



The SBU Monthly News

March 2023

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February 2023

Answers to Quiz

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

A full report on the Junior events will be published in the SBNews at the end of the month.

*Keep an eye out for the "Scottish Bridge News 131, March 2023" on the News page of the website:
[General News - Scottish Bridge Union \(SBU\)](#)*

Forthcoming Events

International Events

The **Lady Milne** (Women 's Home International Teams) will be played face-to-face in the **Mercure Hotel, Perth**, on **21-23 April**.

As the host nation Scotland has 2 teams this year

Scotland

Sheila Adamson & Abi Milne
Liz McGowan & Fiona McQuaker
Sam Punch & Anne Symons

Npc: Gints Freimanis

Scottish Bridge Union

Katharine Bailey & Amanda Douglas
Lucia Barrett & Veronica Guy
Laura Middleton & Ying Piper

Npc: Jim Hay

There will coverage on RealBridge with live commentary: you can kibitz with the usual half hour delay.

National Events

The **MP Ranked Individuals** are on **Saturday 29 April** on **BBO**

Harrison Trophy: (for Regional Master and all higher ranks) Starts at 10.55

Shenkin Trophy< (for Masters, Star Masters and Senior Masters) Starts at 11.05

Alan Fairlie Trophy (for Novices, Club, Local and District Masters) Starts at 11.15

Individuals are fun – no need to organise a partner or team-mates.

There is a set system, which you can consult, so no need for partnership discussion.

14 BBO\$ entry fee payable on the day, but **pre-registration is required**.

(Individuals require exact numbers divisible by 4, so be sure to turn up!)

Social Events

Café Bridge is expanding in Scotland in 2023.

What is café bridge? A duplicate pairs bridge game set up over several cafés and restaurants.

Pairs move to a new venue after each round; board sets remain on their starting tables.

Coffee, cake, bridge and fun!

Events will be held in **Prestwick** on **Tuesday 7 June** and **Strathaven** on **Wednesday 8 June**

Look on the **BriAnbridge website** for more information and to **book your place**

Annual General Meeting

The **AGM** of the **Scottish Bridge Union** will be held on ZOOM on Tuesday 23 May at 7pm

Formal notification will be sent out – meanwhile make a note in your diary

Our Junior Teams

The **Junior Camrose** (Under 26 teams) was held in England this year, face-to-face in Manchester.

As hosts England were allowed 2 teams. The EBU have a much larger pool of talent than the other NBOs and dominated the event. Their second team was much more experienced than many other competitors.

Junior Camrose 2023			
		VP	Wins
1	England U25	152.00	7/10
2	EBU Juniors	140.68	7/10
3	Scotland	110.06	6/10
4	Ireland	91.16	5/10
5	Wales	65.01	3/10
6	N Ireland	38.49	2/10

Our team achieved a creditable 3rd place; they played each team twice and scored one win against both English teams.

Surprisingly, the only team they failed to beat even once was Wales.



Scotland's Under 26 team

Adam Tobias, John Russell, Lydia Foale
Alisdair McLeod (npc) Tamsin Munro,
Rufus Behr, Antone Huang

The **Peggy Bayer Trophy** (Under 21 teams) was held at the same venue

Peggy Bayer 2023			
		VP	Wins
1 st	England U16	142.11	8/9
2 nd	Scotland	99.40	5/9
3 rd	Ireland	65.91	3/9
4 th	Northern Ireland	52.58	2/9

Wales could not find a team for this event, so there were just 4 teams, playing 3 matches against every other team.

England fielded their Under 16 team, and they were streets ahead of the other countries.

Scotland came a very respectable 2nd

Scotland's Under 21 team

Jamie Day, Michael Kennedy,
Harry Stuart, Al Duncan
Kevin Ren

(Npc Danny Hamilton is behind the camera)



Bridge Books

Findlay MacDonald



I wonder how often you have said “I wish I had thought of that” after a hand has been played at the bridge table?

There are 60 puzzles in the book entitled “Bridge Quiz for Improving Players” by Hugh Kelsey & Tim Bourke and it’s likely you will say the same thing in every single one of these puzzles. Here’s an example of one of the simpler ones.

♠Q7642 ♥5 ♦T653 ♣854	Both Vul Dealer S
♠AKJ ♥AT3 ♦AJ4 ♣KQJT	

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	End		

West leads the three of spades, East follows with the five and you win with the Ace. When you continue with the King and Jack of spades, East discards the six of clubs and the seven of hearts. What now?

You need to reach dummy to draw the last trump without running into an enemy ruff and without losing control of the hand. If you cash the Ace of hearts, ruff a heart and draw the last trump, you risk losing several heart tricks when you knock out the Ace of clubs. If you try to establish the clubs, you risk running into a club ruff. You would then be reduced to hoping for a second trick in diamonds and, even if this can be done, some heavy guesswork will be required. So what to do?

