N	3	W	21
F	22	O	9	X	26
G	16	P	12	Y	18
H	8	Q	19	Z	13
I	23	R	6		

Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 a) 8-11 hcpts 1/2 spade stops.
b) 11-12 hcpts
c) 11-12 hcpts

None of these bids is forcing, all promise at least one spade stopper.

- 2 a) 5-2-3-3 (the opener is showing a balanced hand, less than 3 hearts and no 4-card biddable suit)
b) 1-5-4-3 or 2-5-4-2
c) 4-4-3-2 or 4-4-2-3 (opener has shown 2 x 4-card majors)

- 3 You have 4 losers – one in Spades, 1 in Hearts, 2 in Diamonds.
You can see 4 winners off the top – 1 in Hearts and 3 in clubs.
You can add 4 tricks in Spades once you flush out the Ace.
Where do you find the additional 2 tricks needed?
There are ruffing possibilities, or you may make a 4th trick in clubs.
The real danger is the Ace of Diamonds. If South has it, there is nothing you can do.

You need to play your RHO, North, for the Ace of diamonds.