The “simple” answer is to lead a low heart. East may win and lead a diamond for partner to win but the Ace of clubs will be the only other trick for the defence.

I wish I had thought of that.

The full hand -

	♠Q7642 ♥5 ♦T653 ♣854	None Vul Dealer S
♠T983 ♥KJ862 ♦Q7 ♣73		♠5 ♥Q974 ♦K982 ♣A962
	♠AKJ ♥AT3 ♦AJ4 ♣KQJT	

BBO Explanations

"Dear Liz

"Just finished reading your Monthly News. I was wondering if you or someone could produce an article on the right way to answer in the "Explain" box on BBO. I was playing in the recent Swiss Pairs tournament and got into a right pickle on Board 13 (not helped by my partner jumping to 4♠ - he did apologise much later as he said he thought I had 10 points).

We play 15/17NT and partner opened 1NT' East bid 2D and I replied 2S, at which point West asked me to explain my bid. I said the bid was natural but he wasn't satisfied and asked again, so I said after an intervening bid over 1NT my bid was natural. West had typed out three choices for me to select from - weak, INV (didn't know what this meant) and I can't remember the third choice. However, before I could answer West called the Director and said that I was refusing to explain my bid (not true). I finally said "weak", we were doubled going down 5!

I have seen some funny explanations in the Explain box, e.g. "big" for a 2C opening. Hence my request for some guidance on what to say in the Explain box."

The "Explain" Box on BBO is the equivalent of responding to an Alert in face-to-face bridge.

The difference is that you explain your own bids and partner cannot see your explanation.

Try to tell opponents what they should know about your agreements as briefly as possible.

Abbreviations are handy:

"NAT" (natural) as opposed to "ART" (artificial)

"F" (forcing) or "GF" (game-forcing) as opposed to "NF" (nonforcing) or "INV" (invitational) **

"BAL" (balanced) as opposed to "UNBAL"

"M" = Major as opposed to "m" = minor

"STAY" is good for Stayman; (5-cd STAY if preferred) PUP STAY for Puppet Stayman;

TRF = transfer. (If you type an exclamation mark immediately before S/H/D/C a suit symbol will magically appear.)

Doubles can be T/o (takeout), PEN (penalty) or NEG (negative, tho T/o will do for this also)

***Note that 'Strong' and 'Weak' are not considered suitable explanations, the terms are too subjective. You may play weak 2s, wjos (weak jump overcalls) or weak jump shifts, but in these cases 'weak' and 'strong' refer to categories of bid, not to a specific call.*

Best practice is to type the explanation before making the call

When you open 1NT type the range (eg 12-14; or 15-17) then click on 1NT

Similarly, when you rebid 1NT (eg 15-17 or 11-14) or overcall in NT (eg 15-18)

When you open 2D type "Weak, 5-10"; or "Weak 2M or BAL 22-23, or..."; or "weak, both Ms" or "ART, GF" or "ART, 8+PT in any suit" or whatever your chosen meaning

A Jacoby 2NT response might be described as "GF 4+card raise."

(If you forget to do this before you make the call it is not too late: click on your call, then type the explanation in the Explain Box)

You will see your explanation in the box on the top right.

You can amend or alter what you have written.

Do not worry about typos, everybody makes those!

BBO remembers some of your explanations: if you click on the line a list will appear and you can select the one that applies.

If you want an opponent to explain a bid click on the bid and the Explain box will appear in front of them Hopefully they will have read this article and will explain clearly!

(You can message an opponent by clicking on their BBO name, but they may not notice a Chat question if they are focussed on the play.)

With reference to the opponent in your letter: there was no reason to query your natural bid – if it was artificial you would alert it. I suppose they wanted to know the strength, so you might type NAT, NF in the Explain box. Your partnership seems to have had no agreement, so you could not explain further.

When you have no agreement, so that opponents' guess is as good as yours, you may type "Undiscussed". It was rather impolite to call the director!

Readers' Letters

"You might like this bit of fun for your newsletter.

I asked ChatGPT for a poem about Bridge in the style of William MacGonagall and here within about 3 seconds was the result."

Robin MacEwen

Oh, bridge, my dear bridge, how I love to play,
With friends around me, come what may!
The deck is shuffled, the cards are dealt,
My heart beats fast, as I'm feeling quite pelt.

I take a look at my hand with care,
What strategy to use, I must prepare,
Should I bid high, or keep it low?
I ponder my options, feeling quite slow.

My partner's eyes are fixed on mine,
We share a nod, a signal of a sign,
We're in this game, together we stand,
Ready to play, a well-orchestrated hand.

The game begins, and the tricks are won,
We're one step closer, to what we've begun,
Our opponents try, with all their might,
But we are strong, and we'll win this fight.

Oh, bridge, my dear bridge, how you bring us joy,
As we play with skill, and we never employ,
Deceit or cheating, it's just a game,
And we're all winners, just the same.

So let us play, and let us be merry,
With every hand, we're never weary,
For bridge is more than just a game,
It's a bond that forever will remain.

Good to see that our readership is au fait with the latest trends in IT...

ChatGPT has produced a pretty impressive result – but perhaps someone out there can do even better?

Yes, this is a challenge!

Quick Quiz

1) Counting in Defence

Lead: ♠7	♠JT8 ♥J74 ♦KT65 ♣A43	
	N W E S	♠96 ♥AQT6 ♦J42 ♣T875

Auction:

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

1NT = 15-17

You are East. Partner leads the ♠7 and dummy goes down

- how many High Card Points can partner have?
- what do you make of the lead?
(You lead 4th highest from suits with honour(s), high cards from suits with no honour)

Declarer wins the ♠J in dummy and leads a diamond to the Queen and partner's Ace. Partner returns the ♠5, taken by declarer with the ♠A. Declarer leads a diamond to the Ten and you win the Jack.

- Which honour cards are unaccounted for?
- How might you defeat the contract?

2) Counting as Declarer

West	East
♠T98 ♥J94 ♦AQ3 ♣AKJ2	♠AQJ73 ♥62 ♦KT5 ♣T96

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	End		

You are East, declaring a contract of 4♠.

South leads the ♥K, followed by the ♥A and ♥3 and to the ♥J and North's ♥Q. You ruff the third heart and cross to dummy with the ♦A to finesse trump.

You run the ♠T, but South wins the ♠K and returns the ♠4.

- what can you tell about South's hand?
- how will you play clubs?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

A Tale of Two Redoubles

Junior bridge is often exciting. At this year's Junior Camrose our team tried hard to excite the audience. This was the first board of Scotland's first match against the EBU Juniors

Bd 17	♠QJT93 ♥A93 ♦AQ3 ♣T3	None Vul Dealer N									
♠8 ♥KJ7542 ♦J9 ♣AKJ8	<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		♠AK75 ♥Q86 ♦KT62 ♣Q9
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠642 ♥T ♦8754 ♣76542										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♠	1NT	2♠
Dbf	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbf	Redbf	End

Purists may criticise some of the calls: the 1NT overcall on inadequate values; or South's sporting raise. Some Wests might just bash 4♥. The actual double gave East the opportunity to pass and lead out three rounds of trump to hold declarer to 5 tricks and collect 500. East elected to take out the double, and we assume that 3♥ was now forcing. East might have raised partner, but he preferred not to put down his dummy. North's double is quite understandable – partner did make a bid so opponents are clearly overbidding and he seems to have good defence on a spade lead. Redouble would also be understandable – if it came from West!

South led a spade. Declarer was pleased with his dummy. He knocked out the ♥A and claimed 11 tricks. +1200 was a gain of 13imps against the pedestrian 450 (4♥+1) at the other table. Without the redouble East would score a mere 750 and gain only 7imps, so 6imps to the redouble.

On to match 5 of the first Round Robin, when Scotland faced England.

Bd 9	♠A ♥QJ43 ♦T9862 ♣KT6	EW Vul Dealer N									
♠QJT872 ♥7 ♦AK4 ♣A83	<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		♠5 ♥AK98 ♦J73 ♣QJ975
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠K9643 ♥T652 ♦Q5 ♣42										

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

Another interesting auction! West might pass the 1♣ overcall, but partner cannot be relied upon to re-open with a double. North, having passed once, just had to find a call. West, having underbid once, just had to overbid at her second turn. And our hero in the East seat just had to redouble. No happy ending this time. When North led the ♦T who can blame West for placing him with the ♦Q and rising, fatally, with the ♦J? Thanks to the redouble, one down was -400. In the other room England played in 4♠, also one down. This redouble cost 7imps. Net loss: 1 imp. Hardly worth a mention!

Results Page

Scottish Swiss Pairs (TN Culbertson Trophy)

A huge entry of 72 pairs played 8x6 board matches on Sunday 12 February

1	Mike McGinley & David Wiseman	59.61%
2	John di Mambro & Hugh McCash	59.35%
3	Peter Moss & Ying Piper	57.23%
4	Jim Hay & Derrick Peden	57.20%
5	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith	57.05%
6	George Plant & Gosya Rozman	57.02%
7	Grant Harrower & Andy Philip	56.16%
8	David Ritchie & Kevin Strathern	56.04%
9	Aileen Cunningham & Janice Hutchison	55.18%
10	Archie & Pam Leith	54.70%

Men's and Women's Pairs

18 tables of Men, 19 tables of Women, played 8x6-board matches on Saturday 26 February

Men's Pairs (Buchanan Cup)

Women's Pairs (Cyril Breene Trophy)

1	Gints Freimanis/Ronan Valentine	57.17	1	Tricia Hewitt /Nicki Traynor	60.47%
2	John Dick/Kevin Strathern	55.64	2	Beryl Campbell/Shiena Lang	55.50%
3	Derek Diamond/Martin Diamond	55.15	3=	Helen McCormac/Marilyn McDonagh	55.09%
4	Paul Maiolani/Jim McMenemy	55.09		Liz McGowan/Ying Piper	55.09%
5	John Hamilton/Tom Robertson	54.47	5	Aileen Cunningham/Janice Hutchison	53.88%
6=	Sandy Duncan/Bob McPaul	53.92	6	Ann Anderson / Evelyn Mitchell	53.59%
	Eddie McGeough/Jim Mason	53.92	7	Norma Fingland/Frances McEon	53.41%
8	John Burn /Ian McClure	53.43	8	Fiona Greenwood/Julia Palmer	53.36%

Men's Teams (Benny Dexter Trophy)

13 tables played 6x8-board matches on Sunday 27 February

1	Mike McGinley, David Wiseman, Derek Diamond, Martin Diamond	79 VP
2	John Hamilton, Paul Maiolani, Mark Menzies, Tam Penman	76 VP
3	Alex Adamson, Glen Falconer, Mike Ash, Robert Ferrari	74 VP
4	Bob McKinnon, Alan Whiteford, Ian Patrick, David Ritchie	70 VP

Women's Teams (Glasgow Bulletin Trophy)

16 tables played 6x8-board matches on Sunday 27 February

1	Lucia Barrett, Veronica Guy, Laura Middleton, Ying Piper	83 VP
2	Sheila Adamson, Abi Milne, Liz McGowan, Fiona McQuaker	80 VP
3=	Joyce Benson, Cathy Ferguson, Catherine Gerrard, Ileen MacGregor	73 VP
	Fiona Greenwood, Julia Palmer, Marion Curran, Jill Armstrong	73 VP

(The runners up in the Women's Teams win the Beatrice Craig Trophy, originally donated for a consolation event that became redundant when Swiss teams superseded the traditional knock-out format)

Master Point Promotions

February 2023

Grand Master

Anne Perkins E

Senior Life Master

Ann Anderson C

National Master

Ron McCarron E

Scottish Master

Aileen Cunningham W

Fiona Davies E

Fiona Jeffrey C

Tom Robertson E

Regional Master

Louis Glekin W

Janice Hutchison W

Norma Kerr E

Anne Lee W

Kay Robertson E

2 Star Senior Master

Les Sinclair E

3 Star Master

Amanda Douglas E

2 Star Master

Kitty Home Robertson E

1 Star Master

Robin Key E

Willie MacGruer E

Helen McCormac E

Richard Melville C

Joe Nolan W

District Master

Joyce Johnston E

Mareth Lindsay C

Barbara Pavey E

Kevin Ren D

Bridget Sinclair E

Local Master

Neil Atkinson W

Catherine Ballantyne C

Catherine Lapi W

Sheila Millar D

Club Master

John Alison E

Geoff Bilton C

Anja Cameron W

Joe Cohen C

Kay Farley W

Hilary Fraser W

Paul Hartley E

Rosie Kirby-Jones E

Eric Livingstone W

Nora Quinn W

Patrick Read H

Answers to Quiz:

1	♠JT8 ♥J74 ♦KT65 ♣A43	
♠7532 ♥K95 ♦A93 ♣J92	N W E S	♠96 ♥AQT6 ♦J42 ♣T875
	♠AKQ4 ♥832 ♦Q87 ♣KQ6	

- a) You have 7 points. North has 9. South has 15-17. Therefore partner has 7-9
- b) If the ♠7 is 4th highest partner has ♠AKQ7. She would lead an honour from tate holding, so the ♠7 must be top of a weak suit and declarer has ♠AKQx.
- c) You know the location of all the spade and diamond honours and can see the ♣A in dummy; that leaves the ♥K and the ♣KQJ. You have 'seen' 11 of declarer's points: ♠AKQ and ♦Q
- d) Partner must have a King. If it is the ♥K you had better switch to a heart. The ♥Q works whoever has the King

2	♠652 ♥QT75 ♦J987 ♣Q8	
♠T98 ♥J94 ♦AQ3 ♣AKJ2	N W E S	♠AQJ73 ♥62 ♦KT5 ♣T96
	♠K4 ♥AK83 ♦642 ♣7543	

- a) South has shown up with ♥AK and ♠K, 10HCP; but **did not open the bidding**. Can South have the ♣Q?
- b) Since North almost certainly has the ♣Q you should not finesse. Lay down the Ace and King and hope the Queen drops.

(This will not work if South has passed a 12 count but not many players bid that way!)